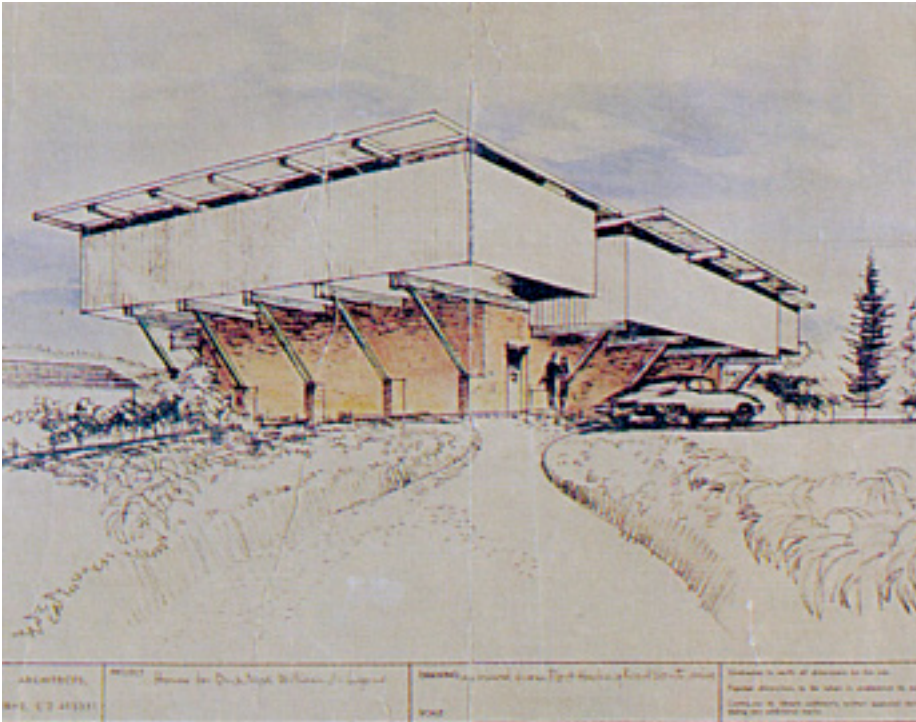


LYONS HOUSE, PORT HACKING RD, DOLANS BAY, NSW

Designed: by Robin Boyd 1966

Built: 1967

Client: Dr and Mrs William Lyons



The Lyons House

This heritage listed house is the only example of Robin Boyd's architecture in Sydney. Overlooking Dolans Bay and the Port Hacking estuary, it is an excellent example of the late Twentieth Century organic style of architecture, with its use of exposed timber and clinker brick, structural elements expressed, flexible internal partitions and a native landscape setting. The flat roof, widely projecting eaves, exposed rafters, joists and vertical boarding are also characteristic of the post-war Melbourne regional style of architecture. Dr Lyons approached Boyd because he liked the attitudes apparent in his writings and the intellectual rigour with which he approached contemporary architecture. The two-storey house is centred around a swimming pool which is constructed above the ground—the dark blue-red clinker brick side walls of the pool forming the core of the house. From this, the grey stained timber ring of the house is bracketed out and up, providing shelter for cars underneath. At ground level is the entry, stair, storage, laundry and plant areas. The first floor contains the living and bedroom areas; full glazed walls surround the pool and sliding internal panels of translucent perspex provide flexibility in living arrangements.

Key points

- combination of two styles: late Twentieth Century organic and post-war Melbourne regional
- listed on the Register of the National Estate
- only example of Boyd's work in Sydney
- still owned by the original clients
- design contributions by Marion Hall Best (interior) and Bruce Mackenzie (landscape)
- house is centred around a swimming pool which is constructed above the ground, with the side walls of the pool forming the core of the house.
- featured in books about Boyd, including Boyd's own *Living in Australia*