

## Heritage Citation



### Au-Argentum

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 26 Darvall Street, Taringa, Queensland 4068
<b>Type of place</b>	House
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	California Bungalow
<b>Lot plan</b>	L6_RP808625
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — February 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Tile; Walls: Timber

<b>People/associations</b>	Charles Herbert Griffin (Architect); Wallace Bishop (Occupant)
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<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association
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This house was built for Wallace Bishop, a prominent Brisbane jeweller, and was designed in the distinctive American Bungalow style by architect Charles Griffin in 1927. The name, 'Au-Argentum', means 'gold and silver', in Latin. The California Bungalow style was a distinctive feature of interwar architecture.

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## History

The house was featured in the 8 September edition of the Brisbane Courier, five years after construction, billed as "Garden and Bush Beyond – A Brisbane House Suggestive of the Outdoors".

This house was designed in the distinctive American Bungalow style by architect Charles Griffin in 1927. C. (Chas.) Griffin was a London-trained architect who practised in Brisbane from 1919. His known houses were in the Bungalow style with classical decorative touches.

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## Description

The roof of this house is terra-cotta tiles on visible, pitched surfaces and low pitched metal roofs behind parapets or on window hoods. Its walls are based on brick and above floor level are either weatherboards or stucco. To the front, wall panels of weatherboards are positioned between stucco pilasters in a minimalist classical ordering. Panels of shingles or battened fibro sheeting are also used decoratively in gables, or parapets, or balustrades, and lattice panels are used below floor level. The house is symmetrical from the street, centred on an over scaled porte-cochere with paired plain columns on the leading corners, leading to the relatively tiny front double doors with semi-circular fanlight over. This juxtaposition of scale is eye-catching. The windows are diamond patterned leadlight casements, grouped into banks or bays. The high-level window above the entrance has an arched top and compliments the entry fanlight below. Much of the decoration of the house is intrinsic to the structure and construction techniques of the house, as is the nature of the Californian Bungalow style.

The house is prominent in the streetscape with only a low-height formal garden in its front yard.

The house backs onto a grass tennis court with a terra-cotta roofed pavilion on its far side. There is a later pool to the McCaul Street side of the house. A mature pine tree is placed between the pool and Darvall Street.

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# Statement of significance

## Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

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### Aesthetic

#### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as it is a distinctive architect designed house featuring columns, leadlight windows and general proportions and detailing distinctive of the Californian Bungalow style.

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### Historical association

#### CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as it was built for Wallace Bishop, a prominent Brisbane jeweller, and designed by Brisbane architect, C. Griffin.

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## References

1. Rod Fisher and Brian Crozier (editors), *The Queensland House*, Queensland Museum Publication, 1994
2. *The Brisbane Courier*, September 8 1932, p 5

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**Note:** This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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