

Heritage Citation



Malouf Residence

Key details

Addresses At 35 Berkeley Street, Holland Park, Queensland 4121

Type of place House

Period Late 20th Century 1960-1999

Style International

Lot plan L28_RP73393

Key dates Local Heritage Place Since — 26 July 2019
Date of Citation — April 2018

People/associations Graham Bligh (Architect)

This house was built in 1967 for Nicolas Calile Malouf, successful Brisbane businessman and youngest son of prominent Brisbane retailer, Calile Malouf. Designed by respected Brisbane architect, Graham Bligh, the low-set house with graceful lines displays important elements of the 1960s Modernist home.

History

In Queensland in the 1950s and 1960s, the restrictions and shortages of wartime austerity slowly gave way to affluence and a sense of optimism. Architects, influenced by modern international styles, benefited from the rapidly developing urban sprawl during the post-war period as immigration and a baby boom contributed to increased demand for housing. Much of the new development consisted of 'fibro' and timber bungalows as the construction of the traditional verandahed Queenslander was lessened by shortages of building materials and a perception of being 'old fashioned'. Architects, adopting international and interstate trends, developed a new awareness of the importance of taking account of climate and landscape in the design of new buildings.

In 1963, Nicolas Calile Malouf and his wife Edna Olga Malouf, purchased just over one rood of land on the Lamb Estate, Holland Park. As a member of the successful Brisbane retailing family, the Malouf's, and youngest son of patriarch, Calile Malouf, Nicolas made a name for himself in Brisbane's business industry and was recorded in the 1968 Electoral Rolls as a company director. Prior to Nicolas and Edna Malouf moving to Holland Park, they resided at 9 Edmonstone Street, South Brisbane and during the 1950s at 34 Brisbane Street, Annerley.

After purchasing the Holland Park property, Malouf acquired a building approval for a new dwelling in 1967. The new house was estimated to cost \$60,000, a considerable amount of money for a house at the time. Malouf commissioned the architectural firm, Bligh Jessup Bretnall to design the new house. Architect, Graham Bligh, who had worked with the firm since the early 1960s, was responsible for the then, modern design.

Bligh had graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Queensland in 1957 and completed his training with respected firm, Conrad & Gargett before working in London for Fry & Drew. On returning to Brisbane, he secured a position in the practice of Bligh Jessup Bretnall in the early 1960s where he made significant contributions to Brisbane's architecture throughout the second half of the twentieth century. In 2008 Bligh was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Queensland for his contributions to architecture. His work was described as:

sharp, functional, modern and deceptively simple with its minimalist and clean-edged structures and exciting usages of metal, a courageous departure from the brick-on-slab houses colonising Brisbane in the 1960s. He was committed to creating ecologically sustainable structures long before the concept was part of society's everyday language ... he was awarded Queensland Architect of the Year Award for 2002 from the Queensland Board of Architects¹

Amongst his work were architectural achievements such as World Expo '88, Colonial and Australian Stadiums in Melbourne, Queensland Supreme Courts (now demolished), Brisbane International Airport and the Queensland

Conservatorium of Music.

Bligh was one of a number of innovative architects designing modern buildings throughout the 1960s, including Hayes & Scott, Robin Gibson, Geoffrey Pie, John Dalton, Peter Heathwood and Graham de Gruchy. The Malouf house is a significant example of architect-designed residential architecture from the late 1960s in Brisbane. In Peta Dennis' thesis, "Innovative Architecture for Living: Brisbane architect-designed houses of the 1960s", the factors influencing the 'modern' architect-designed Brisbane house of the 1960s were outlined:

Factors such as general prosperity of the population, the popularity of indoor/outdoor living, and the increase in car ownership all helped shape the design of the house. New methods of using existing building materials and technology, like the use of the concrete slab-on-ground and the modular window system, changed the form and setting of the house to connect with, rather than rise above, the garden landscape.

These elements are all considered in the design of the Malouf house.

In 1968 Nicolas and Edna Malouf were first recorded in the Electoral Rolls at the Berkeley Street address. One year later, the house was nominated by the Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for the Bronze Medal Award.

In 1974 the swimming pool was built and was recorded in the Brisbane City Council's Building Cards as a 'pleasure pool'. The house remained in the Malouf family until 2013.

Description

Malouf's House is a split level late Twentieth Century house built in the International style. The subject house features exposed timber post and beam structure, a flat roof with plain parapets and long unbroken roof lines that project to shield large amounts of glazing. The house consists of two L-shaped forms arranged with a square courtyard at the centre. The front of the residence is single-storey and the rear is two-storey due to the sloping topography of the site.

The subject area of Holland Park mostly developed in the Postwar period onward and is demonstrated in a strong residential character which displays a mix of scales and styles with some later modern infill buildings. Berkeley Street contains single and two-storey dwellings with moderate street frontages and medium sized yards.

The house is located halfway along the south-east boundary with equal size front and back yards. The front yard contains a swimming pool and small lawn area, the backyard is mostly lawn. The site is enclosed by a rendered wall and stained timber batten pedestrian and driveway gates. A concrete driveway extends the length of the north-west boundary to the garage at the rear of the house.

The north-east elevation is almost entirely glazed. Half of the façade consists of aluminium framed glass sliding doors. The other half features a blonde brick planter bed with sliding windows above and fixed panel top-light windows between all roof beams. Sliding windows and fixed top-light windows are a common feature across the house.

The north-west elevation consists of face brick walls with a timber front door at the centre. The rear of the house has face brick walls with casement windows at the upper level and garage doors at the lower level.

The south-west elevation has a large balcony with aluminium and glass balustrades. Face brick walls continue along this elevation with an extruded section containing the kitchen. Large sliding windows are either side of the extruded wall.

The central courtyard of the house features planter beds and a water feature. All of the adjacent spaces in the house open to the courtyard through glass sliding doors or windows.

The interior features timber floors throughout with tiled finishes in the bathrooms and courtyard. Simple stained timber skirting boards line the plasterboard walls. Stained timber chamferboard walls are found in the kitchen and the living room. All ceilings feature exposed timber beams.

The house is largely in original form and changes have been limited to modernising or reinstating fixings and finishes. The changes have compliment the house's contemporary high end design. Malouf's house is in excellent condition.

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:

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a representative example of a Modernist, 1960s architect-designed house.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an outstanding example of a low-set, glamorous, 1960s Modernist house which incorporates architectural elements that demonstrate the popularity of indoor/outdoor living in this period.

Technical

CRITERION F

The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period

as a 1960s Modernist house in Brisbane which has been designed using new methods and ideas about house design.

Supporting images



Richard Edwin Stringer (photographer) for the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Queensland Chapter), 'Interior of the Malouf residence in Holland Park, Queensland, 1969', John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

The house is located in Berkeley Street, Holland Park. The architects were Bligh, Jessup, Bretnall and Partners. The house was nominated for the Bronze Medal Award of 1969 for Residence of the Year by the Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. (Description supplied with photograph)

References

1. University of Queensland, Citation, 'Mr Graham Bligh'
2. Post Office Directories.
3. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificate of Titles
4. Queensland Electoral Rolls
5. BCC building cards
6. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Maps
7. Dennis, Peta, *Innovative Architecture for Living: Brisbane architect-designed houses of the 1960s*, Queensland University of Technology, Thesis, 1999
8. Realestate.com.au, 35 Berkeley Street, <https://www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-qld-holland+park-124977358>

Copyright Brisbane City Council

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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane