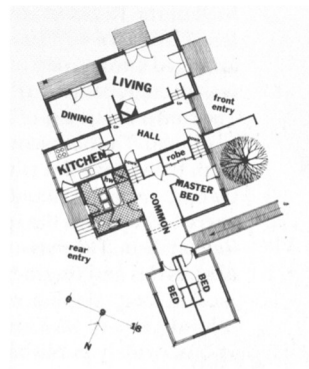


Statement of Significance: Former Kenyon House -35 Alto Avenue, Croydon, April 2020

Address:	35 Alto Avenue, Croydon	Name:	Former Kenyon House
Place type:	House	Grading:	Significant
PS ref no:	HO147	Designed:	1964



Peter Corrigan's original; perspective drawing and floor plan of the Kenyon House, 1964source: Conrad Hamann,



*Photographs taken for the Robin Boyd Foundation's Peter Corrigan Open Day, April 2013.
Source: Courtesy Tony Lee*

Cities of Hope, p 19.

What is significant?

The former Kenyon House at 35 Alto Avenue, Croydon designed by Peter Corrigan is significant.

The house comprises of a single-storey house on a stepped and asymmetrical split-level plan, with bagged-and-painted brick walls and an irregular hipped roof clad in recycled slates. Designed in 1964 for John and Maureen Kenyon, it represented the first architectural commission for Peter Corrigan, then a student but later to become famous as one-half of the celebrated and award-winning architectural partnership of Edmond & Corrigan.

How is it significant?

The former Kenyon House is of local aesthetic, rare, technical and associative significance.

Why is it significant?

The former Kenyon House is significant for the following reasons:

- The house is significant for its highly unusual architectural expression that, at the time of erection, would have defied all of the usual stylistic labels. With an asymmetrical rectilinear plan (stepped to follow the slope of the site), its bold irregular roofline and rough finishes (ie bagged brickwork and recycled roof slates), the house represented a significant departure from the prevailing trends of Australian residential architecture of the mid-1960s. Rather, it anticipated the emergence of a more inclusive regionalist style of the late 1960s and early '70s, and the Post-Modernist movement from the mid-1970s, of which Corrigan would become a pioneering and pre-eminent exponent. **(Criterion E, Criterion F)**
- The house is significant as the first architectural commission of celebrated and award-winning Australian architect Peter Corrigan, who was a fourth-year university student at the time. It is one of a small number of residential projects that he undertook before 1967, when he left for an extended period of post-graduate study and work experience in the USA. Returning in 1974, he joined his future wife Maggie Edmond in partnership as Edmond & Corrigan, a firm that won considerable acclaim and press attention (nationally and overseas) and over thirty RAI A awards from the mid-1970s to the late 1990s. As the firm is acknowledged as the progenitors and leading exponents of Post-Modernism in Australia, Corrigan's early houses of the 1960s are extremely important as indicators of the development of his mature style.

Unique as the only example of his work in the City of Maroondah (since the demolition of his much later Ringwood Civic Plaza), the Kenyon House is rare on a broader metropolitan scale as one of only four houses that he built in the 1960s, of which only three now remain standing. **(Criterion B; Criterion H)**

Primary sources

Built Heritage Pty Ltd, City of Maroondah Heritage Review 2020