

## Statement of Significance: Fountain Court, 70 Orrong Crescent, Caulfield North

Date of Statement: August 2020

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Address:</b>    | 70 Orrong Crescent, Caulfield North | <b>Name:</b>        | <i>Fountain Court</i> |
| <b>Place Type:</b> | Residential building (private)      | <b>Grading:</b>     | Significant           |
| <b>PS ref no:</b>  | HO236                               | <b>Constructed:</b> | 1967-68               |



*Photograph by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2019*

### What is significant?

*Fountain Court*, at 70 Orrong Crescent, Caulfield North, is a flat-roofed three-storey block of flats on an elongated curved plan, extruded upwards to create two storeys of flats above an open undercroft. It has a varied but symmetrical façade of full-height window walls, brick spandrels and projecting or recessed balconies, with textured concrete block screen walls, mosaic-tiled columns and glass-walled lobbies at ground level. Erected in 1967-68, the flats were designed by the Polish-born husband-and-wife architectural partnership of Holgar & Holgar.

The significant fabric is defined as the entire exterior of the building.

### How is it significant?

*Fountain Court* satisfies the following criteria for inclusion on the heritage overlay schedule to the City of Glen Eira planning scheme:

- Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.
- Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

### **Why is it significant?**

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*Fountain Court* is aesthetically significant as highly distinctive and idiosyncratic example of post-WW2 modernism. The concave plan, adopted as a specific design response to the challenging convex curvature of the street frontage, has resulted in a building of unusually striking form and bold streetscape presence. Although a number of Melbourne architects in the 1950s and '60s were intrigued by such applications of pure geometry, relatively few actual examples were realised; this concave-planned building has virtually no true comparators in the City of Glen Eira and is rare even on a broader metropolitan scale. Its external treatment, while adopting a standard modernist vocabulary of stark walls, full-height windows and *pilotis*, has introduced an uncommon degree of complexity in its varied fenestration and alternating projecting/recessed balconies, its use of contrasting texture (eg stack bond brickwork and concrete block screen walls) and evocation of luxury (eg gold mosaic tiling, anodized aluminium and marble flooring). (*Criterion E, Criterion F*)

### **Primary sources**

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Heritage Citation PW21, *City of Glen Eira Post-war & Hidden Gems Heritage Review 2020, Stage 2: Citations*, prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd.