City of
STONNINGTON

Clerehan House I

Prepared by: GJM Heritage (March 2025)

Address: 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra

Name:	Clerehan House I	**Survey Date:**	August 2024
Place Type:	Residential	**Architect/Designer:**	Neil Clerehan
Grading:	Significant (HO799)	**Builder:**	Not known
Extent of the Overlay:	To property boundaries	**Construction Date(s):**	1958



Figure 1. 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra (GJM Heritage, February 2025)

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, constructed 1958.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- Two-storey house in the Modernist style of the post-war period
- Red brick construction
- Simple rectilinear form, approximately square in plan
- Flat metal deck-clad roof, eaveless to the east and west sides
- Fully glazed, prefabricated and structural Stegbar window wall to the north, recessed between side brick walls

- Broad eave overhang to the north
- Double carport with flat metal deck-clad roof and cantilevering timber beams, supported on the brick garden wall to the east and slender steel columns at the centre
- High brick wall to the street boundary and the west side of the front garden.

The timber deck to the rear (south) first-floor level does not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra is of local historical, representative, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, designed by celebrated architect, Neil Clerehan, in 1958 as his own residence, has a strong association with post-war suburban development in the City of Stonnington, when a number of architect-designed Modernist houses were constructed across the municipality for those with an appreciation of Modernist architecture and its design principles. The affluent suburbs of South Yarra and Toorak were particularly attractive to wealthy residents and architects interested in the Modern aesthetic, and refined examples of post-war Modernist houses replaced existing houses in well-established streetscapes. As a highly intact architect-designed and owned Modernist house constructed in the post-war period, Clerehan House I clearly demonstrates this important phase in the development of the City of Stonnington (Criterion A).

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra is a fine and highly intact representative example of Modernist housing constructed during the post-war period. It displays the principal characteristics of Post-War Modernist housing, including a rectilinear form, flat roof with broad eave to the north, fully-glazed prefabricated and structural north-facing Stegbar window wall, prominently sited carport and an emphasis on privacy with high brick walls to the street. The house is highly legible as an accomplished example of Modernist housing in the City of Stonnington (Criterion D).

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra is of aesthetic significance as an assured and finely executed example of a house constructed in the Modernist style of the early post-war period. Designed by celebrated architect Neil Clerehan as his own residence, the house is characterised by its simple but striking rectilinear form, its simple palette of materials, its fully glazed ‘Stegbar’ window wall creating a strong visual relationship between the interior and exterior, and its concealment from the street by a high brick fence to create a substantial private open space at the front of the property. Clerehan House I demonstrates the key aesthetic qualities of Modernist design in the City of Stonnington to a very high standard (Criterion E).

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, designed in 1958 and constructed as his own residence, has a special association with renowned architect and long-term South Yarra resident, Neil Clerehan. Clerehan House I was the first house designed by Clerehan for himself and his family and clearly demonstrated the principles Clerehan was expounding in his role as Director of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Small Homes Service at the time. The Clerehan family resided at 18 Fawkner Street from 1958 to 1968 before relocating to a new, self-designed house in nearby Walsh Street, South Yarra where Clerehan remained until his death in 2017. Within South Yarra Clerehan also designed the State-significance Fenner House, 228 Domain Road, South Yarra (VHR H2350). He continued to act as ‘honorary architect’ for 18 Fawkner Street until his death (Criterion H).

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Historical Context

This place is associated with the following historic theme(s) taken from the *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (2009):

8 Building suburbs

- 8.4.2 Functional, eccentric, and theatrical – experimentation and innovation in architecture
- 8.4.3 Architects and their houses

It is also associated with the following historic theme(s) taken from the *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History: Post-war Addendum (Draft, December 2024)*:

6.0 Building towns, cities and the garden state

- 6.7.2 Functional, eccentric, theatrical: post-war experimentation and innovation
- 6.7.3 Architects making homes for themselves after 1945

Contextual History

Modernism in Melbourne

The post-World War II period was intrinsically linked to the concepts of progress, prosperity and expansion. This notion of progress became increasingly associated with a Modern aesthetic in art, architecture and design. European and American influences on architecture in particular became an optimistic expression of post-war recovery – a vision of progress towards a brighter and better future (Lewi & Goad 2019:22-24).

With its roots in the early twentieth century, Modernism in Melbourne emerged with force in the post-war period aided by overseas and local publications, post-war migration and 'rite of passage' overseas travel by young architects. Rejecting historic styles and applied decoration, architects and designers were instead inspired by a broad range of trends from overseas, including the United States, Europe, Japan and Great Britain, which embraced the principles of functionalism, simplicity and rationality.

Graphic design, popular culture, art and photography contributed to the promotion, dissemination and reception of Modernism, while publications such as *Australia Home Beautiful* and *Architecture and Arts* and weekly articles by leading Modernist architects, Robin Boyd and Neil Clerehan, in *The Age* played a key role in facilitating the development of a new kind of architecture in Australia (Lewi & Goad 2019:22).

The Modernist house type

> *'The modern home was to be seen as the culmination of the latest in modern ideas of planning, detail and finish and the sources for these elements were to be utterly contemporary and progressive' (Goad 1992:5/109).*

As noted by Goad in his 1992 doctoral thesis, *The Modern House in Melbourne 1945-1975,* 'ideas of progress, modernity, contemporary social and living patterns were to be seen to be embodied in the architect-designed home' (Goad 1992:5/9) and Modernist architecture became 'the hallmark of good taste and aesthetic refinement' for the 'discerning wealthy client' (Goad 1992:5/106).

The Modernist house type offered a radical alternative to the conventional post-war housing type. Driven by young architects and designers, they shunned the conservative house forms and seized the opportunity to address housing demands in a contemporary manner. Architects and designers experimented with lightweight materials and simple construction methods, and utilised materials such as

brick, timber, steel, concrete and glass to design buildings that were responsive to their setting, functional and characterised by unadorned surfaces, devoid of the applied decoration of earlier architectural styles

The Modernist house type, with its flat or low-pitched roof, simple rectilinear forms and generous glazing, flourished in Melbourne during the 1950s and 1960s, and came to embody the forward-looking optimism of the post-war era. Modernist principles continued to influence housing design through to the present day.

Modernist architecture in the City of Stonnington

The City of Stonnington has a strong tradition of patronage of leading architects by wealthy residents (Context 2006:134). This culture of patronage has existed from the earliest times of settlement and provided architects with the resources to explore ideas and innovation in design and construction (Context 2006:134-138). This continued in the post-war period with a new generation of architects and designers – including Robin Boyd, Neil Clerehan, Bernard Joyce and Roy Grounds – designing houses in the former municipalities of Prahran and Malvern in the 1950s through to the mid-1970s. Influenced by local and overseas architectural trends, these architects embraced the functional ideals and aesthetics of Modernism.

The affluent suburbs of Toorak and South Yarra attracted both Modernist architects and residents with an interest in Modernist design, and examples of post-war Modernist houses replaced existing houses in well-established streetscapes. Architects including Roy Grounds, Robin Boyd and Neil Clerehan contributed to the growing number of Modernist houses in the municipality, designing residences for themselves in these suburbs (Grounds House, 24 Hill House, Toorak – VHR H1963 & HO60 City of Stonnington; Robin Boyd House II, 290 Walsh Street, South Yarra – VHR H2105 & HO453 City of Melbourne); Neil Clerehan House II, 90 Walsh Street, South Yarra – HO443 Melbourne Planning Scheme); while progressive clients commissioned well-known, influential architects including Yuncken Freeman Bros, Griffiths & Simpson and Bernard Joyce in addition to those listed above to design innovative Modernist residences to respond to the often challenging topography or otherwise constrained nature of these inner-city sites (Extent Heritage 2023:5).

Place History

The house at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra was constructed in 1958 to a design by architect, Neil Clerehan for himself and his wife, Sonia. The house was the first Clerehan designed for himself and comprised a two-storey brick house built in a Modernist architectural style. It replaced an earlier single-storey timber house on the site (Prahan Valuation Records), similar to those found elsewhere on Fawkner Street.

Neil Clerehan is considered one of the most significant architects of Melbourne's post-World War II period. He made his name as director of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects (RVIA) Small Homes Service (SHS) which provided cost-effective, architect-designed Modernist house plans to the general public, from 1954 to 1961. In private practice, Clerehan's Modernist residential designs often comprised conveniently planned houses, with generous glazing and privacy from the street (Fenner House Citation, VHD).

In line with these principles, Clerehan designed 18 Fawkner Street as a simple, rectilinear form with flat roof and a Stegbar window-wall to the front (north) elevation (see Figures 2 to 5). A simple, lightweight carport and brick fence were constructed to the front of the property. In his thesis *The Modern House in Melbourne 1945-1975*, Professor Phillip Goad noted that the house, known as Clerehan House I, was 'one of the first houses of the 1950s to acknowledge the spatial potential of the inner-city site' (Goad 1992: 5/123) at a time when most post-war development was occurring in a suburban context. A photograph of the residence was included in Clerehan's book, *Best Australian Houses*, published in 1961 in an advertisement for 'Stegbar' windows (Figure 6).



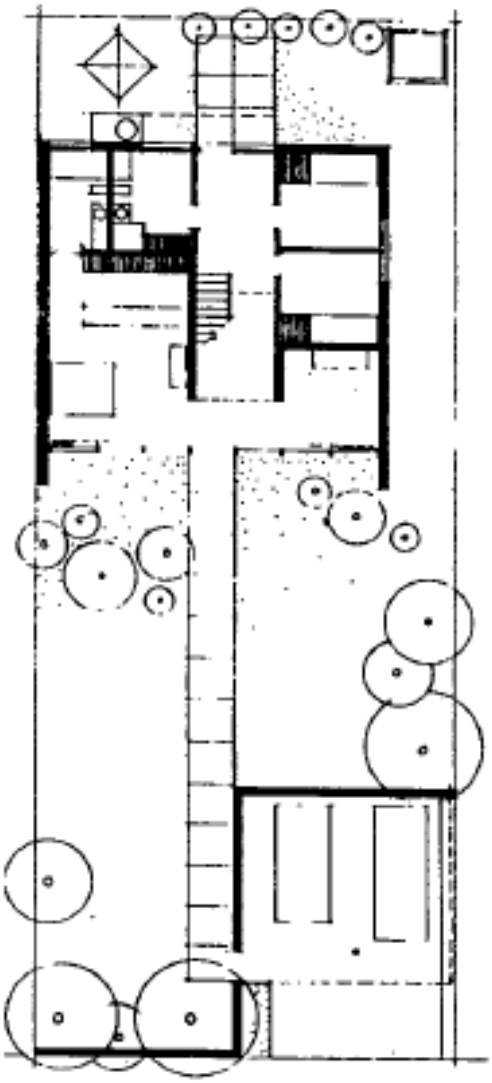


Figure 2. Floor plan of Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street (Source: Goad 1992 5/123)



Figure 3. Clerehan House I, 18 Fawkner Street viewed from the street soon after completion, 1958 (Source: State Library of Victoria)



Figure 4. Front (north) elevation of Clerehan House I, 18 Fawkner Street soon after completion, 1958 (Source: State Library of Victoria)



Figure 5. Part front (north) elevation of Clerehan House I, 18 Fawkner Street soon after completion, 1958 (Source: State Library of Victoria)

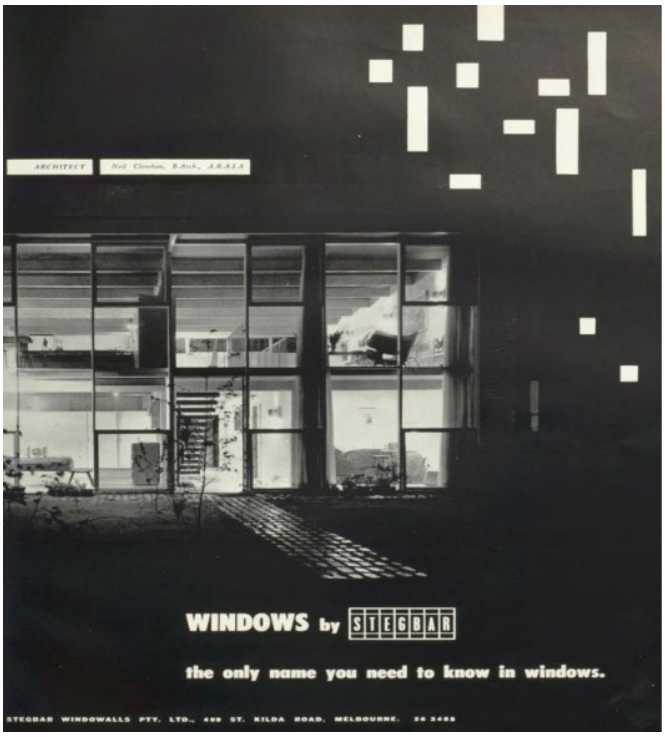


Figure 6. 'Stegbar' windows advertisement showing Clerehan House I in Clerehan's own book, Best Australian Houses, published in 1961 (Source: N Clerehan, Best Australian Houses)

The house at 18 Fawkner Street was listed by Clerehan in the RVIA *Modern Houses* publication of 1964. The RVIA compiled and published this list of architect-designed houses to enable and encourage students, architects, and the general public to familiarise themselves with contemporary housing ideas. Architects were invited to submit examples of their recent residential projects which they considered best represented their design work at the time.

Clerehan and his family continued to reside at the property until 1968, at which time they relocated to a new family residence, also designed by Clerehan, in nearby Walsh Street (Clerehan House II). The house at 18 Fawkner Street was purchased by Charles and Julia Redlich in 1968; before being purchased by the current owners in 1971 (personal communication, 21 February 2025). Clerehan continued to act as 'honorary architect' until his death in 2017; all changes undertaken by the current owners were either designed or undertaken in consultation with Clerehan (personal communication, 21 February 2025). A timber deck at the first-floor level was constructed to the rear of the property in the 1980s (Prahran Valuation Records) and the recessed letter box within the garden wall was enlarged at a later date. The projecting wing walls flanking the north (window wall) elevation have also been overpainted in white. The house remains highly intact and Clerehan's design remains evident from the street frontage.



Figure 7. Aerial photograph showing Clerehan House I, 18 Fawkner Street in 1974 (Source: Landata Victoria)

Neil Clerehan, architect

Neil Clerehan (1922-2017) commenced his architectural studies at Melbourne Technical College (now RMIT) in 1940 and completed them at the University of Melbourne in 1950. His studies were interrupted by his service in World War II, during which he became firm friends with fellow architecture student Robin Boyd. Clerehan established his own practice in 1949, his first commission being Barton House in East Brighton (1951). In 1952 he travelled the United States, working in New York as a housing consultant within the United Nations Secretariat, and with Jose Luis Sert. Travelling widely, he visited architects including Frank Lloyd Wright, Paul Rudolph and Philip Johnson.

Upon his return to Melbourne in 1953, Clerehan resumed private practice and replaced Robin Boyd as director of the RVIA Small Homes Service (1954-61). In this position he wrote weekly articles for *The Age* and designed a large number of sample house plans, including '*The Age* Dream Home' in 1954-5, a demonstration home that was built in Surrey Hills (since demolished). After leaving his position with the RVIA, Clerehan partnered with Guildford Bell between 1962 and 1964, to form Clerehan & Bell. The firm produced a series of acclaimed houses, including the award-winning Simon House, 33 Daveys Bay Road, Mount Eliza (1962) and the Beddison Swift House, 5 Crown Road, Ivanhoe (1963, HO207 Banyule Planning Scheme).

From 1964 Clerehan resumed a solo practice as Neil Clerehan & Associates, continuing to produce high quality modern houses, such as the Clive Ross Fenner House, 228 Domain Road, South Yarra (1964, HO1232 Melbourne Planning Scheme) which won the 1967 RVIA Victorian Architecture Medal, and his own second house at 90 Walsh Street, South Yarra (1968, HO443 Melbourne Planning Scheme).

In 1980 Clerehan partnered with David Cran, who had been in the office since 1970, to form Clerehan Cran. The practice completed a variety of residential and commercial projects, the former located in both Victoria and New South Wales. Clerehan published *Best Australian Houses* in 1961, a compilation of the best examples of late 1950s architect-designed houses in Australia. He served as editor of *Architect* from 1971 and was president of Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Victorian Chapter in 1975-76, of which he was made a Life Fellow in 1977. From the 1970s, Clerehan's interest in historic buildings saw him involved in the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), the Council for the Historic Environment (president in 1977), and as a member of the Victorian Historic Buildings Council. In 2004 Clerehan was awarded the RAIA President's Medal and in 2008 he was awarded an honorary doctorate in architecture by the University of Melbourne.

Description

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, is located on the south side of Fawkner Street, south-east of the main intersection of Punt Road and Toorak Road and west of the Melbourne to Sandringham railway line. The house is located towards the rear of the property and the rectangular site is accessed via a broad driveway at the western end of the street boundary which leads directly to a double carport structure. A high red brick wall lines the remainder of the street boundary and turns the corner towards the rear of the site to form the western side of the carport, incorporating an inset timber letterbox. A door in this wall provides pedestrian access to a private front garden and the house beyond.

Built on the east boundary, the two-storey red brick house is Modernist in style with a simple rectilinear form, an approximately square plan, and a flat metal deck-clad roof which is eaveless at the east and west sides. Facing the front garden, the north side of the house comprises a fully glazed Stegbar window wall – a prefabricated and structural framing system – recessed between side brick walls and with a broad eave overhang to this elevation. The carport to the front of the property is a lightweight structure with flat metal deck-clad roof supported on timber beams which cantilever to the west, supported on the brick garden wall to the east and slender steel columns at the centre.

Key Features:

- Two-storey house in the Modernist style of the post-war period
- Red brick construction
- Simple rectilinear form, approximately square in plan
- Flat metal deck-clad roof, eaveless to the eastern and western elevations
- Fully glazed, prefabricated and structural Stegbar window wall to the north, recessed between side brick walls
- Broad eave overhang to the north
- Double carport with flat metal deck-clad roof and cantilevering timber beams, supported on the brick garden wall to the east and slender steel columns at the centre
- High brick wall to the street boundary and the west side of the front garden.



Figure 8. Aerial photograph of Clerehan House I, 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra (Source: Nearmap, dated 9 October 2024)

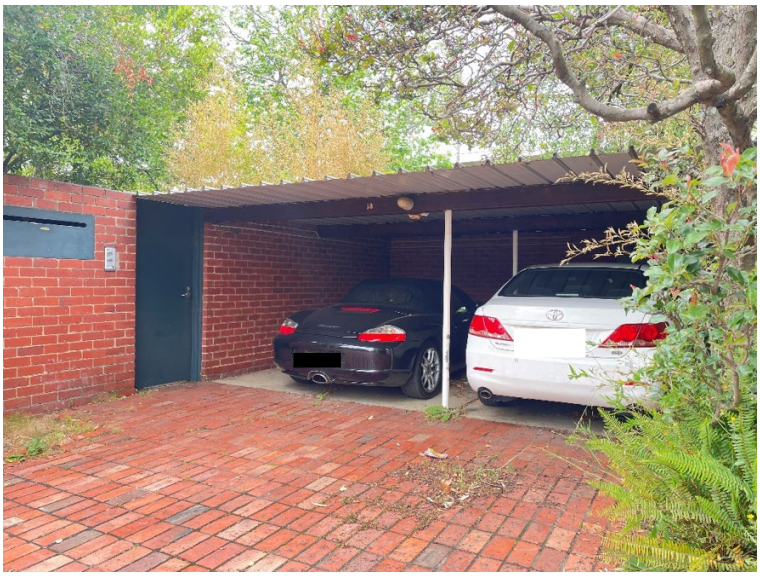


Figure 9. Carport and entrance forecourt fronting Fawkner Street (Source: GJM Heritage, November 2024)



Figure 10. Front (north) elevation showing part of Stegbar window wall and overpainted wing walls (Source: GJM Heritage, February 2025)



Figure 11. Front (north) elevation showing part of Stegbar window wall (Source: GJM Heritage, February 2025)



Figure 12. Front (north) elevation showing part of Stegbar window wall and main entrance (Source: GJM Heritage, February 2025)

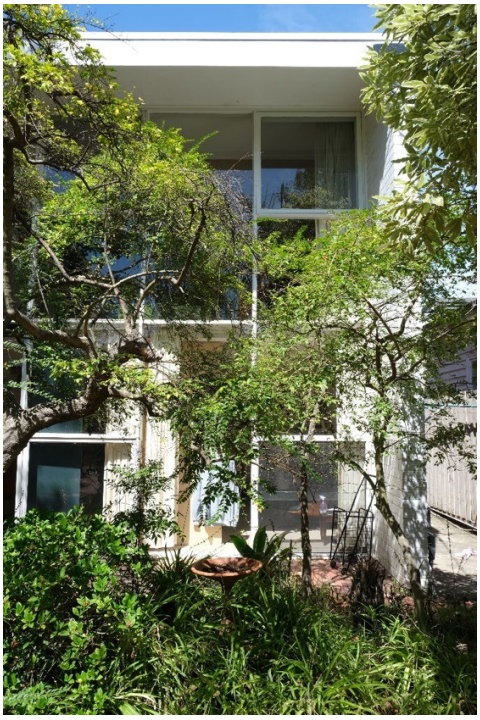


Figure 13. Front (north) elevation showing part of Stegbar window wall, deep overhanging eave and overpainted wing wall (Source: GJM Heritage, February 2025)





Figure 14 and 15. Rear (south) elevation showing highlight windows and red brick construction (Source: GJM Heritage, February 2025)



Figure 16. Side (west) elevation looking north showing red brick construction (Source: GJM Heritage, February 2025)

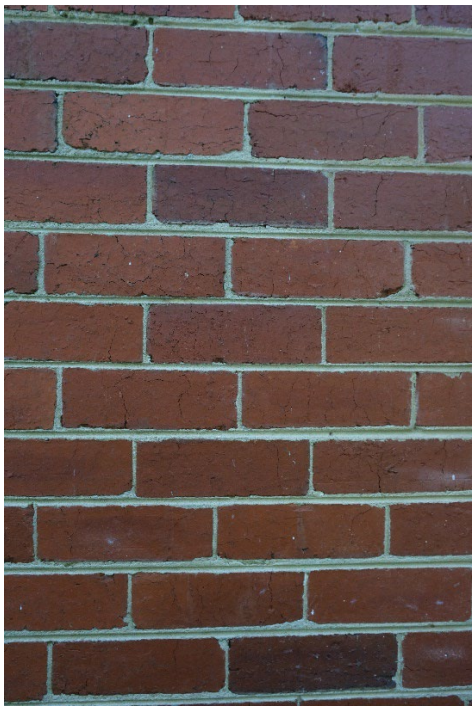


Figure 17. Detail of rear (south) elevation showing recessed concave groove in mortar (Source: GJM Heritage, February 2025)

Intactness and Integrity

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra retains a very high degree of integrity in fabric, form and detail to its period of construction. The house remains highly intact and retains the ability to be clearly understood and appreciated as an example of a 1950s Post-War Modernist house.

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Comparative Analysis

In the immediate post-war period through to the mid-1970s, a number of Modernist houses were constructed in South Yarra and the City of Stonnington more broadly for those with an appreciation of Modernist architecture and its design principles. Influential architects Roy Grounds, Robin Boyd and Neil Clerehan designed residences for themselves in these suburbs (Grounds House, 24 Hill House, Toorak – VHR H1963 & HO60 City of Stonnington; Robin Boyd House II, 290 Walsh Street, South Yarra – VHR H2105 & HO453 City of Melbourne; Neil Clerehan House II, 90 Walsh Street, South Yarra – HO443 Melbourne Planning Scheme); and progressive clients commissioned well-known, influential architects to design Modernist residences in these prestigious inner-city suburbs.

These houses were designed with a simplicity of structure, a sparseness of detail and an eye on functionality. Plans were typically rectangular, and forms were often rectilinear with a horizontal emphasis. Flat, low-pitched or chamfered roofs were clad with lightweight sheeting and walls were typically timber-framed and clad with timber, cement sheet or brick. Later (late 1960s-70s) examples were also of solid masonry construction. Timber-framed glazing included bands of highlight windows and full-height window-walls to maximise sun penetration and to provide visual and physical connection with the outdoors.

Only a small number of Post-War Modernist homes are included in – or are proposed for inclusion in – the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme on an individual basis. These include:

Richardson House, 10 Blackfriars Close, Toorak, 1955 Robin Boyd (HO360)



Figure 18. 10 Blackfriars Close, Toorak (Source: Domain.com.au)

35 Larnook Street, Prahran, 1959 Bernard Slawik (HO645)



Figure 19. 35 Larnook Street, Prahran (Source: Stonnington Planning Scheme)

Selwyn House II, 3 Glendye Court, Toorak, 1967 Holgar & Holgar (proposed for the Heritage Overlay as HO732)



Figure 20. 3 Glendye Court, Toorak (Source: Extent Heritage, 2021)

Lasker House, 23 Linlithgow Road, Toorak, 1970 Holgar & Holgar (Interim HO696)



Figure 21. 23 Linlithgow Road, Toorak (Source: Extent Heritage, 2021)

Gelbart House, 5 Heyington Place, 1971-72 Holgar & Holgar (Interim HO698)



Figure 22. 5 Heyington Place, Toorak (Source: Google Streetview)

Hallows House, 184 Kooyong Road, Toorak, 1975 Guildford Bell (Interim HO702)



Figure 23. 184 Kooyong Road, Toorak (Source: Extent Heritage, 2021)

Shere, 1 Theodore Court, Toorak, c1958 Roy Grounds (Interim HO699)



Figure 24. 1 Theodore Court, Toorak (Source: RealEstate.com)

Milne House, 1 Glenbervie Road, Toorak, 1970 Robin Boyd (Interim HO703)



Figure 25. 1 Glenbervie Road, Toorak (Source: Extent Heritage, 2021)

In addition to the above, two houses in the City of Stonnington – Grounds House, 24 Hill Street, Toorak (VHR H1963 & HO6) and Brett House, 3 Buddle Drive, Toorak (VHR H2396 & HO654) – have identified significance at the State-level and are included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). Grounds House is included in the VHR as 'one of the most celebrated works of modernist domestic architecture of the mid-20th century in Victoria' and as 'one of the best designs of the noted architect Roy Grounds'. Brett House, designed by Robin Boyd in 1954, is architecturally significant at the State-level as a notable example of a post-war Modernist residence and for its 'distinctive Modernist interpretation of the Georgian Revival home'.

Grounds House, 24 Hill Street, Toorak, 1953 Roy Grounds (VHR H1963 & HO6)



Figure 26. Grounds House, 24 Hill Street, Toorak (Source: Picark, https://pikark.com/en/)

Brett House, 3 Buddle Drive, Toorak, 1955 Robin Boyd (VHR H2396 & HO654)



Figure 27. Brett House, 3 Buddle Drive, Toorak (Source: Victorian Heritage Database)

Like 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, the above places were constructed in what is now the City of Stonnington in the post-war period. These houses exhibit a range of characteristics representative of Modernist housing in the 1950s to 1970s, including simple rectilinear forms with horizontal emphasis, a spareness of detail and ornamentation (with the exception of 33 Glendye Court and 5 Heyington Place which represent more exuberant examples of the Modernist style), flat or low-pitched roofs, exposed eaves, expansive glazing (particularly north-facing), and external and internal courtyards to maximise natural lighting and to provide a connection between the indoors and outdoors. Like the examples above, 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra retains a high degree of integrity to its period of construction and remains highly intact to clearly demonstrate a range of the principal characteristics of the Modernist architectural style and to reflect its importance in the historical development of what is now the City of Stonnington.

Houses designed by Neil Clerehan in South Yarra

The house at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra was designed by architect Neil Clerehan, widely regarded as one of the most significant architects of Melbourne's post-war period.

Two examples of Clerehan's work in the suburb of South Yarra are subject to heritage controls. Fenner House, 228 Domain Road, South Yarra (VHR H2350 & HO6 Melbourne Planning Scheme) was designed by Clerehan in 1964 for retired pastoralist, Clive Ross Fenner and his wife. The place has identified

significance at the State-level and is included in the VHR as ‘one of the most celebrated of the modernist houses built in Melbourne in the post-war period’ and ‘as an outstanding example of the design of architect Neil Clerehan, one of the most influential architects working in Melbourne during the post-war period’. Clerehan House II – designed by Clerehan as his second family residence – at 90 Walsh Street, South Yarra is included in the Heritage Overlay of the Melbourne Planning Scheme as HO443.

Fenner House, 228 Domain Road, South Yarra, 1964 (VHR H2350 & HO6 Melbourne Planning Scheme)

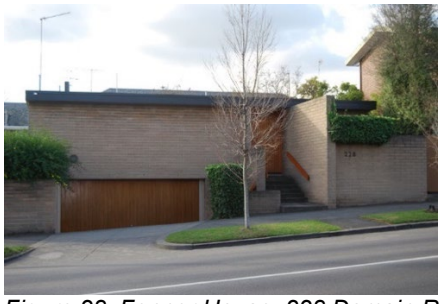


Figure 28. Fenner House, 228 Domain Road, South Yarra (Source: Victorian Heritage Database)

Clerehan House II, 90 Walsh Street, South Yarra, 1968 (HO443 Melbourne Planning Scheme)



Figure 29. 90 Walsh Street, South Yarra (Source: Modernhouse.co)

The house at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, is illustrative of Clerehan’s early period of his work, reflecting the residential designs he developed as director of RVIA Small Homes Service (SHS) from 1954 – which focused on simple, lightweight, affordable designs – while the above examples represent the later evolution of Clerehan’s body of work. As Phillip Goad writes in his 1992 thesis *The Modern House in Melbourne 1945-1975*, Clerehan’s ‘houses of the 1960s and early 1970s are restrained and understated Melbourne homes, highlighting efficient entry from car to house, clarity of plan and a minimum of building materials and finishes’ (Goad 1992:6/59).

Clerehan was known for his clear and efficient planning; his resourceful use of space to maximise lighting and gain as much from a site as possible; his application of honest structural expression; and his use of a minimal materials palette (Goad 1992:6/61). These principles were applied to the design of 18 Fawkner Street and the other examples of his work above.

Architect’s own residences in South Yarra and the City of Stonnington

The house at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra was the first house designed by Neil Clerehan as his own residence in South Yarra. He was one of a number of architects designing their own houses in the suburb and municipality in the post-war period. Others included Roy Grounds (24 Hill Street, Toorak, see Figure 26) and Robin Boyd:

Robin Boyd House II, 290 Walsh Street, South Yarra, 1957
(VHR H2105 & HO453, Melbourne Planning Scheme)



Figure 30. 290 Walsh Street, South Yarra (Source: Docomomo Australia)

These properties, though varying in scale and form, all display the key characteristics of post-war Modernist design and represent the popularity of South Yarra for post-war architects to design their own homes.

Summary of comparisons

Clerehan House I, at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, is illustrative of Clerehan's early phase of Modernist house design in the 1950s and – like the examples above – clearly demonstrates the key characteristics of Post-War Modernist housing, including its simple rectilinear form, flat roof, prominent carport, expansive north-facing glazing, limited material palette, connection between indoor and outdoor spaces, and privacy from the street.

Designed by architect Neil Clerehan as his own residence, Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, is a highly intact example of an architect-designed house in the City of Stonnington. It is one of a small number of architect-designed and owned post-war Modernist houses that remain in South Yarra and the City of Stonnington more broadly.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria referred to in *Planning Practice Note No. 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, August 2018), modified for the local context.

CRITERION A: *Importance to the course or pattern of the City of Stonnington's cultural or natural history (historical significance).*

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, designed by celebrated architect, Neil Clerehan, in 1958 as his own residence, has a strong association with post-war suburban development in the City of Stonnington, when a number of architect-designed Modernist houses were constructed across the municipality for those with an appreciation of Modernist architecture and its design principles. The affluent suburbs of South Yarra and Toorak were particularly attractive to wealthy residents and architects interested in the Modern aesthetic and refined examples of post-war Modernist houses that replaced existing houses in well-established streetscapes. As a highly intact architect-designed and owned Modernist house constructed in the post-war period, Clerehan House I clearly demonstrates this important phase in the development of the City of Stonnington.

CRITERION B: *Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Stonnington's cultural or natural history (rarity).*

N/A

CRITERION C: *Possession to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Stonnington's cultural or natural history (research potential).*

N/A

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CRITERION D: *Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).*

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra is a fine and highly intact representative example of Modernist housing constructed during the post-war period. It displays the principal characteristics of Modernist housing of the post-war period, including a rectilinear form, flat roof with broad eave to the north, fully-glazed prefabricated and structural north-facing Stegbar window wall, prominently sited carport and an emphasis on privacy with high brick walls to the street. The house is highly legible as an accomplished example of Modernist housing in the City of Stonnington.

CRITERION E: *Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).*

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra is of aesthetic significance as an assured and finely executed example of a house constructed in the Modernist style of the early post-war period. Designed by celebrated architect Neil Clerehan as his own residence, the house is characterised by its simple but striking rectilinear form, its simple palette of materials, its fully glazed 'Stegbar' window wall creating a strong visual relationship between the interior and exterior, and its concealment from the street through a high brick fence to create a substantial private open space at the front of the property. Clerehan House I demonstrates the key aesthetic qualities of Modernist design in the City of Stonnington to a very high standard.

CRITERION F: *Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.*

N/A

CRITERION G: *Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing cultural traditions (social significance).*

N/A

CRITERION H: *Special association with the life or works of a period, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Stonnington's history (associative significance).*

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, designed in 1958 and constructed as his own residence, has a special association with renowned architect and long-term South Yarra resident, Neil Clerehan. Clerehan House I was the first house designed by Clerehan for himself and his family and clearly demonstrated the principles Clerehan was expounding in his role as Director of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Small Homes Service at the time. The Clerehan family resided at 18 Fawkner Street from 1958 to 1968 before relocating to a new, self-designed house in nearby Walsh Street, South Yarra where Clerehan remained until his death in 2017. Within South Yarra Clerehan also designed the State-significance Fenner House, 228 Domain Road, South Yarra (VHR H2350). He continued to act as 'honorary architect' for 18 Fawkner Street until his death.

Grading and Recommendations

It is recommended that the place be removed from HO131 'Fawkner Street/Davis Avenue Precinct' as it does not share the heritage values of the precinct. It is recommended that the property be included in an individual Heritage Overlay in the Stonnington Planning Scheme as a locally significant heritage place (HO799).

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) to the Stonnington Planning Scheme:

External paint controls *Is a permit required to paint an already painted surface?*	No
Internal alteration controls *Is a permit required for internal alterations?*	No
Tree controls *Is a permit required to remove a tree?*	No
Solar energy system controls *Solar energy system controls apply?*	Yes
Outbuildings and fences exemptions *Are there outbuildings or fences which are not exempt from notice and review?*	Yes – front fence and carport
Victorian Heritage Register *Is this place included on the Victorian Heritage Register?*	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted *Can a permit be granted to use for a use which would otherwise be prohibited?*	No
Aboriginal heritage place *Is the place an Aboriginal heritage place which is subject to the requirements of the* Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006?	No
Incorporated Plan *Does an incorporated plan apply to the site?*	No

Extent of Overlay

To the extent of the property boundary, as shown in Figure 31 below.



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