



MEDIA RELEASE

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Historic house threatened by zoning

The National Trust calls for the protection of a significant home in Lindfield which is threatened with demolition to make way for medium density development.

The Trust believes a zoning error has made the house at 10A Beaconsfield Parade, Lindfield, vulnerable to redevelopment. The cube shaped home, which was recently placed on the National Trust Register was built in 1954 to the design of Sydney Ancher, a pioneer of the modern architectural movement in Australia.

National Trust Conservation Director Graham Quint says the house is exemplary of Ancher's style, incorporating his signature use of pergolas, wide terraces and white painted interiors open to the landscape.

"This building is extraordinary in that it still contains the intact fittings and fixtures designed by Ancher, including its kitchen cupboards and servery, built-in wardrobes, fireplace, timber mantelpiece and large radio speaker recessed into the brickwork," Mr Quint said.

"The building is well integrated into a natural landscape of predominantly native vegetation that contributes to Ku-ring-gai's natural heritage with regeneration of Blackbutt (part of an endangered ecological community) on the site and one huge Blackbutt adjacent to the house estimated to be 85 years old," he said.

"The house was built for celebrated journalist Jim Macdougall who wrote for Australia's four major newspapers during a 67 year career.

"Two historic plaques, relating to the building of the Opera House are set in the north east terrace of the house. One of them is signed by Architects, Jørn Utzon and his partner Erik Andersson. It is thought that Jim Macdougall retained the plaques as an historic memento of the Opera House's construction," Mr Quint said.

The National Trust has written to Kur-ring-gai Council expressing its opposition to the demolition of this architecturally significant property.

The Trust believes there has been a error with regards to the zoning of the site and urges that any decision on the future of 10A Beaconsfield Parade be deferred until the Ku-ring-gai Planning Panel has made a determination on the Ku-ring-gai Town Centres' Local Environmental Plan.

"It would be a great loss for the heritage of Ku-ring-gai to see the loss of this important Sydney Ancher building and its historic associations with Jim Macdougall and Jørn Utzon because of a planning error that may be about to be rectified," Mr Quint said.

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