

Statement of Significance: Park View

Address:	5 Herbert Street, St Kilda	Name:	Park View
Place type:	Residential: Flats	Grading:	Significant
PS ref no:	HO545	Constructed:	1958- 59
Heritage precinct:	Not applicable	Citation No:	2427



What is significant?

Park View at 5 Herbert Street, St Kilda, designed by Dr Ernest Fooks in late 1958 and constructed by local builder Rudolph Kalish during 1959, is significant.

Park View has a flat roof, clad in sheet metal, with a wide eaves overhang, and a stepped footprint to the north side to maximise views of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens opposite. The splayed balconies to the latter are cantilevered with a central steel pole and have panels to the front with metal balustrading that incorporates circular motifs to the longer sides. The timber-framed windows to the main elevations (north and east) are organized in bands alternating with spandrel panels (painted blue but originally brown). The circulation core is external and consists of a tower with projecting bricks, which is separated from the main part of the building by a metal screen, and galleries to the south side.

The original garage block in the south-west corner and low cream brick fence to the front boundary which incorporates a recess for letterboxes also contribute to the significance of the place.

Alterations and additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

Park View at 5 Herbert Street, St Kilda is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Port Phillip.

Why is it significant?

Park View is historically significant as being demonstrative of the extensive flat building program that has characterised much of the 20th century history of the municipality but especially the southern parts and which gained pace after WWII with the introduction of the Own-Your-Own (OYO) option. The site is also significant as it reflects a common pattern of land development in this part of the municipality whereby the extant building replaced a Victorian house/mansion, which had itself been converted to

flats in the interim. The postwar flat typology evolved with the work of several émigré architects, who were responsible for a high proportion of the architect-designed examples and who often worked with Jewish developers. These imbued the area with a progressive, International character, and which was supported by the often local Jewish community. It also has associations with the Slovakian-born architect Dr Ernest Fooks, whose office was located in St Kilda, was at the forefront of postwar flat design, and responsible for other key buildings in the area. (Criterion A)

Park View is of aesthetic significance as an early and seminal example with limited comparison of a more nuanced approach to Modernist flat design, undoubtedly influenced by Fooks' recent international trip on which he, along with his wife Noemi, researched the latest trends. The elements which distinguish the building are the stepped footprint, orientated to maximise views, separate and prominent stairwell tower with distinct detailing (staggered glazing bars and projecting bricks), splayed balconies, and characteristic Fooksian elements such as timber-framed spandrel panels and elongated window proportions. The emerging variant of Modernism in which materials, colour, and patterning (in the brickwork and to the balustrading) to differentiate buildings are also evident here, providing a complex interplay of forms and detailing. Its overall intactness is complemented by the retention of the cream brick front fence. (Criterion E)

Primary source

RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, *HO7 Elwood St Kilda Balaclava Ripponlea Precinct heritage review Stage 2, 2022*
