

Manningham Modern

A self-guided tour of the
modern homes of
Manningham



Throughout the middle decades of the 20th century there was rapid suburban growth around the fringes of Melbourne.

Increased access to the motor car, growing prosperity in the post-World War 2 years, and the desire for the suburban lifestyle resulted in the push for new housing and services in the suburbs of Melbourne. The 1960s was a period of rapid growth for the suburbs of Manningham. In Doncaster and Templestowe, and other parts of the municipality, a number of key architects and builders were developing innovative housing solutions to address the needs and aspirations of the period.

Within the municipality there are many fine examples of both individually designed houses and project (display) houses that showcase the key elements of innovative housing of the era and contribute to the wider body of significant houses from the period.



*House in Foote Street, Templestowe, designed by Robin Boyd (1952) Photographer: Peter Willie (C.1950-71)
Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection*



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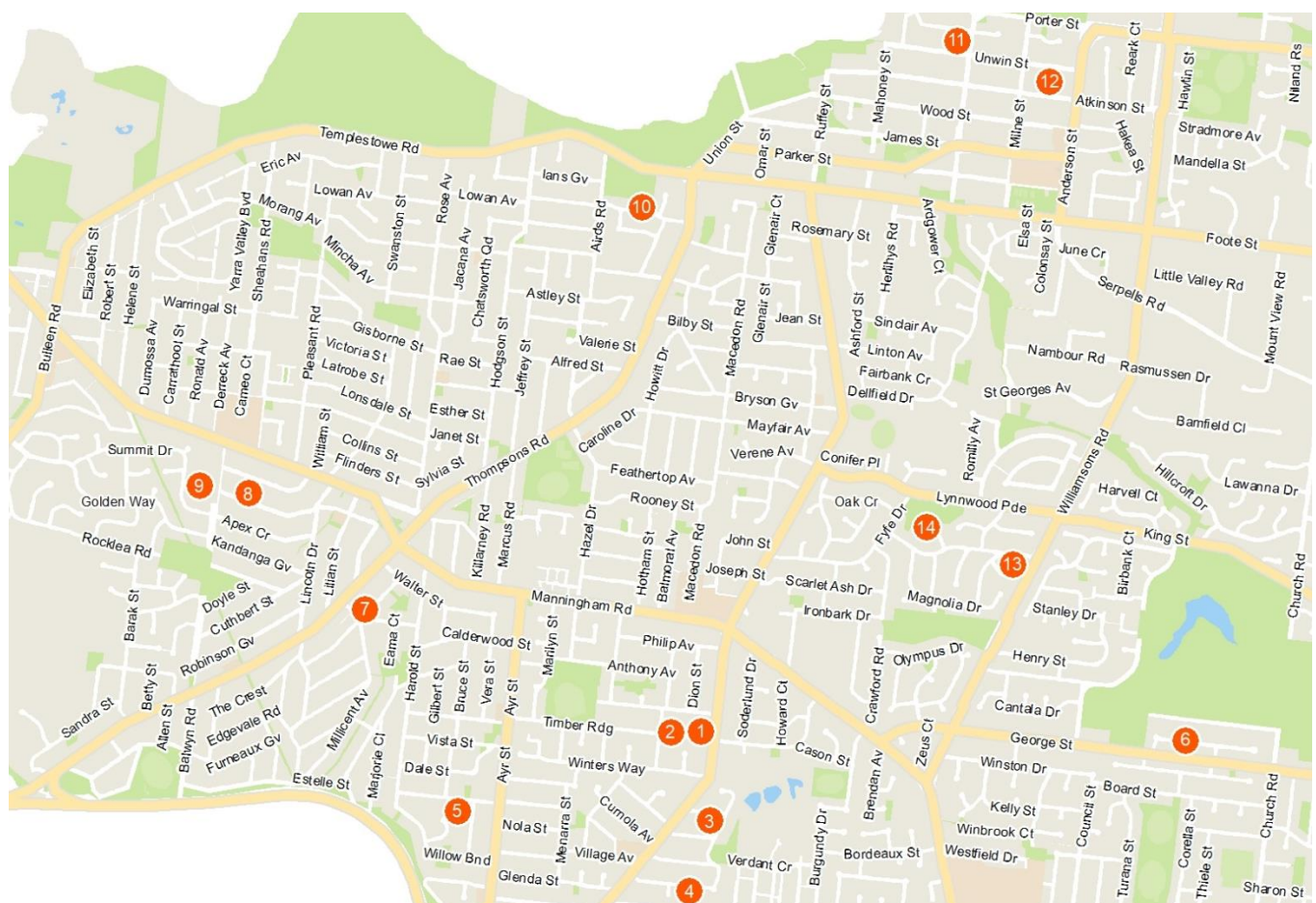
How to use this guide:

This guide is intended to highlight some of the best examples of the period and to demonstrate some of the key features of mid-century modern architecture. It illustrates some of the key ideas and innovations in housing in the post-war period. The houses included have been selected from a long list of examples within the municipality.

By using the online interactive map you can discover more about this era while exploring Manningham. As you visit the places on the tour, keep an eye out for other examples of housing from the era. You will appreciate the original work of the architects, builders and developers who were working in the area, as well as the aspirations of the residents who commissioned the work and chose to live in these homes.

Manningham Modern Map

Each home featured in this guide has a corresponding number on the map below as well as the [interactive online map](#).



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Key features of the modern house:

- Visual interest is derived from the arrangement of the building form, the roof structure and other elements such as windows and porches rather than applied decoration such as iron lace work or carved timber verandahs.
- Building materials are expressed as part of the visual interest of the houses - timber is unpainted, brickwork left exposed or bagged and 'modern' materials such as metal or plywood panels are sometimes featured.
- The garden setting is often important to the overall character of the house and often features indigenous plants. There is a strong connection with the garden and landscape from the interior of the building through features such as whole walls of windows and courtyards. Houses are often built to suit the topography of the site.
- Innovative floor plans introduced zoning within the house, creating separate areas for parents and children and for indoor and outdoor living. A preference for open plan living areas and flexible spaces replaced the idea of separate rooms such as a separate kitchen.
- Environmental awareness is evident, with passive solar design features incorporated into many houses.
- As the car became a feature of every household, carports and garages were incorporated into housing design.

Good design for all

The mid-twentieth century was an exciting time in residential design, with many young and optimistic architects and builders experimenting with floorplans, form and materials. There was an emphasis on offering affordable and innovative housing to the general population, not just to those who could afford to commission an architect for an individually designed house.

A number of schemes made architect designed homes possible and accessible to many. People were able to purchase low cost plans or see standard designs in display villages and then build a home on their own block of land.

'The Age' Small Homes Service

Started by Robin Boyd in 1947, this scheme, ran in conjunction with The Age newspaper. Each week, an architect designed house plan was published in the Age newspaper, with drawings available for purchase by the general public for a modest sum.

Project Home Building

Project home builders constructed display villages where the public could see a fully built standard home. They could then arrange to have the design built on their own land. Progressive companies such as Merchant Builders and Sibbel Homes were working in Manningham during the 1960s and 70s.

Architectural Competition Homes

In the late 1960s, the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects ran competitions for residential design. Plans of the winning entries were made available to the public. Organisations such as the Gas and Fuel Corporation were also actively involved, sponsoring these types of schemes.



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***Please note: Houses should be viewed from the public domain (street) only. Please refrain from encroaching on private property and respect residents' privacy and amenity.**

1.



**Winter Park, 6-17 Timber Ridge, Doncaster
Merchant Builders Architect: Graeme Gunn
Landscape Architect: Ellis Stone**

An important example of the innovative work of Merchant Builders. The development features a cluster arrangement of houses over two large sites, all set within a shared park like setting. A range of Merchant Builders' house types are featured, including the Courtyard House, the Studio House and the Terrace House. The site is included in the Manningham Heritage Overlay.

Image source: Photographer Peter Willie, c. 1950-71, State Library of Victoria Picture Collection.

2.



16 Timber Ridge, Doncaster

Date: 1962

Architect: Alexander Harris

A striking home on an elevated corner site. Designed as two pavilions set below a series of pyramidal roofs. Key features include an unpainted grey brick facade, regular full height windows, with front windows placed between projecting brick wings. A later two storey addition is now evident at the rear.

Image source: Photographer Peter Willie, c. 1950-71, State Library of Victoria Picture Collection.

3.



18 Greenwood Street, Doncaster

Date: 1964

Architects: Brine Wierzbowski Associates

This house is built to suit its elevated corner site. Positioned to look out over the nearby parklands, the house features a textured finish of sand coloured concrete blocks with stained timber accents, and a private elevated courtyard on the Studley Street side of the block. The house is nestled within an established landscaped garden.

Image source: Manningham Council

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4.



4 Link Street, Doncaster

Architect: Ancher Mortlock Murray Woolley

Builders: Pettit and Sevitt

The 'Split Level 1' project home features a double storey form enclosed by a low pitched gabled roof. The gabled end has a solid section of face brick to one half of the facade and a contrasting glazed and timber section to the other half. The carport is integrated in the overall design with the roof form, mirroring that of the main house.

Image source: Manningham Council

5.



14 Westwood Drive, Bulleen

Architect: Daryl Jackson and Evan Walker

This house steps down the site and is covered by a singular sloping roof line that follows the slope of the site. Solid blocks of face brick contrast with regular glazed sections, framed in stained timber. Overall the house has a strong sculptural aesthetic. It is now surrounded by an established garden.

Image source: Photographer Peter Willie, c. 1950-71, State Library of Victoria Picture Collection.

6.



29 Roseland Grove, Doncaster

Architect: Conarg Architects

Built as a Charity Home, 'The House of Expectations' was auctioned to raise funds for the Victorian Bureau of Epilepsy. A striking asymmetrical roof line extends to one side to form a carport. The solid face brick walls are inset with full height panels of glazing with timber panels. The entry is recessed well back from the front of the house.

Image source: Manningham Council

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7.



36 Riverview Terrace, Bulleen

Date: 1974

This house has a sculptural form, built to work with the sloped corner site. It is set within a generous established garden. Built of brick with stained timber trims, the house features a row of south facing highlight windows. Entry is from Ralph Street, with feature brick walls notable on this side of the house.

Image supplied by Context Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd.

8.



49 Pinnacle Crescent, Bulleen

Date: 1965

The brick home, built on an elevated site, features a wide angular balcony across the front. A strong horizontal emphasis is achieved by the sweeping nature of the balcony and the flat roof form, and is reminiscent of the work of architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Image supplied by Context Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd.

9.



St Clements' Church, 9-21 Egan Drive, Bulleen

Date: 1972

Architects: Smith & Tracey

One of the few Modernist churches in Victoria that could be described as Brutalist, where the low cinder brick and concrete exterior belies the soaring internal space. The space is dominated by a pair of long concrete beams, resting on columns flanking the altar, lit by a hidden skylight above. The long 'front' wall of the faceted fan-shaped plan is almost entirely abstract patterned stained glass windows.

Image source: Manningham Council



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10.



17 Stanlake Rise, Templestowe Lower

Date: 1960s

Builders: Sibbel Homes

This textured brick house is set high on the block. The symmetrical facade has a low, flat roof line, emphasising the horizontal plane. The front entry is recessed under the single roof line, with a solid timber door and windows creating aesthetic interest to the simple facade. The simple 'L-shaped' plan creates a rear courtyard, visible from many of the internal spaces.

Image source: Manningham Council

11.



1 Dellas Avenue, Templestowe

Date: 1966-70

Architects: Keith and John Reid

This striking clinker brick house is built on a steeply sloping site. It was designed to work with the topography of the site, with the building stepping down the site and the roof line following the line of the slope. It is set in a landscape setting facing out to the Yarra River.

Image source: Photographer Peter Willie, c. 1950-71, State Library of Victoria Picture Collection.

12.



**Templestowe Uniting Church,
104 Atkinson Street, Templestowe**

Date: 1963

Architect: Keith Reid

A fine example of a Modernist church by an architect who specialised in churches, but also designed a number of notable houses in the municipality. Church design in the late 1950s and early 60s was at its most radical and experimental; in this case a deceptively simple rectangular volume is given a monumental character by reducing the wall to wide piers of heavily textured clinker bricks, separated by vertical coloured glass window strips, which becomes a tall window wall behind the altar.

Image supplied by Context Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd

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13.



3 Lignum Court, Templestowe Lower

Architect: Hugh Flockart

Builders: Inge Brothers

The 'Woodgates Estate' was marketed as a pre-planned neighbourhood set amidst trees and hills and offering a comfortable and harmonious living environment. This project house was marketed as the 'Hoedown'. It came first in its category in The Age Housing Service Competition of 1968. It was designed around a module that could be easily extended and adapted.

Image source: Manningham Council

14.



8 Totara Court, Templestowe Lower

Architect: Whitford and Peck Builders: Inge Brothers

The 'Sun Court' Project House was the winner of The Age RAI A Housing Service Competition of 1968. The house was designed to make maximum use of the outdoor space and featured a covered courtyard area adjacent to the family room. The house name was derived from this feature.

Image source Manningham Council

Heritage in Manningham

Manningham's rich cultural heritage reflects the historical development of the municipality. This publication is part of Manningham Council's commitment to share heritage information with our community. Manningham Modern* is a partnership project between Manningham Council and the National Trust, proudly supported by Context.

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