



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.4.2 Migrating to seek opportunity
- 4.1.2 Making suburbs
- 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees
- 605 Famous and infamous people

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Marsala House, Dianella is highly valued by Western Australians who own Iwan Iwanoff's buildings, and by architectural critics, as evidenced through references to the house in numerous published works. (Criterion 1.1)

Marsala House, Dianella is a rare and aesthetically exceptional example of a highly innovative residence constructed of concrete blockwork. (Criterion 1.2)

Marsala House, Dianella is one of the finest residences constructed by highly-regarded Western Australian architect, Iwan Iwanoff, clearly demonstrating his idiosyncratic explorations in the Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style. (Criterion 1.2)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Marsala House, Dianella was designed by Bulgarian-born architect, Iwan Iwanoff, whose work is well known in architectural circles, in particular for his expressive use of concrete blocks. (Criterion 2.3)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Marsala House, Dianella demonstrates the new architecture of the 1960s and 70s, which experimented with mass produced materials for both highly modelled façades and interiors. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Marsala House, Dianella demonstrates the use of mass produced materials – including concrete blocks, melamine laminate, and polystyrene – to produce a residence of exceptional aesthetic value. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Marsala House, Dianella is highly valued by owners of Iwan Iwanoff's residences for its expression of a distinctive architectural design. (Criterion 4.1)

Marsala House, Dianella is valued by architectural critics, as demonstrated by references to the house in numerous published works. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Marsala House, Dianella is rare as a Western Australian example of expressionist design, a style almost exclusively represented in this State by the work of Iwanoff. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Marsala House, Dianella is representative of the Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style, although here idiosyncratically interpreted by Iwan Iwanoff. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Since 1994, very little maintenance has been undertaken to date (2008). This has resulted in the very poor condition of the roof and flashing. There is also evidence of cracking around the main staircase, and repointing is necessary in places. In general, *Marsala House, Dianella* is structurally sound and in fair to good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Although minor alterations have been made to some rooms in *Marsala House, Dianella*, the original form as a family residence remains intact. *Marsala House, Dianella* has a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Marsala House, Dianella has undergone some additions, but these have not disturbed the original fabric, and many of the original fixtures and fittings remain. *Marsala House, Dianella* has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document has been based on '*Marsala House, Dianella: Conservation Plan*' by Fiona Bush and John Stephens, in May 2008, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

See '*Marsala House, Dianella: Conservation Plan*' by Fiona Bush and John Stephens, pp. 7-14

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

See '*Marsala House, Dianella: Conservation Plan*' by Fiona Bush and John Stephens, pp. 15-50

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

See '*Marsala House, Dianella: Conservation Plan*' by Fiona Bush and John Stephens, pp. 46-49

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Marsala House, Dianella: Conservation Plan' by Fiona Bush and John Stephens, in May 2008

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
