

Name:	Fishwick House
Other name/s:	
Location:	15 The Citadel, Castlecrag, Sydney, NSW. Private property. Not open to the public.
Designer:	W.B. Griffin.
History:	<p>This house is the most celebrated of the Griffin houses in Castlecrag, because it demonstrates the Griffin ideas applied for a client with the will, the means and the enthusiasm, to implement them. The Fishwick house was to be Griffin's second-last commission in Castlecrag, and by far the grandest. Of the Castlecrag houses, only the Fishwick and Felstead houses were built to the scale and budget which allowed Griffin to fully develop many of his ideas. The other completed Castlecrag houses were relatively small and mostly built as demonstration houses or speculative investments. It is the only Griffin house in Castlecrag designed as two storeys.</p> <p>Built in 1929, the Fishwick house is very different in character from other large Griffin houses, where the architectural emphasis is on horizontal features of eaves and portico, such as those built for the Pratten family at Pymble.</p> <p>The land was originally purchased by Mrs Elizabeth Bell in 1927 for £405, and at the end of the decade it was sold to Thomas Wilson Fishwick, a representative of Fowlers, a Leeds firm which made road-making equipment. Thomas Fishwick was the type of client Walter Burley Griffin had in the United States, but did not have in Australia – technically minded and interested in innovation.</p> <p>From 1931 to the early 1940s Nisson Leonard-Kanevsky lived in the house. During WWII Nancy and Rawson Deans rented the house and then bought it from Thomas Fishwick in 1945 living there until the 1980s.</p> <p>In the late 1990s the house was carefully restored by its present owners.</p> <p>[For further information, refer to source below.]</p> <p>Source: Meredith Walker, Adrienne Kabos & James Weirick, <i>Building for Nature: Walter Burley Griffin and Castlecrag</i>, Walter Burley Griffin Society Incorporated, 1994, pp.62-63; Jeff Turnbull & Peter Y. Navaretti (ed.), <i>The Griffins in Australia and India</i>, Melbourne University Press, 1998, pp.281-84, #2907-02.</p>
Description:	The house is close to the road, with a garage tucked in behind the rock face. Entry is through a passage beside the kitchen courtyard, to a narrow hall which receives light from a large picture window, through a 'window' in the chimney piece. Upstairs are a bedroom plus a maid's bedroom and sitting room, two bathrooms and sun-decks

	<p>over ground floor rooms. Inside the house is full of light; outside it appears as a series of geometric forms in the landscape.</p> <p>As well as the original configuration of rooms, it retains the original finish on some doors and cupboards and has most of its bathroom fittings and finishes intact. Details that do not occur in the other Griffin houses include a large counter-balanced picture window that raises completely out of view providing a remarkable link with the bushland and harbour view.</p> <p>The dining room originally had glass bottomed fish tanks set in the roof terrace slab above, through which natural light would produce a dappled effect on the walls and floor below. The fish tanks were later replaced by skylights in the 1930s.</p> <p>The house is widely recognised as the finest, most intact Griffin house in Australia.</p> <p>[For further information, refer to source below.]</p> <p>Source: Meredith Walker, Adrienne Kabos & James Weirick, <i>Building for Nature: Walter Burley Griffin and Castlecrag</i>, Walter Burley Griffin Society Incorporated, 1994, pp.62-63; Andrew Kirk, 'Submission to the Australian Heritage Commission: The Fishwick House', June 1999.</p>
<p>Heritage listing:</p>	<p>Register of the National Estate.</p> <p>The Register of the National Estate was established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975. This Act has now been repealed but the RNE has been retained under the Heritage Council Act 2003. The Australian Heritage Council will compile and maintain the RNE.</p> <p>Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 1995 – Schedule 6 heritage item classified to be of state or regional significance.</p> <p>National Trust of Australia (NSW).</p> <p>Within National Trust of Australia (NSW)'s Castlecrag Urban Conservation Area.</p> <p>Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Register of Twentieth Century Buildings of Significance.</p>
<p>Statutory controls:</p>	<p>Statutory controls apply to heritage items or Conservation Areas. They apply to works in the vicinity of a heritage item or adjacent to a Conservation Area.</p> <p>Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 1995.</p> <p>Part 7 of WLEP 1995 contains special provisions for Heritage and Conservation.</p> <p>Willoughby Development Control Plan No. 19: Heritage and Conservation.</p> <p>The Development Control Plan is a guideline document but with no statutory force. Nevertheless, its provisions will be given consideration by</p>

	<p>the consent authority when making decisions. The DCP provisions are more detailed and are in addition to the provisions of the Local Environmental Plan.</p> <p>Design Guidelines for the Conservation of Environmental Heritage.</p> <p>This guideline document supports DCP No. 19 and provides more detailed conservation principles.</p>
Consent authority:	Willoughby City Council.
Previous heritage reports:	<p>Andrew Kirk, 'Submission to the Australian Heritage Commission: The Fishwick House', June 1999.</p> <p>Tropman & Tropman Architects, 'Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment', October 1998 (revised May 1999).</p>
<p>Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the Griffin Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions, please email info@griffinsociety.org</p> <p>All information and images on this page are the copyright of the Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. or respective copyright owners.</p>	
<p>Information for this item on this inventory last modified: 2006 May 12.</p>	