WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN SOCIETY INCORPORATED

GUIDELINES FOR QUADRANGLE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN BRIEF

• Design approach should be to capture the Giffin philosophy and be sensitive and sympathetic to the Griffin legacy.
• Castlecrag is unique. There is no other suburb like it in Sydney nor anywhere else in the world. It is essential that this uniqueness is fully respected.
• We welcome changes through redevelopment which enhance, respect and sensitively reinforce the landscape and built design principles which the Griffins articulated in their original plan for the development of Castlecrag.

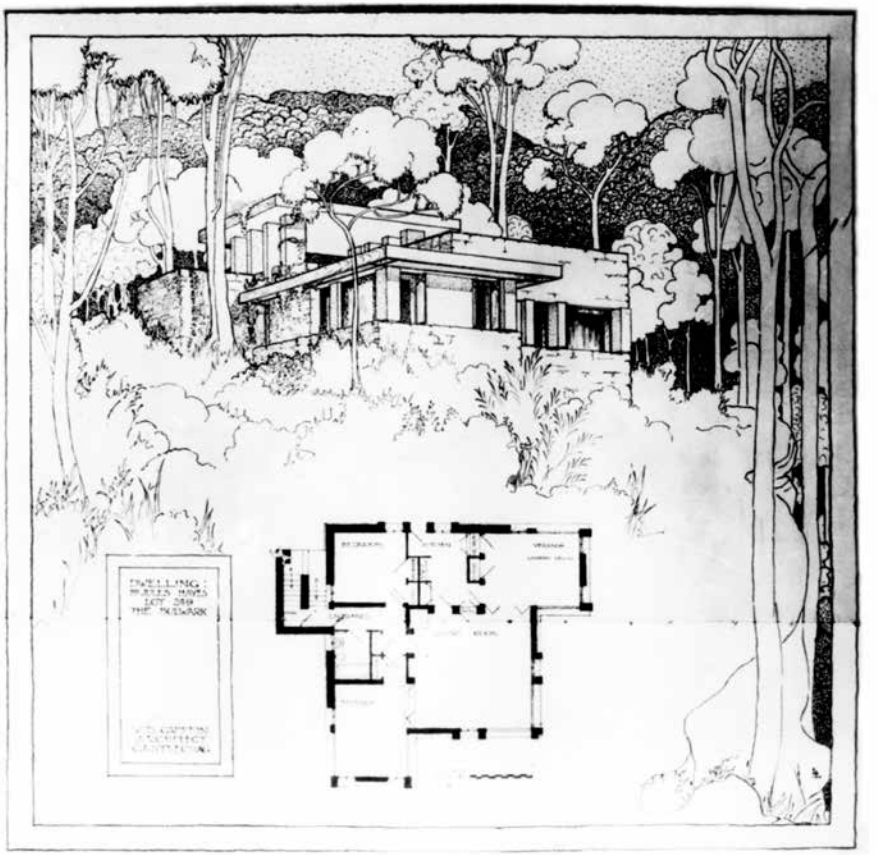
FOOTPRINT

• Existing setback from street to enhance village ambience (and outdoor cafe dining).
• Maximise benefit of northerly aspect for the community village, so that it embraces the opposite side of Edinburgh Road (rather than with the current open space that is internal and insular).

BUILT FORM

• The primary principle of the Griffins' philosophy at Castlecrag was to have the built environment subordinant to the landscape.
• Any new development to be visually lower than the existing mature Scribbly Gums in Edinburgh Road (ie must look no more than 3 storeys).
• Third storey must have wide setback from the first and second storeys and must not be visually apparent from street level.
• Must look like a small shopping village and not a block of apartments.
• Horizontal emphasis. Horizontality was a fundamental design philosophy of Wright's, applicable to his urban philosophies as well as architecture and it also characterised Griffin's entire approach to Canberra and all that he did in Australia.
• Articulation (see Griffin perspective and photos below). Highly articulated low form with vertical elements extending no more than a single storey.
• The building appearance from all sides including Eastern Valley Way should be highly articulated to reduce the visual impact and scale of the overall development.
• Relationship to residential development at rear to be integrated through appropriate landscape, and care should be taken to minimise any additional overshadowing.

• Broad eaves and / or trellises immediately above windows to shade windows (see attached photos on pages 2, 3 and 4).
• Carefully designed landscaping of any redevelopment to contribute to reinforcing the Griffin's philosophy of subordination to, and integration of, built form to the landscape.



Jules Hayes house c1925, unbuilt project,
Lot 249 The Battlement, Castlecrag. Designed by Walter Burley Griffin
Image from Nicholls Collection, National Library of Australia. nla.pic-vn3944304

This image illustrates a highly articulated design with horizontal emphasis that fits into landscape.

ARTICULATION

- Articulated design with horizontal emphasis to fit into landscape.
- Griffin principles emphasise that imposing facades should be avoided and that structures should not dominate the landscape/streetscape.

ABOVE & BELOW: Mower house. Photographer Hermann Junge, early 1930s, courtesy Linden Junge.

FENESTRATION

• Consider bands of windows (giving an overall horizontal effect – see images on pages 5 and 6).

• At Castlecrag the Griffins often applied decorative rectilinear detail to the windows of their buildings (see examples on following pages).

ABOVE: Felstead house. Photographer Max Dupain, 1965.
Walter Burley Griffin Society Collection

FENESTRATION continued

Bands of windows creating horizontal emphasis.

ABOVE & BELOW: Grant house. Photographer Hermann Junge, early 1930s, courtesy Linden Junge.

FENESTRATION continued

Bands of windows creating horizontal emphasis

ABOVE: Wilson and Creswick houses. Photographer Hermann Junge, early 1930s, courtesy Linden Junge.

BELOW: Mower house. Photographer Hermann Junge, early 1930s, courtesy Linden Junge.

MATERIALS PALLETTE

Sandstone (preferably rough split sandstone and not dressed smooth sandstone), timber, steel.
Note the unusual decorative detailing of the stonework photographed on page 5.

COLOUR PALLETTE

Neutral recessive colours that reflect bushland colours.

DESIGN WITH NATURE

Nature and society – Griffin understood the special qualities of the Australian landscape and was able to apply his principles of people and buildings developing in harmony with, and enhancing, the natural environment.

SCULPTURES

Consider creating in copper (tbc) and installing one, two or three of the sculptures designed by Bim Hilder as per the marquettes photographed by Max Dupain below.

ABOVE: Three marquettes designed by Bim Hilder, sculptor, Castlecrag resident and contemporary of the Griffins. Photographer Max Dupain, c1986
Walter Burley Griffin Society Collection

PYRMONT INCINERATOR TILES

Consider including some of the original tiles from the Griffin designed Pyrmont Incinerator into the design (see images below). A number of these tiles are stored by the Walter Burley Griffin Society.

ABOVE and BELOW: Pyrmont Incinerator tiles. Photographed by Howard Rubie, 1992
Walter Burley Griffin Society Collection