

Rose Seidler House

Turramurra, 1948

The first task Seidler set himself after his 1948 arrival in Sydney was to find a suitable large tract of land on which to build his parents' house. He located 6.5 hectares of sloping bushland on the northern fringes of Sydney adjoining and overlooking a long broad valley of Kuring-gai Chase, a public reserve. Just as he had experienced when working in the eastern USA, he planned a group of houses for relatives or friends, far enough apart to be visually private from each other but sharing a common access road and a swimming pool.

The first house to be completed was for his parents. The ample site and a desire for maximum interior spatial interplay resulted in a hollowed-out square plan freely exposed on all sides but opening the living space and sheltered terrace to the preferred northern orientation and valley view. Living and sleeping areas are separate and are joined by a central family room, which can be used with the alcove-type bedrooms or made part of the living space by a dividing curtain.

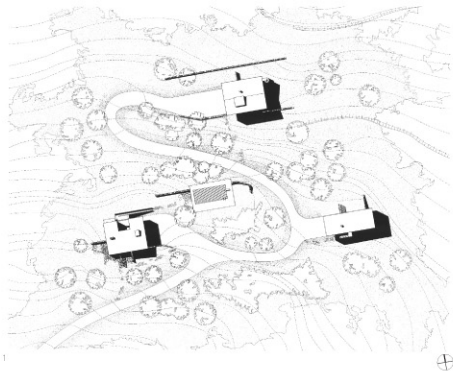
The rectangular mass of the building is hollowed by the open central terrace and the adjacent two-storey-high well piercing the building vertically, allowing light to penetrate into the otherwise dark centre.

From the rectangular structure 'tentacles' reach out and anchor it into the surrounding land, the stone retaining walls, the ramp leading to the garden (and future pool) and the louvre fence shielding the drying yard.

The floor of the house is concrete, supported by the sandstone walls and steel pipe columns.

The exterior ramp is supported by the solid rails with a plywood core. The access stair has wired glass risers.

In 1988 the house was acquired by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW and opened to the public in its original furnished condition.



- 1 Site plan of three houses
 - 2 Plywood ramp
- Following pages:
View from southeast

