

Torbreck

Address 182 Dornoch Terrace, Highgate Hill, Brisbane,
Q 4101

Practice Job & Froud

Designed c1957 Completed 1960

History & Description

Torbreck is an excellent example of the Post-War International style of architecture, designed by Brisbane architects AH Job and RP Froud, constructed in 1958-1960. Prominently located on the crest of Highgate Hill, Torbreck is a landmark, visible from many places in Brisbane. It comprises two reinforced concrete and brick buildings on a site which slopes steeply to the north. The tallest is a fourteen-storeyed Tower Block which fronts Dornoch Terrace; over four levels of garages, and is crowned by a glazed observation room. The Tower Block links at foyer level to the top floor of the Garden Block. The Garden Block is eight-storeyed (of lift slab construction); it fronts onto lawns and a pool, and is accessed from Chermiside Street. The stepping of the buildings on the site optimises the northerly aspect and views. Torbreck was the first multi-storeyed home unit development in Queensland; when built Brisbane's Building Ordinances had no provision for home units and ownership remains through company title. The scheme originally included a ground floor shopping area, restaurant and other amenities. At the time of construction it was advertised as the greatest single contribution to home development in the state.

Statement of Significance

The Torbreck complex is an excellent example of 1950s architectural and landscape design in its form, attention to climate control and use of materials. It is a prominent landmark of inner suburban Brisbane and a symbol of the city's post war aspirations for modernity. The Garden Block is an early use of lift slab construction in Queensland., particularly the North American model, which had a strong impact on architecture in Queensland in the 1950s.

Criteria Applicable

N1 – Significant heritage value in demonstrating principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.

N2 – Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

N3 – Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.

N6 – Significant heritage value in demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement of a particular period.



Images from top: Aerial perspective c1957 from pamphlet held State Library of Qld in *Homes in the Sky*; Eric Sterins, Max Dupain & Ass in *Homes in the Sky*; Robert Riddel.

