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## HEIDE II: ACCLAIMED EXAMPLE OF AUSTRALIAN MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE

In 1963, owners of the Heide property, **John and Sunday Reed** commissioned the building of a new home, which was to become known as **Heide II**. The Reeds asked experienced Victorian architect, **David McGlashan** of architectural firm **McGlashan and Everist** to design the house, which can now be viewed as an exhibition space at Heide Museum of Modern Art.

McGlashan's architectural studies at the University of Melbourne and subsequent trip to the USA in 1959 drew his attention to international contemporary architecture, particularly the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra, Edward Larrabee Barnes and John Johansen. Consideration of the site, of the idea of habitation or dwelling and a move towards natural and unadorned materials marked a shift in Australian post-war architecture. These developments were embraced by McGlashan and Everist to create simplified modern living spaces evident in the design of Heide II.

The Reeds' brief to McGlashan specified that Heide be invested with a sense of romance and agelessness; to have the mysteriousness of a ruin but function as 'a gallery to be lived in'. McGlashan's interpretation of this brief was to create a modernist house that is now recognised as one of Victoria's most influential buildings of the last 50 years.

Heide II's unique design features a series of L-shaped interlocking walls that form a sequence of internal and external rooms. To provide a neutral background for the Reeds' vast, private collection of art, McGlashan used only five materials throughout the house: Mount Gambier limestone, terrazzo, treated pine, glass and leather. Heide II is a reflection of the Reeds' pioneering vision for contemporary art and design, a precursor to their vision of establishing an art museum.

On completion, Heide II was acclaimed by leading architects and awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Bronze Medal for the Best Building in all categories erected in Victoria.

In 2005, Heide II closed for extensive restoration as part of Heide Museum of Modern Art's 2005-06 Redevelopment Program. A restored and reinvigorated Heide II will open **18 July 2006**. Two rooms - the Reeds' bedroom and John's adjoining study, previously used for administration purposes, will be reopened as exhibition space. Interior wall surfaces have been cleaned and repaired. External glass balustrades have replaced non-heritage timber railings. Restored original furniture, purpose-designed by McGlashan and Everist for Heide II, will also be used within the exhibition spaces.

Several components of the extensive restoration work at Heide II remain unseen, but are crucial to the building's longevity as a functioning exhibition space. Electrical wiring has been upgraded from domestic to commercial facility standard and a new hanging system installed. In addition, all exterior woodwork has been reconditioned as well as repairs to some Mount Gambier stonework.

The courtyards that form the 'external rooms' will appear as they were when the house was first built, with a number of plants removed to restore the floating effect of terrace platforms.

Heide's famous Kitchen Garden, originally planted by Sunday Reed and friends in the mid-1960s, has also been fully restored with new paths, edges and extensive replanting. The original site was a working garden which gave great pleasure to the Reeds, supplying them with a vast array of fresh fruit and vegetables to enjoy with their guests.

Heide II's opening exhibition is ***Living in landscape: Heide and houses by McGlashan and Everist, 18 July – 5 November 2006***. *Living in landscape*, guest curated by **Professor Philip Goad**, Acting Dean and Head of the School of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne, with assistance of Heide curators, is the first exhibition to present the architectural inspiration for Heide II, in relation to McGlashan and Everist's contemporaneous domestic architectural practice. Original

plans and drawings, accompanied by models and documentation, provide a detailed insight into the ideas of McGlashan and Everist and their clients. Recently discovered film footage and domestic photographs reveal how Heide II was used by its original inhabitants.

**Heide Museum of Modern Art** is currently closed and will reopen 18 July 2006 for the unveiling of the completed 2005-06 Redevelopment Program.

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**Heide Museum of Modern Art**

7 Templestowe Rd Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia

T 03 9850 1500 E [moma@heide.com.au](mailto:moma@heide.com.au) W [www.heide.com.au](http://www.heide.com.au)

Hours: Tue-Fri 10.00am – 5.00pm; Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 12.00noon – 5.00pm

Admission: All Areas - Adult \$12, Seniors \$10, Concession \$8.

Single Area (Heide I only) - Adult \$8, Seniors \$7, Concession \$5.

Gardens – Free

**For further media information contact:**

Michelle Shepherd  
HotHouse Media & Events

T 03 9682 0222

M 0410 552 371

Email:

[michelle@hothousemedia.com.au](mailto:michelle@hothousemedia.com.au)

John Flower

HotHouse Media & Events

T 03 9682 0222

M 0414 778 277

Email:

[john@hothousemedia.com.au](mailto:john@hothousemedia.com.au)

Catherine Patience

HotHouse Media & Events

T 03 9682 0222

M 0438 213 576

Email:

[catherine@hothousemedia.com.au](mailto:catherine@hothousemedia.com.au)

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**Heide II Restoration Partner**



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