

# Past Planning: Present Heritage

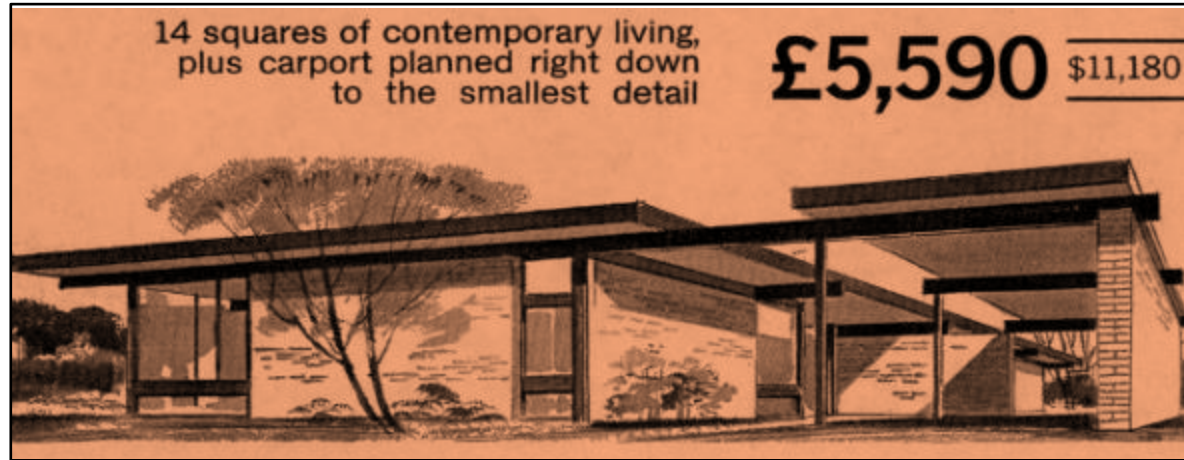
A case study of Hackett as a  
mid-century modern suburb

**Anna Howe**

**National Trust Heritage Symposium**

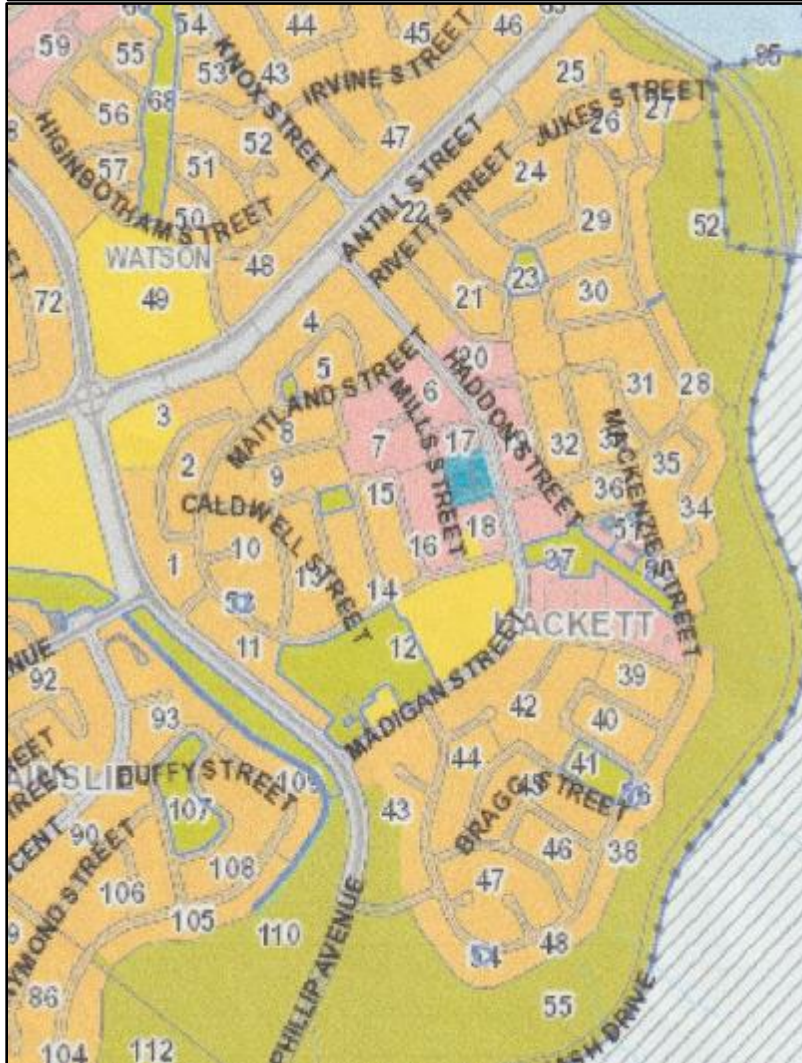
**17 August 2024**

# Past Planning: Integrated physical and social planning





# Planned as a family suburb – 60 years ago



1960 gazetted

1962 first blocks sold

Houses 80% 3 bedr. , 10% 4 bedr

1965 primary school built

1966-76 population ~4,000



# Where else?

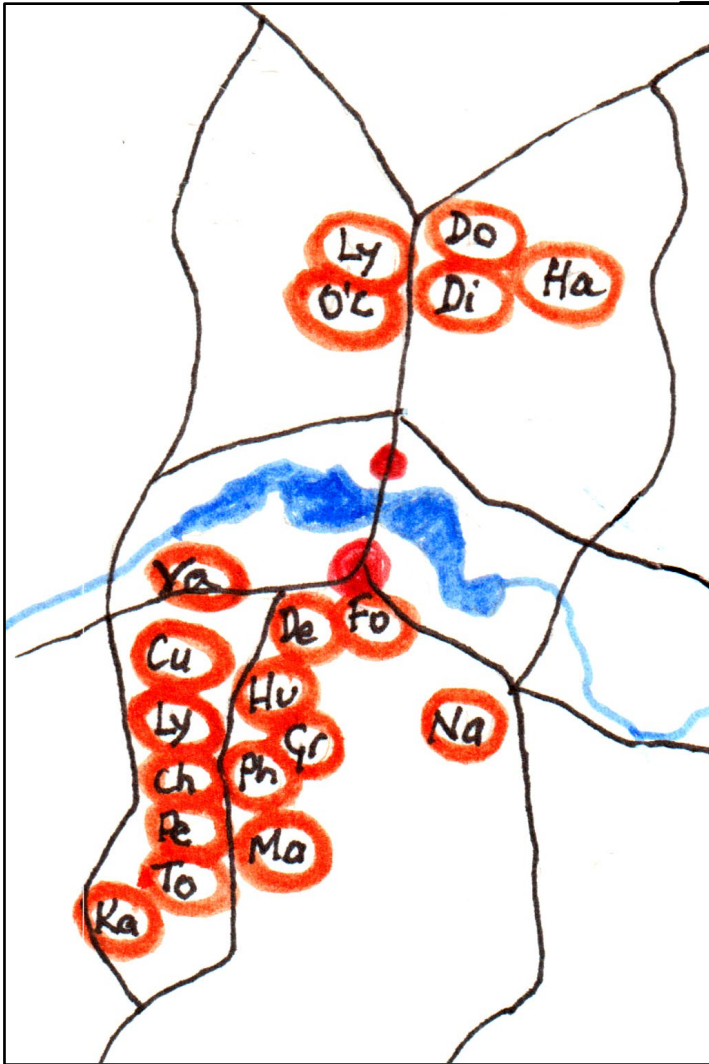
## Suburbs of 1960-70s

### Innovation in

Housing forms - townhouses

Designs and materials

Garden styles





# Who? National Capital Development Commission

## Architects/planners

Dirk Bolt, Ian McKay, Harry Seidler,  
Theo Bischoff, Ken Wooley

## Builders

Pettit & Sevitt, AV Jennings, Camilleri & Co,  
Clayton Homes, JJ Marr & Sons, ACT Builders



## Landscapers

Bruce MacKenzie

- Swinger Hill
- Kambah

## Owners

Nurseries

Garden magazines

Canberra Gardener





# Present heritage: What do we see?



1<sup>st</sup> generation  
1960s originals





# Garden Heritage: The Australian Native Garden

Integrates with natural landscape



Widely promoted and adopted in Canberra

# Planning heritage

## 1. Distinctive period:

1973 Commonwealth Dept of Urban and Regional Development

1975 – 2004 Australian Heritage Commission Act

1978 – 1988 Self-government



## 2. Enduring character



## 3. Internationally recognised



# A new generation 2000s





## Inner North and City District Strategy Plan 2023

Two incompatible districts?  
Limited view of heritage?

Hackett without heritage?  
A grey zone stuck in the past?



# Future planning: Responding to change



Houses  
Townhouses  
Other



Owner  
Purchaser  
Public rental  
Private rental  
Other

- Little growth of local population
- But ageing: 65+ 1976 7%  
2021 17%
- Opportunities for ageing in place?

# Which built forms enable ageing-in-place?



Not good  
Good  
Better  
Best





# Heritage models for future living

- Innovative medium-density designs
- For higher-density precinct living
- Problems of lot amalgamation
- Lessons from Mr Fluffy



# Opportunities for community participation

Naturalise Floriade at the Shops





# Opportunities for community participation

Naturalise Floriade at the Shops



Group  
action

or as an  
individual

