

Acknowledgments

When I first started researching Canberra houses I was impressed by the level of interest the topic generated. Many people volunteered information and provided useful contacts. When I combined their recollections with my own primary research and oral history interviews, I felt like I was assembling a puzzle—a giant, mid-twentieth-century puzzle of Canberra’s history—whose components were houses, architects, clients, scientific institutions and dates.

Most of all I am indebted to the clients and the architects who commissioned and designed the houses discussed in the following pages. Clients Frank Fenner, John Zwar and Ben Gascoigne, and architect Colin Griffiths from Harry Seidler’s office, were generous with their time and gave excellent firsthand accounts of those events—more than half a century ago—that shaped their houses. Without their enthusiasm, and willingness to answer my many questions, this study would not have been possible. The book is further indebted to the many other clients and architects who have long departed but whose voices can still be heard in the extensive personal correspondence and records they left behind.

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