

A 1927 Horror Now A 1963 Dream

When Mr and Mrs George Clarke bought their home in Vacluse, it was the site more than the house itself which interested them. SMH 22.8.63

FROM the site in Olphert ter and yet still be in the Avenue they look due sunshine. north across the Harbour towards Clifton Gardens and Middle Head.

In fact, practically the only features they liked about the house were the neo-Georgian entrance and the giant Japanese cypress flanking it.

"It was built in 1927 as a semi-detached cottage," said Mr Clarke (who is an architect by profession), "and remodelled to form a single residence about 1950.

"Neither 1927 nor 1950," he went on, "could be classified as vintage years in architectural design in Sydney, and we had to grapple with a pair of closed-in verandas on either side of an enormous bay window with a sill too high for viewing. "All you could see," he added, "out of the bay window was sky and precious little else."

Completion of "Stage One" of his plan for changing all this has resulted in two gloriously open rooms, separated from a timber-balustraded terrace by glass doors stoutly framed in red Meranti, a type of Pacific maple.

The terrace, which has a river gravel set-in concrete floor and a nine-foot timber overhead, is an ideal play-area for the children. There they can ride their tricycles up and down the wide terrace floor under shel-

—and these are nearly the same colour as the fire-stained copper hood.

Native wood carvings from the Huon Gulf and Sepik River areas combine with dramatic canvases by well-known Sydney painter John Olsen to add interest to the wall spaces.

And the natural colour of these wood carvings is repeated again in the beautiful teak chairs upholstered. The use of natural materials, timber with the grain showing through an acorn oil finish, and the stonework retaining the rough texture characteristic to it, is medieval in concept. The result is a heart-warming honesty of line and colour.

LAMP

A most unusual copper lamp from Finland provides light over the large teak circular dining-room table designed by Mr Clarke and far away as possible from having a two-inch solid teak those cosmetic colours") and top.

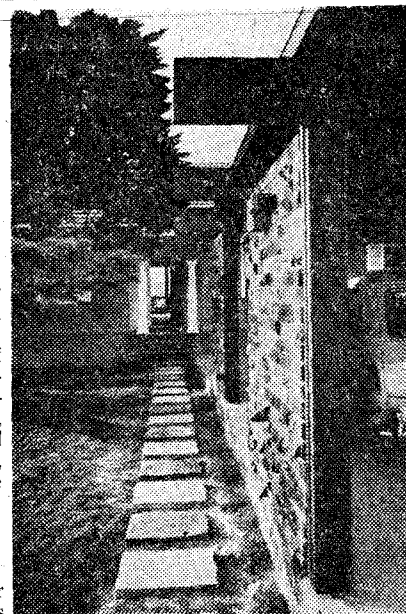
Double floor-length burnt orange Finnish cotton curtains cover, or can be pulled

five of the care taken in the "solid type" selection of opening on to the terrace. even minor constructional items, is the five-inch parliament hinges used on the doors. They are made from brass cast in sand.

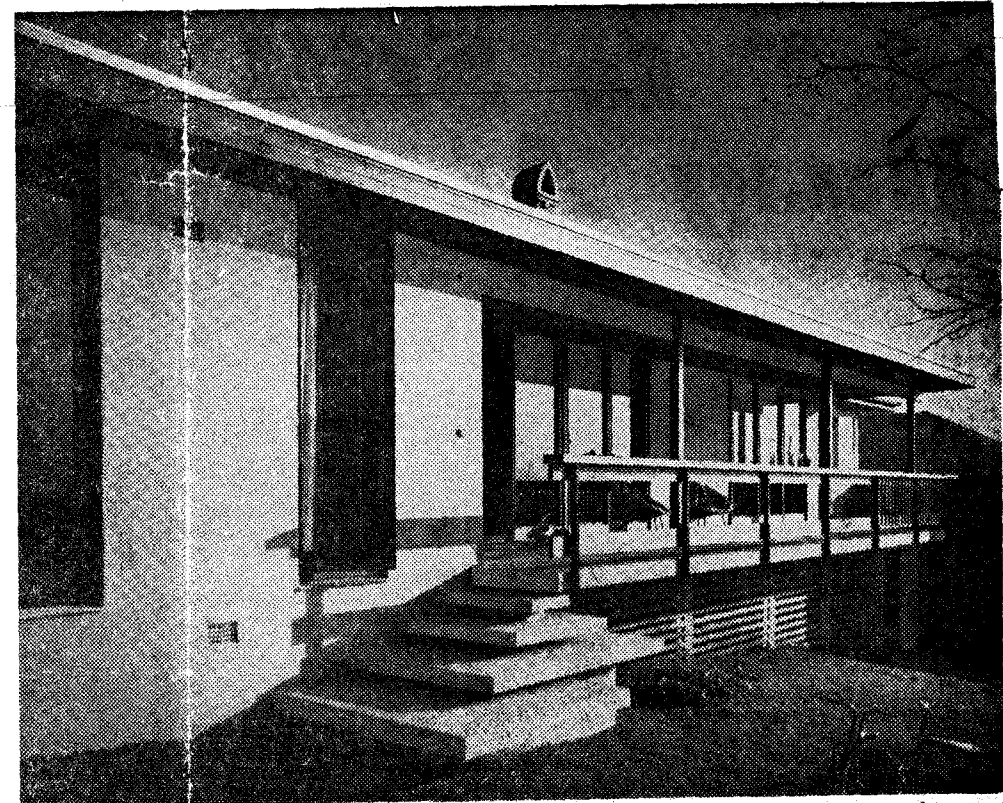
ECHOES

Most of the furnishings in the house are echoes of this fundamental theme—"A rejection of the plastic age," Mr Clarke calls it. A rug on the living-room floor in front of the dramatically austere fireplace was woven approximately eight-feet-

craft centre established at Mittagong by Miss Winifred West, founder and former headmistress of Frensham). It has been made from unspun natural wool straight fall around the sculpture. Forming the hearth and fireplace are slabs of natural quartz—Norwegian alcazite

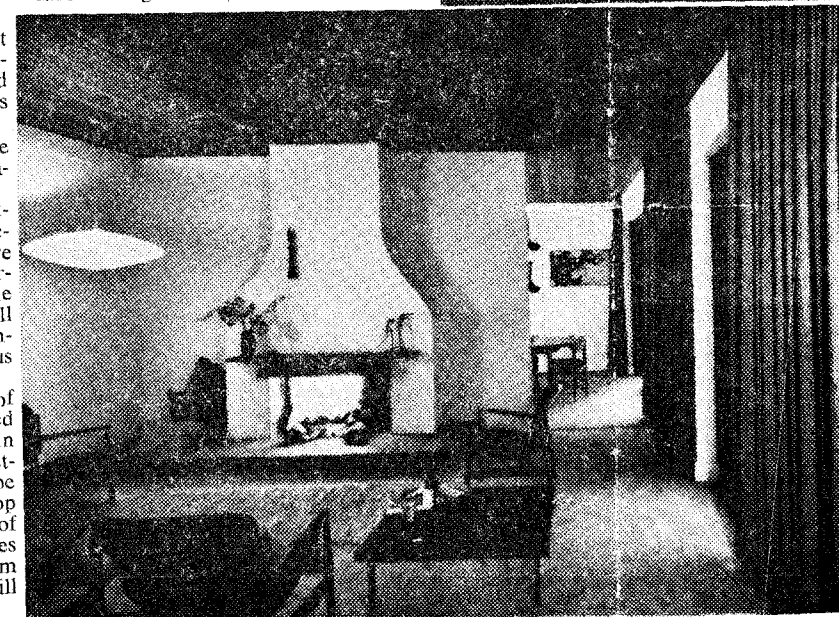


The neo-Georgian entrance and rugged clinker bricks in the carport wall of the home of Mr and Mrs George Clarke at Vacluse.



ABOVE: River gravel set in concrete has been used for the steps from the terrace at the rear of the house.

LEFT: The timbered ceiling of the living-room reflects the cheery fire while the Huon Gulf native wooden carvings throw interesting shadows on the white fireplace wall.



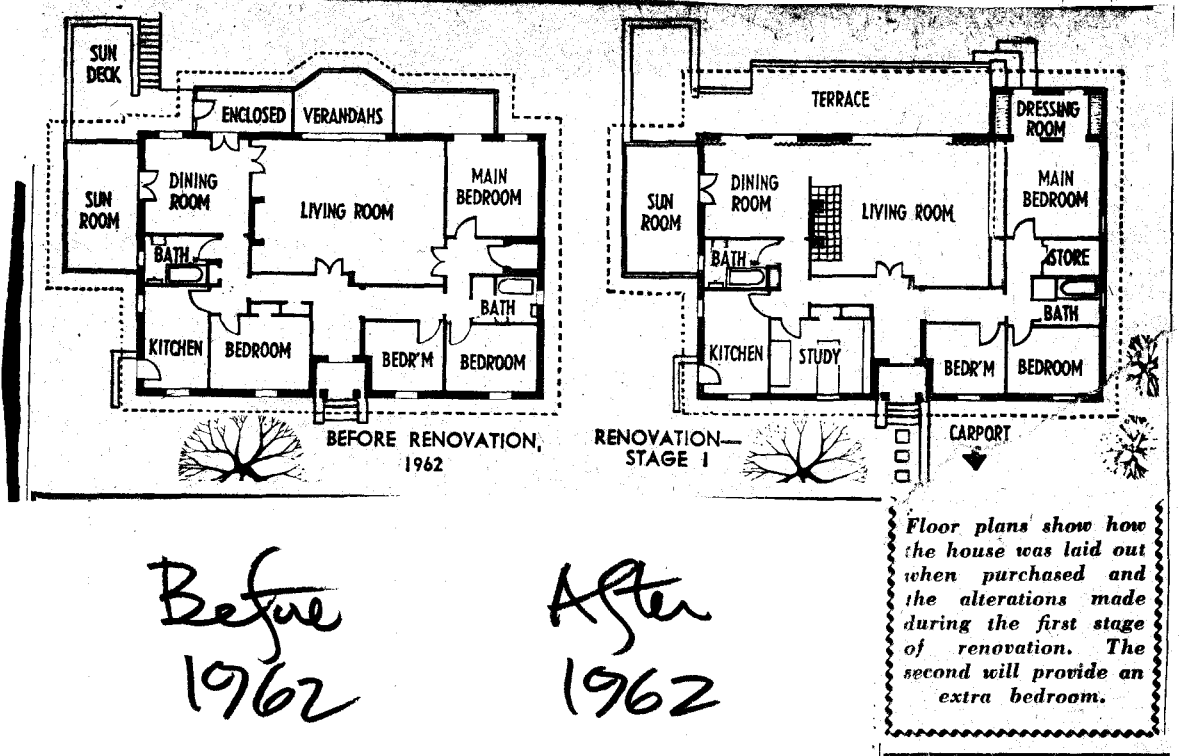
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(see plans)

28 Olphert Ave
Vacluse
GC's arts &
adds to
Eva's house

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 28 Clapham Ave
 Vaudreux
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Before
 1962

After
 1962

Alts & Adds. to
 Eva's house