

# **Attachment A6**

**Draft Inventory Sheet – 12 Ithaca Road,  
Elizabeth Bay - Ithaca Gardens**

Name			
Ithaca Gardens			
Address	12 Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay	Lot number	Lot A DP 155142, Lots 1-40 SP 5704
Architect	Harry Seidler and Associates	Construction date	1960
Builder	Civil and Civic Contractors		
Listings	<p>Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012: Within the Elizabeth and Rushcutters Bays Heritage Conservation Area (C20), identified as detracting on the Sydney Development Control Plan building contributions map.</p> <p>Australian Institute of Architects (NSW Chapter) Register of Significant Architecture.</p>		

### Historical overview

The Cadigal people of the Eora nation have lived in the Sydney area for thousands of years and have shaped its landscape and nurtured its plants and animals. Before the arrival of the European settlers the Potts Point area was known as Kurrajeen (or Curageen) and Yarrandabbi. Governor Lachlan Macquarie set aside land near Elizabeth Bay, Potts Point and Woolloomooloo as a 'model fishing village' for Aboriginal people in 1820. At this settlement, known as Elizabeth Town, several huts were built, a patch of land was cleared for a garden, and boats were provided for use by the Aboriginal people who lived there. John Palmer's estate at nearby Woolloomooloo Bay was also an important gathering place for local Aboriginal people, and was the location of a corroboree in 1831 attended by Bungaree's son, Young Bungaree.<sup>1</sup>

The subject site formed part of the original 54-acre property granted to Alexander Macleay, Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, by Crown grant in 1831. In 1839 Macleay constructed a stone mansion named Elizabeth Bay House on the property, as well as extensive stables, museums, and a large garden of interesting plants featuring specimen trees, an orchard and an orangery. Financial trouble forced Alexander Macleay to submit to the foreclosure of his mortgage to his son William Sharp Macleay in 1845. When William died in 1865, the property passed to his brother George. George arranged for the subdivision of the property and sold leaseholds of portions of the estate between 1865 and 1882.

In 1872 parts of the Elizabeth Bay Estate, including blocks 62-64, were leased to Alexander Haywood Richardson and Ann Marie Richardson. Three years later they subdivided the property. At this date Lots 8-12 formed a triangular parcel of land approximating the boundary of the study site. The land had a succession of lessees and underlessees before it was sold as freehold to Arthur Thomas Henry Pittar, Walter Douglas Brewer Pittar and Arthur Paterson in 1917. The subject site remained vacant land until the 1950s. Ithaca Development Pty Ltd, owned by Marcell Seidler, acquired the land in August 1951 and simultaneously transferred it to Ithaca Gardens Pty Ltd.

Marcell Seidler lodged an interim development application for a block of flats on the site in October 1950 and was granted approval one month later. The following year his brother Harry Seidler submitted a revised application to erect an eight-storey block of flats in reinforced concrete (BA 502/51). The application was approved; the site had been cleared by August the same year. However, in May 1952 the City of Sydney Council notified Seidler that the approval had lapsed. In response Seidler indicated the project would proceed pending finance being available.

In this intervening period Seidler sought publicity for his planned building on the site, which was published in a number of newspapers and magazines.

During the 1950s Seidler was successfully completing houses that were gaining a lot of attention, but he had so far failed to enter Sydney's growing apartment scene.

<sup>1</sup> City of Sydney 2013, 'Aboriginal People and Place'.

## Historical overview

The Seidlers struggled to find financial support for the project and it was not until Civil & Civic Contractors agreed to finance the development that it was able to proceed. At an unknown date Marcell approached Gerardus Jozef 'Dick' Dusseldorp. Initially Dusseldorp sent word back through a middleman that he didn't think much of the scheme 'because it was sort of monks' cell ... but he would be interested to build something on that site if you could adjust your proposal'.<sup>2</sup> Seidler revised his design and re-presented it to Dusseldorp, who agreed to construct the project. Dusseldorp paid Marcell and Harry in real estate, one apartment for Harry, two for Marcell. Harry and Penelope Seidler moved into one of the top-floor apartments in 1960 and lived there for seven years. The family still retains ownership of the apartment, which is intact as Seidler designed it.

When Ithaca Gardens was completed in 1960, due to its long gestation period, it was Seidler's first completed apartment project. Although in 1957 Seidler had developed an extensive scheme for the redevelopment of McMahons Point, Blues Point Tower (completed 1962) was the only building then realised. As the 1960s progressed Harry Seidler and Associates completed many apartment projects that reflected and further developed the structural and planning innovations explored in Ithaca Gardens.

Ithaca Gardens Apartments received the 1960 *Journal of Architecture and Arts* Award. The building was a widely published and celebrated example of modernist architecture in Australia.

### Harry Seidler and Associates

Harry Seidler (1923–2006) was born in Vienna to Jewish parents. Following the Nazi occupation of Austria in 1938, Seidler relocated to England where he attended Cambridge Polytechnic, before being deported to Canada in 1940. He was awarded a Bachelor of Architecture in Canada in 1944. He won a scholarship to study at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, where Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer were teachers. He then studied at Black Mountain College, under Josef Albers, before working with Breuer in New York City (1946–1948) and briefly with Oscar Niemeyer in Rio de Janeiro, on his way to Sydney in 1948.

Arriving in Sydney, his first commission was to design a house for his parents (Rose Seidler House, 1948–1950). Seidler gained Australian citizenship and in 1958 married Penelope Evatt, who was to be a significant partner in his career. By the 1960s Seidler's practice began to receive significant commissions including Blues Point Tower (completed 1962) and Australia Square (1960–1967). The latter, designed with engineer Pier Luigi Nervi, became a 'type-model' for Seidler's urban tower designs throughout his career. From the 1970s Harry Seidler and Associates was commissioned for significant large-scale commissions across Australia and overseas. These included the Australian Embassy, Paris (1973); MLC Building, Sydney (1978); Riverside Centre, Brisbane (1984); Shell Headquarters, Melbourne (1988); and QV1, Perth (1992).

Throughout his career, Seidler wrote about architecture and taught at various universities around the world, as well as advocating planning reform in Australia. He was awarded numerous honours throughout his career including being made an Honorary Fellow of both the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA awarded him the Royal Gold Medal in 1996); and a Life Fellow (1970) of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (receiving 50 awards including five Sulman Medals, four Wilkinson Awards and the Gold Medal [1976]). He was also awarded an Order of the British Empire (1972). His impact and the work of his firm were a major cultural influence, applying uncompromising Bauhaus-inspired modernist architecture and principles in Australia.

### Civil & Civic and Lend Lease

The company Civil & Civic (later expanded as Lend Lease) was a pioneer of corporate design and construction in Australia. It was instrumental in the campaign for the introduction of strata title in NSW; the 1961 legislation was drafted by a lawyer engaged by the company, significantly changing the speculative development landscape. Civil & Civic was founded by Gerardus Jozef 'Dick' Dusseldorp, an engineer who had come to Australia from the Netherlands in 1951 to work on the Snowy Mountains project.

Their first apartment project was the 1958 Broadwaters in Darling Point designed by Hugo Stossel, which caused a scandal when Council took Civil & Civic to court for breaching planning

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<sup>2</sup> Helen O'Neill 2013, *A Singular Vision: Harry Seidler*, p 172.

## Historical overview

regulations. High-profile, prolific and powerful Dusseldorf won the case and construction continued.

The high historical profile of Lend Lease is partly due to its association with Harry Seidler. Both Dusseldorf and Seidler were high-profile advocates for their projects. Blues Point Tower, completed at McMahons Point in 1962, became one of the most-publicised apartment buildings ever built in Sydney.

Having completed several large apartment buildings in Sydney in the late 1950s Lend Lease's ambitions in the apartment industry were thwarted by the early 1960s credit squeeze: flats sold slowly at Blues Point Tower, one of the first strata-titled buildings in Sydney, and the company closed its Home Unit Display Centre at Circular Quay and avoided the flat market until 1968, then focusing on flats in the suburbs rather than the inner city. Lendlease remains one of Australia's major construction companies.

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## Description

An inspection from the public domain was undertaken by GML in September 2024. The physical assessment is based on that and publicly available documentation of the site.

### Setting and context

Ithaca Gardens is located on the eastern side of the highest point of Ithaca Road. The topography of the area slopes steeply down to the north. The building is located within the Elizabeth and Rushcutters Bays Heritage Conservation Area (HCA). The immediate vicinity of the site is characterised by Inter-War flat buildings and multistorey apartment buildings that are comparable in scale to Ithaca Gardens. Due to its scale and setback from the street, and its design and materiality, Ithaca Gardens has a prominent streetscape presence within the HCA.

### Physical description

Ithaca Gardens is a 10-storey flat building containing 40 two-bedroom units. The lot shape is roughly triangular. The building is located centrally on the lot with a sloping open space between it and Ithaca Road. It is oriented to maximise views to the northeast. There is minimal landscaping, mostly around the building entry, with other areas left open.

The building has a simple elongated rectilinear form and is constructed of a reinforced concrete frame with blonde face brickwork infill walls. The concrete slabs are exposed externally. The slabs have a downturn along the side (eastern and western) elevations.

The building elevations are symmetrical. The main southern elevation features external projecting open galleries along alternate floors, accessed by door on either side of the gallery. The feature has no apparent function other than to give access to both lifts (for when one lift is non-functional).

The ground level is open with an undercroft supported on a grid of columns. At its centre is the entrance lobby, which is marked by a thin, folded concrete cantilevered awning. The whole front elevation of the lobby is a wide expanse of open glass. The floor and rear wall are clad in stone.

The building features a covered carpark to the north. Its roof is constructed of a very thin continuous folded concrete slab, which is cantilevered from a high concrete retaining wall. The cantilever of approximately 6m allows for a covered yet column-free carpark. The carpark roof/retaining wall ensemble and the entrance canopy represent a high level of structural innovation and concrete construction for this time and have precedents in the work of Seidler's former employers and teachers Marcel Breuer and Oscar Niemeyer.

The northern elevation addresses the views and the sun and features alternate vertical rows of recessed balconies and ribbon windows. The balconies feature aluminium-framed balustrades with wire glass panels.

The ribbon windows comprise aluminium-framed double-hung windows and fixed panes. The ribbon windows are shaded by fixed sun awnings constructed of structural aluminium with interlocking sheets angled at 45 degrees.

On the rooftop a blonde face brickwork structure houses the communal laundry room and the lift room.

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## Description

In plan the building has a simple rectangular shape with a two-bedroom units on either side of each stair and lift core, resulting in four apartments per floor. The units are roughly square in plan and all rooms have external windows providing natural light, ventilation and views.

The integrity of the internal configuration and finishes is unknown, with the exception of Harry and Penelope Seidler's apartment which is recorded as intact from its period of construction.

### Landscaping

The landscaping on the site is minimal. Some mature trees along Ithaca Road provide visual screening to the building.

### Modifications/integrity

Council records from 2004 onwards indicate the following:

DA/2006/1041 was approved for internal refurbishment, demolition of non-structural walls and bedroom window replacement in Unit 604.

DA/2022/53 was approved for alterations and additions to Unit 801.

DA/2024/427 was approved for demolition of an existing window and half-wall and installation of a new full-height glazed sliding door in Unit 904.

### Condition

The condition of Ithaca Gardens is unknown due to limited site access.

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## Comparative analysis

Ithaca Gardens can be seen as representative of Seidler's early 1960s multi-residential projects with a focus on utility, repetition, density and high levels of amenity, especially solar access, natural ventilation and views.

Ithaca Gardens is a representative example of the linearly planned late 1950s and early 1960s works of Harry Seidler and Associates including the City Council Housing Apartments in Camperdown (unbuilt), Ithaca Gardens Apartments 1 (unbuilt) and Diamond Bay Apartments (1962). Another typical apartment planning arrangement by Harry Seidler in the 1960s was that of four corner apartment arrangements on each floor as in Avalon Apartments (1959); Blues Point Tower, McMahons Point (1962); Earlwood Apartments (1963); and Ocean Avenue Apartments, Double Bay (1964).

From 1964 onwards Seidler's housing schemes tended to rely on linear arrangements with complex split-level planning, and later still with curved, radial planning showing Baroque influences.

Blues Point Tower shares similarities with Ithaca Gardens, namely its bands of ribbon windows for bedrooms and larger windows to living rooms. However, the tower's alternating recessed balconies and window arrangements of several apartment types create a more varied and expressive façade than found at Ithaca Gardens.

Also demonstrated in the project is Seidler's consistent and responsible engagement with climate control and sun shading. The 45-degree external aluminium awning sun shading used in Ithaca Gardens is similar to that of Bland House, Coogee (1958); the Silvers Building, Ultimo (1960) (sun shading now removed); and Garran Group Housing, Canberra (1964). This approach was then discontinued for more integral solutions such as inset balconies, slab edges or formed concrete sun shades.

Ithaca Gardens is of particular significance as the first realised apartment project designed by Harry Seidler, from a time when Seidler's Bauhaus-influenced training was first being applied to multi-residential projects.

It can be seen as an important example of a group of projects Seidler completed in the 1960s, when economically planned flats on smaller sites were a particular focus. Although each of these flat buildings responded to its site and context, as a group they can be seen as evolving structural and planning prototypes. Seidler noted in relation to this group of apartments 'the aim of their design is the development of prototypes incorporating a system, both of planning and

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## Comparative analysis

construction' (Statement from Harry Seidler included in Ian Mackay, *Living and Partly Living: Housing in Australia*, 1971).

Each of these projects is built of the same materials; poured-in-place concrete and brick infill walls. They all explore systematised construction with repeated layouts and segregated vertical access cores simplifying the main structure. They all express their structure, and their façades express their internal uses and the importance of rooms through window size. Typically, full-height glass walls alternate with ribbon windows created by down-turned concrete slabs. Fixed awnings and sun shading are all carefully arranged to create a characteristic 'tensional' façade pattern. Living units are reduced to their minimum to allow flexibility of use. Lesser rooms (kitchens and bathrooms) are given horizontal ribbon windows, generally on the secondary elevations. During this period Seidler fought regulations requiring direct ventilation for kitchens and bathrooms, so his plans could maximise the amenity of living zones.

Of particular note is the split-level planning of Aquarius, Ercildoune and Village Towers (Arlington), that Seidler realised during the mid-1960s. This can be seen as having been first explored in the external alternate level gallery circulation of Ithaca Gardens, and further developed in later projects. The innovations in concrete construction Seidler developed during this period are also seen in the thin cantilevered concrete of Ithaca Gardens, which are technically significant and rare for this period.

Ithaca Gardens is noteworthy as Seidler's first apartment project. Its progressive development during the 1950s represents his early exploration of planning and construction methodology applied in later projects. It is able to demonstrate Seidler's early concerns with utility, density and high levels of amenity, especially solar access and natural ventilation.

Seidler was a tireless and effective promoter of modernist architecture and Ithaca Gardens received considerable media attention. That the architect and his brother developed the project and then he lived in the building, and had the interior photographed by Max Dupain, has added to its reputation. Seidler had significant influence on the growing popularity of compact inner-city apartment living and Ithaca Gardens can be seen to have played an important role in this.

Ithaca Gardens is considered rare as an early and innovative modernist apartment project in Elizabeth Bay, and as the first apartment building by Harry Seidler.

The building also has representative significance as the first of Seidler's 1960s apartment projects, which collectively have an exceptional level of significance for their ability to demonstrate the architect's evolving planning and construction prototypes. Seidler's architecture of this period was extremely influential, widely published and highly awarded. It can be seen to have made a major contribution to the development of modern architecture in Australia and is highly regarded internationally.

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## Comparative analysis



Figure 1 Blues Point Tower (likely to be of state heritage significance), McMahons Point, of 24 levels and 144 apartments, is of a much larger scale than Ithaca Gardens; however, its regular façade arrangement shows similar design characteristics. (Source: Wikimedia)



Figure 2 Village Towers (Arlington), Edgecliff (1965–1966), is a significant example of Seidler's evolving use of planning and construction prototypes first applied in Ithaca Gardens. (Source: Philip Thalís)

## Assessment of significance

### Criterion A (Historic significance)

Ithaca Gardens has historic significance as a prominent example of medium-rise housing developed in the Elizabeth Bay and Potts Point area during the 1950s and 1960s.

Architect Harry Seidler had significant influence on the growing popularity of compact inner-city apartment living and Ithaca Gardens can be seen to have played an important role in this. Seidler was an effective promoter of modernism and Ithaca Gardens received considerable media attention. That the architect lived in the apartment, and had the interior photographed by Max Dupain, added to the reputation of the building.

The building's design demonstrates modernist architecture's engagement with compact multi-housing forms, and is a key example of the introduction of Bauhaus-influenced modernism into the Australian context. Ithaca Gardens is able to demonstrate wider historical trends of importance to the local area and to NSW more generally.

Ithaca Gardens **has** cultural significance at a local level under this criterion.

Ithaca Gardens potential significance at a state level under this criterion.

## Assessment of significance

### Criterion B (Historical association)

Ithaca Gardens is associated with architect Harry Seidler, one of the most significant modernist architects in Australia, who has made an important contribution to the development of Australia's built environment. As his first completed apartment project, and as his place of residence, Ithaca Gardens has strong associations with the architect and is of particular historical interest in interpreting the context of his work.

Ithaca Gardens has some significance for its association with Civil & Civic Constructions (later expanded as Lendlease) as the first project by the long-running and significant partnership formed between the firm and Harry Seidler, which continued through the next decades.

Ithaca Gardens **has** cultural significance at a local level under this criterion.

Ithaca Gardens has potential significance at a state level under this criterion.

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### Criterion C (Aesthetic/creative/technical achievement)

Ithaca Gardens shows many innovations in planning and construction that make it a noteworthy example of a late 1950s–1960s modernist apartment building.

Ithaca Gardens is an early application of what can be seen as typical elements of the work of architect Harry Seidler during the 1960s. It shares aesthetic elements with some of Seidler's most notable projects including Blues Point Tower, Village Towers (Arlington), Ercildoune and Aquarius, which demonstrate distinctive aesthetic attributes in form and composition.

In its construction, planning and detailing it demonstrates Seidler's progressive development of design prototypes applied across multiple projects. Its expression of structure, its regular façade arrangement, its use of materials and spare planning, with a concern for natural light, sun shading, and ventilation, are all typical of Seidler's highly acclaimed architecture. Ithaca Gardens was widely published and is a noteworthy example of the architect's work. It is a substantial achievement and the work of an important designer.

The original design and structure are largely intact, with minimal alterations visible to the exterior of the buildings.

Ithaca Gardens **has** cultural significance at a local level under this criterion.

Ithaca Gardens has potential significance at a state level under this criterion.

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### Criterion D (Social, cultural and spiritual significance)

Ithaca Gardens is listed on the Australian Institute of Architects (NSW Chapter) Register of Significant Architecture, indicating that it has importance to architects and the design community more generally.

Ithaca Gardens **has** cultural significance at a local level under this criterion.

Ithaca Gardens has potential significance at a state level under this criterion.

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### Criterion E (Research potential)

As an early example of innovative apartment design and construction in Australia, and as an example of Seidler's early apartment designs, Ithaca Gardens has the ability to contribute to knowledge about the evolution of housing in Australia and the work of Harry Seidler.

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## Assessment of significance

Ithaca Gardens **has** cultural significance at a local level under this criterion.

Ithaca Gardens has potential significance at a state level under this criterion.

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### Criterion F (Rare)

Ithaca Gardens is considered rare as an early and innovative modernist apartment project in Elizabeth Bay. It is also rare as an apartment designed in the 1950s by a European architect, with modernist training in Canada and the United States, and constructed in Sydney in the 1960s. Possibly more than any other apartment project completed by Seidler, Ithaca Gardens represents the first application of his modernist training in the Australian context. As the first apartment project designed by Harry Seidler to be constructed in Australia it is rare.

Ithaca Gardens **has** cultural significance at a local level under this criterion.

Ithaca Gardens has potential significance at a state level under this criterion.

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### Criterion G (Representative)

Ithaca Gardens is considered to have representative significance as one of a group of 1960s apartment projects designed by Harry Seidler and Associates, which are collectively highly significant. Other examples include Blues Point Tower, Stephen Towers, Village Towers (Arlington), Ercildoune and Aquarius. These projects were widely published and featured in the multiple surveys of Harry Seidler's career. As Seidler himself noted each project applied a series of evolving structural and planning prototypes. They were built of the same materials, and with evolving structural systems, repeated layouts for construction efficiencies, repeated window units and sun shading elements to create characteristic 'tensional' façade patterns. Many of these elements were first applied in Ithaca Gardens and then further developed in later projects throughout the 1960s.

Ithaca Gardens displays key characteristics of this significant group of apartment projects and is an important representative example of Harry Seidler's long-term innovation and engagement with construction and planning efficiency.

Ithaca Gardens is representative of wider trends in housing, the redevelopment of inner-city suburbs with higher density apartments, and the growing demand for compact, well-located housing.

Ithaca Gardens **has** cultural significance at a local level under this criterion.

Ithaca Gardens has potential significance at a state level under this criterion.

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## Statement of significance

Ithaca Gardens has historic significance as a prominent example of medium-rise housing developed in the Elizabeth Bay and Potts Point area during the 1950s and 1960s. The building's design demonstrates modernist architecture's engagement with compact multi-housing forms and is a key example of the introduction of Bauhaus-influenced modernism into the Australian context. Ithaca Gardens is able to demonstrate wider historical trends of importance to the local area and to NSW more generally. It has significant historical associations with architect Harry Seidler, one of the most significant modernist architects in Australia, and with Civil & Civic

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## Statement of significance

Constructions (later expanded as Lendlease) as the first project undertaken by the firm and Harry Seidler.

Ithaca Gardens shows many innovations in planning and construction that make it a noteworthy example of a late 1950s–1960s modernist apartment building. Ithaca Gardens is an early application of what can be seen as typical elements of the work of architect Harry Seidler during the 1960s. It shares aesthetic elements with some of Seidler’s most notable projects including

Blues Point Tower, Village Towers (Arlington), Ercildoune and Aquarius, which demonstrate distinctive aesthetic attributes in form and composition. Widely published, it is a noteworthy example of the architect’s work. Ithaca Gardens is a substantial achievement and the work of an important designer.

As an early example of innovative apartment design and construction in Australia, and as an example of Seidler’s early apartment designs, Ithaca Gardens has the ability to contribute to knowledge about the evolution of housing in Australia and the work of Harry Seidler. It is also rare in the Australian context as an apartment designed in the 1950s by a European architect, with modernist training in Canada and the United States, and as the first apartment project designed by Harry Seidler to be constructed in Australia.

Ithaca Gardens is considered to have representative significance as one of a group of 1960s apartment projects designed by Harry Seidler and Associates, which as a group are highly significant.

Ithaca Gardens displays key characteristics of this significant group of apartment projects and is an important representative example of Harry Seidler’s innovation and long-term engagement construction and planning efficiency.

## Recommendations

Ithaca Gardens meets the threshold for local heritage significance under all seven criteria and is recommended for heritage listing on the Sydney Local Environmental Plan.

The building should be retained and conserved. A heritage impact statement should outline any original features and their proposed management prior to any major works being undertaken.

A comprehensive conservation management plan for the site should be prepared to guide future uses and development and ensure its heritage values are conserved.

## Information sources

Type	Author	Title	Year	Repository
Site inspection (external)	GML		2024	GML
Written	City of Sydney Council	Building application file No 502 Year 1951: Ithaca Road (between Substation & “The tavern”), new flat building	1951–1956	City of Sydney Archives
Written	City of Sydney Council	Building Inspectors Card: Lot A, Ithaca Rd, Elizabeth Bay, new building-flats	1958–1960	City of Sydney Archives

**Information sources**

Written	Helen O'Neill	<i>A singular vision: Harry Seidler</i>	2013	GML
Written	Peter Blake	<i>Architecture for the new world: the work of Harry Seidler</i>	1973	GML

<b>Image caption</b>	Ithaca Gardens apartments, Elizabeth Bay, NSW. Architect: Harry Seidler. <i>Cross-Section</i> No. 76, February 1959. Cross-Section archive.				
<b>Image year</b>	1959	<b>Image by</b>	Max Dupain	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	Harry Seidler and Associates



Image caption	Working drawing ground, site and foundation plans for Ithaca Gardens Home Units, Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney. Architect: Harry Seidler. Approved 1 August 1958.				
Image year	1958	Image by	Harry Seidler	Image copyright holder	Harry Seidler and Associates

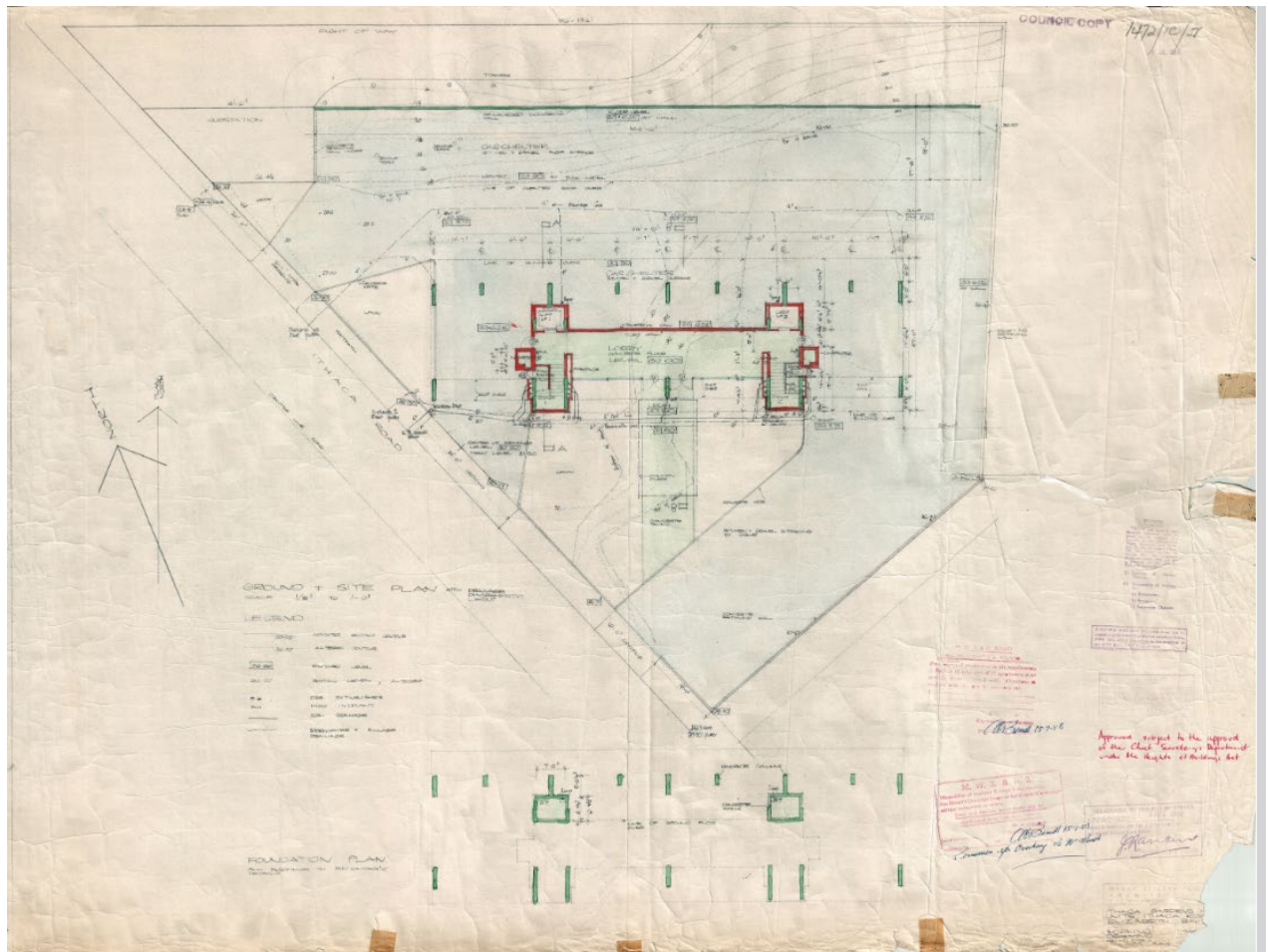
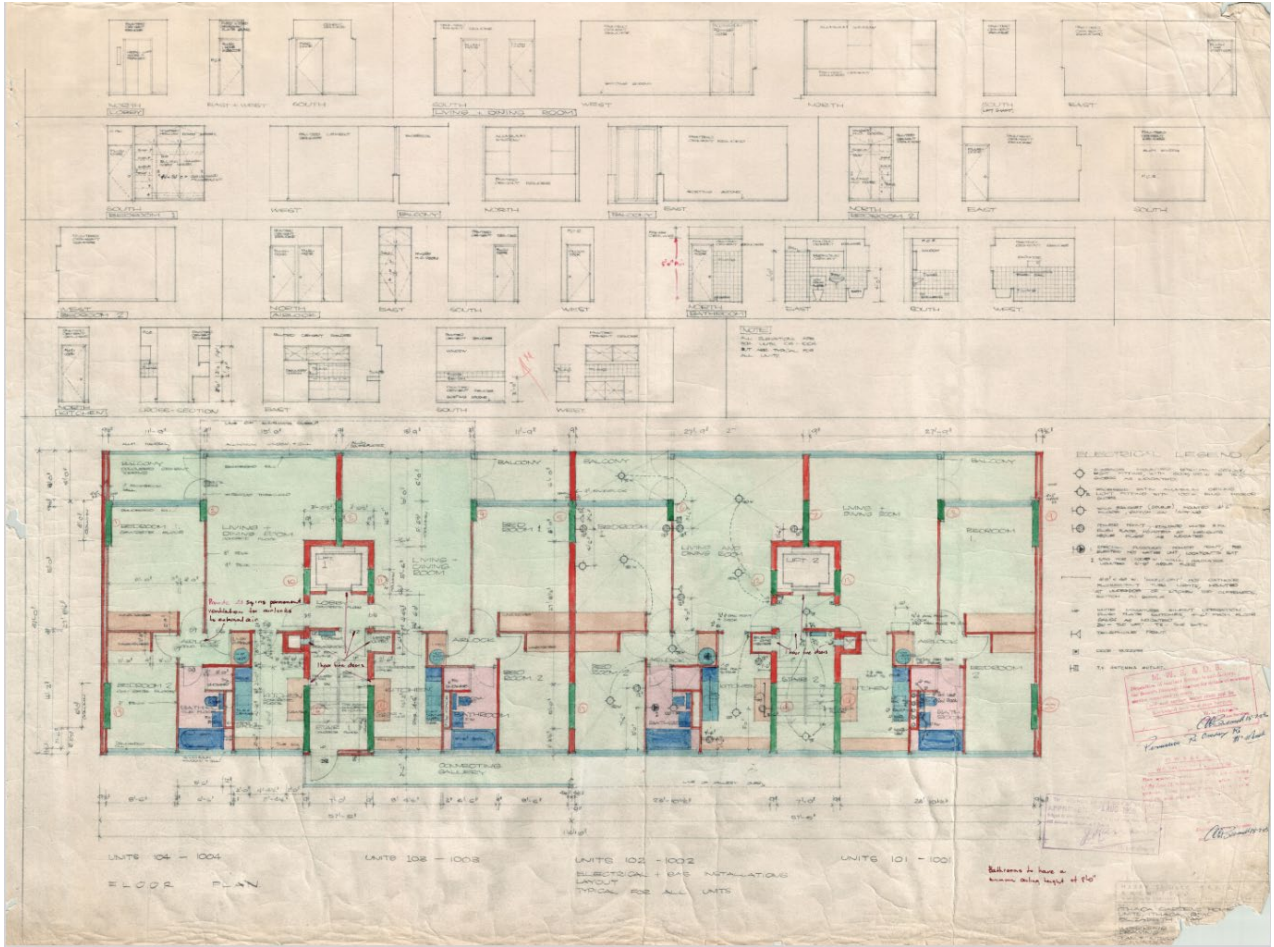
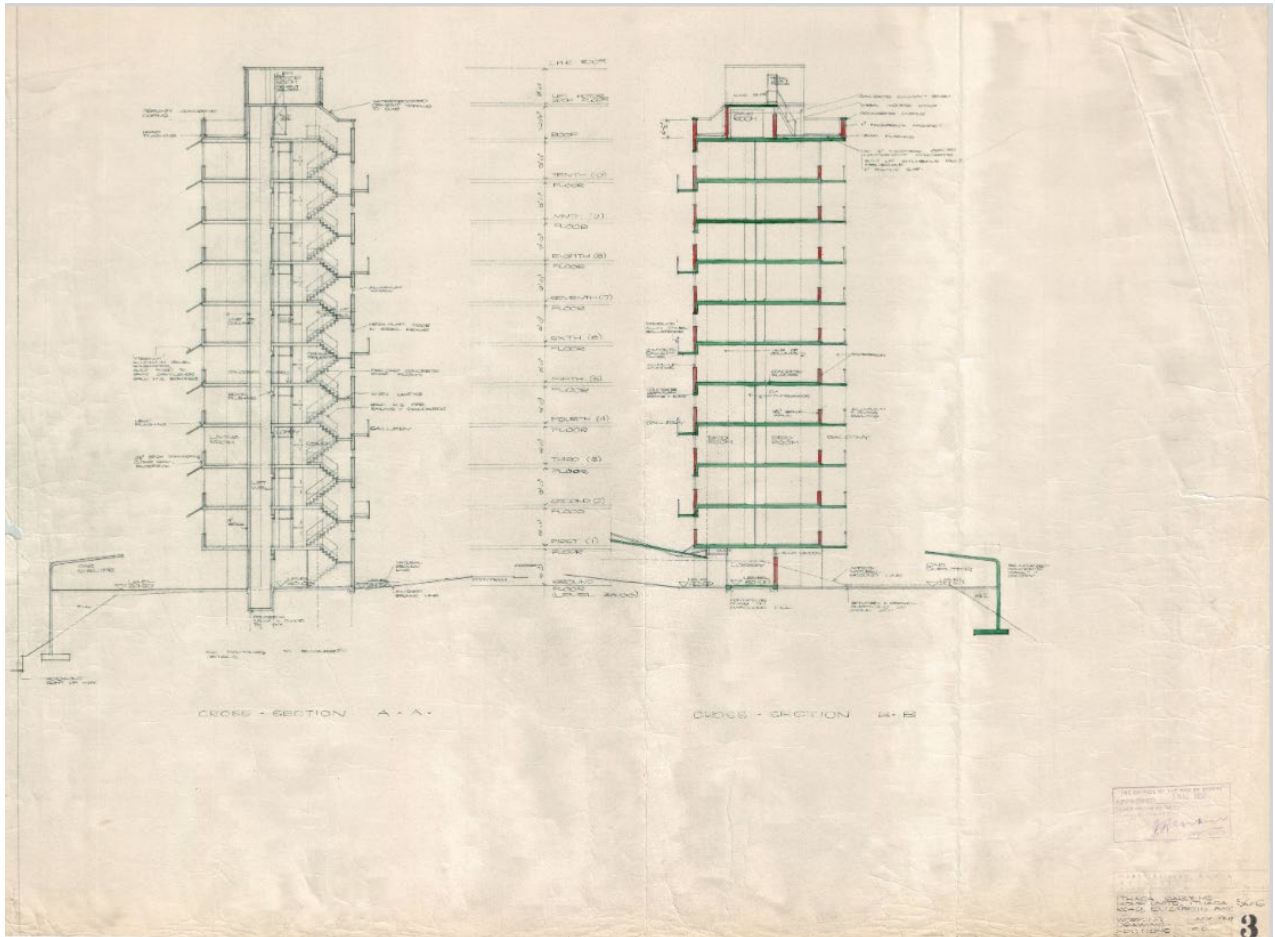




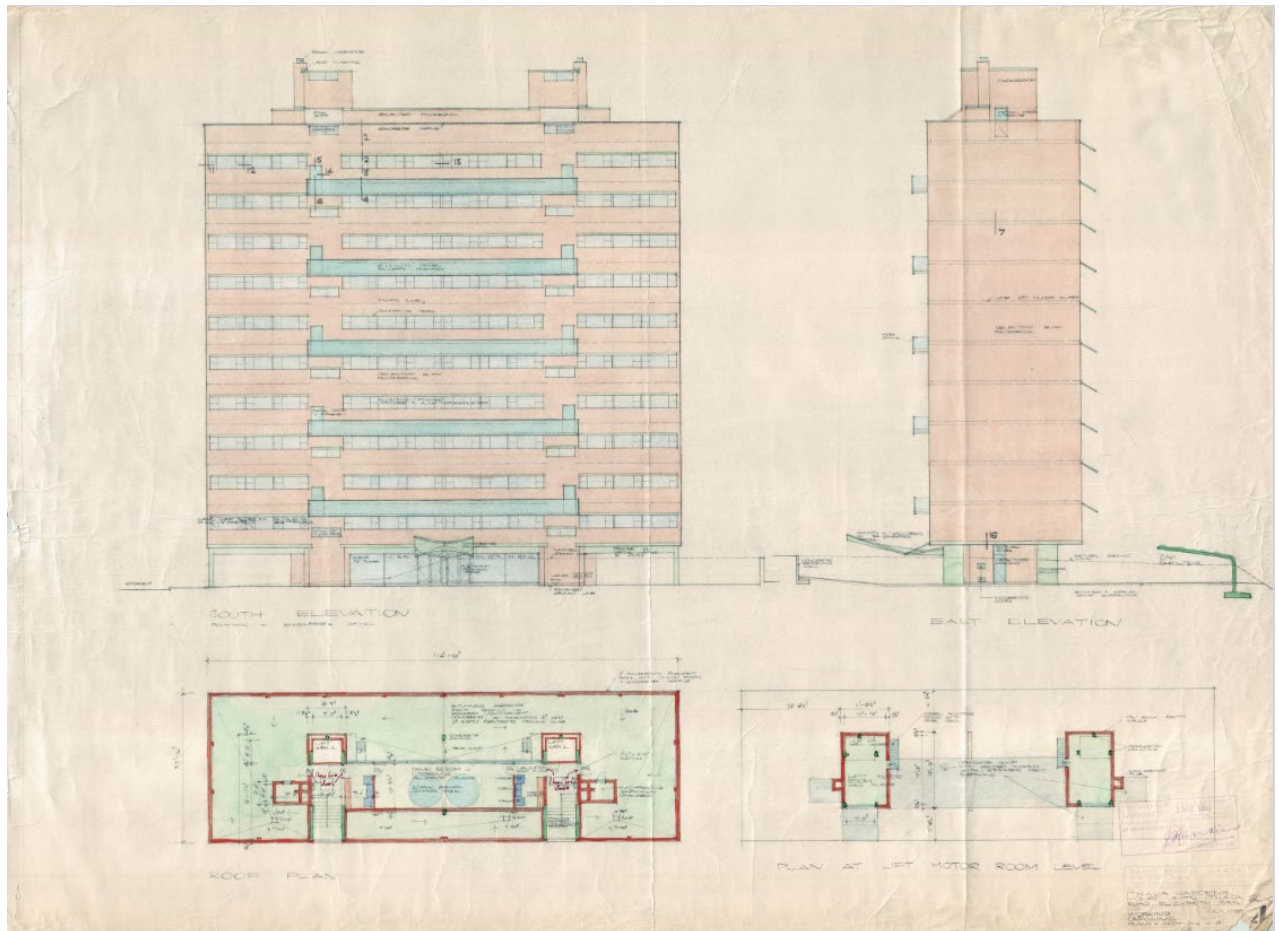
Image caption	Working drawing plan and interiors, elevations for Ithaca Gardens Home Units, Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney. Architect: Harry Seidler. Approved 1 August 1958.				
Image year	1958	Image by	Harry Seidler	Image copyright holder	Harry Seidler and Associates



<b>Image caption</b>	Working drawing sections for Ithaca Gardens Home Units, Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney. Architect: Harry Seidler. Approved 1 August 1958.				
<b>Image year</b>	1958	<b>Image by</b>	Harry Seidler	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	Harry Seidler and Associates



<b>Image caption</b>	Working drawing plans and sections for Ithaca Gardens Home Units, Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney. Architect: Harry Seidler. Approved 1 August 1958.				
<b>Image year</b>	1958	<b>Image by</b>	Harry Seidler	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	Harry Seidler and Associates





<b>Image caption</b>	Working drawing elevations for Ithaca Gardens Home Units, Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney. Architect: Harry Seidler. Approved 1 August 1958.				
<b>Image year</b>	1958	<b>Image by</b>	Harry Seidler	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	Harry Seidler and Associates

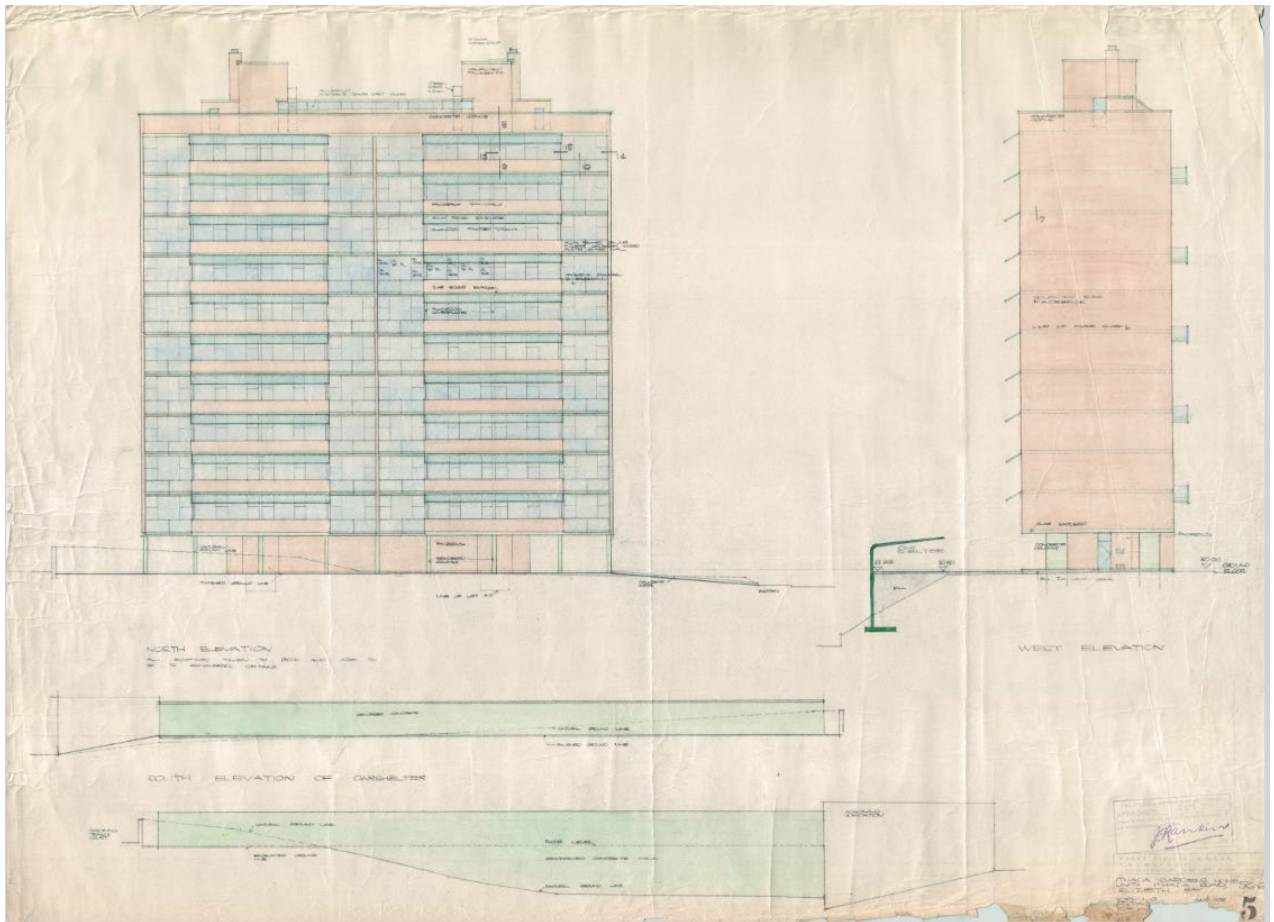


Image caption	Promotional material for Ithaca Gardens.				
Image year	1960	Image by	Ithaca Gardens Pty Ltd	Image copyright holder	Ithaca Gardens Pty Ltd



ithaca

**TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN**

NORTH

**The Ultimate in Convenience and Elegant Modern Living**

Construction is to begin shortly on this luxurious 10-storey block of 40 home units. The building will be erected on a half-acre site overlooking Sydney Harbour in Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay. The site is only a few minutes' walk from the centre of Kings Cross shopping centre. A bus service is at the door, and Sydney can be reached in a mere seven minutes by air.

Under a unique concrete canopy, the glassed-in, luxuriously carpeted entrance lobby will lead to two high-speed, fully automatic lifts. Private lobbies on every floor will give access to two flats.

All units are identical in size—44 square feet. The living room, main bedroom and balcony face north toward sweeping harbour views.

Each will contain: A large L-shaped living, dining room, 20' 10" x 15' 9", with a 6' high and 15' 9" wide picture window facing the view, and glass doors opening on to a covered recessed balcony, 17' 9" x 8'. A sun protection overhang will shade the large glass area from the higher summer sun, and yet is designed to admit the low winter sun.

- A master bedroom, 11' 9" x 15' 4', with a full-height built-in cupboard, 8' 6" long.
- A second bedroom, 14' 11" x 9' 6", with a full-height built-in cupboard, 6' 3" wide.
- A bathroom, 10' 3" x 6' 4", with bath, linen, toilet and separate shower recess.
- A hall with full-height built-in linen cupboard.
- An individual storage-type hot-water system in each unit.

Two communal laundries, with automatic washing machines, driers, and box room for storage, will be located at ground level.

There is ample parking space available on the site—one for every unit. Some of these are covered areas at ground level under the building.

An almost complete freedom from maintenance is achieved by the use of a fireproof structure of steel and reinforced concrete, with cream to buff-coloured external facerite walls.

**FINANCE:** The Company does not require any finance from purchasers to erect the building—the initial payment being ten per cent deposit, to be held in trust. The balance of payment not to be made until completion of the building and a Certificate of Completion is issued by the City Council Building Surveyor.

ithaca gardens

**40 HOME UNIT APARTMENTS**

**typical apartment**

Floor plan at left shows detailed layout of every unit in the building.

Image caption	'Ithaca Gardens Apartments in Elizabeth Bay NSW (1960)' from Harry Seidler 1955/63: houses, buildings and projects.			
Image year	1963	Image by		Image copyright holder
				Horwitz Publications (Harry Seidler)

## Ithaca Gardens Apartments in Elizabeth Bay NSW (1960)

a/ View from the harbour / Vue depuis la Baie / Ansicht vom Hafen.  
 b/ Typical floor plan / Plan de l'étage type / Normalgeschossgrundriss.  
 c/ Looking up from below the folded retaining wall on the north / Vue vers le haut depuis le mur de soutènement au nord / Ansicht von Norden unterhalb der gefalteten Stützmauer.



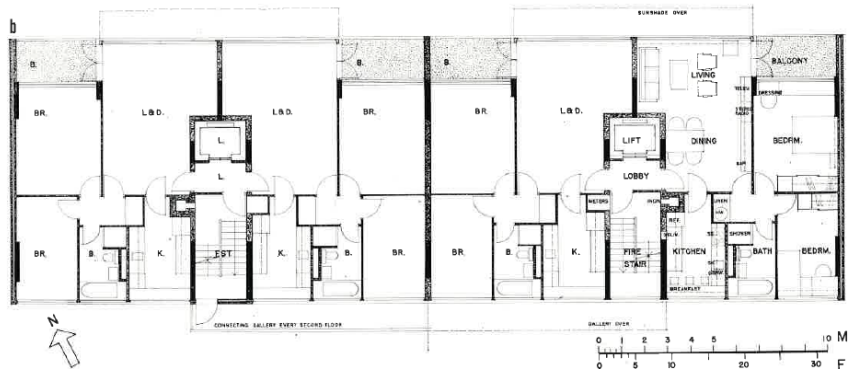
**B** This block of 40 individual ownership ("home unit") apartments stands on a sloping site facing its long dimension toward the north-east coinciding with a panoramic view of the harbour.

All apartments face the view and are provided with access in pairs by means of a lift and fire-stair for each half of the building. To comply with regulations requiring alternate means of fire escape, the stairs are connected by an external gallery at every second landing, between floors, thus not interfering with privacy or windows. All units are identical in size (950 sq. ft.) and arrangement. The "L" shaped living-dining space, the recessed terrace and main bedroom face the harbour view, the kitchen, bath and second bedroom on the approach side face a park in the distance. The structure is of re-inforced concrete. Columns of varying length are largely contained within wall thicknesses. Floors are 9½" thick flat-plate design except for the downturns to support the cantilevered connecting galleries.

**F** Ce bloc d'appartements de 40 unités est situé sur un terrain en pente avec façade longue au nord-est, face à une vue panoramique du port. Tous les appartements donnent bien entendu au nord-est et sont pourvus de deux moyens d'accès avec ascenseur et escalier de secours pour chaque moitié du bâtiment. Le Règlement en cas d'incendie prévoit un moyen de sortie supplémentaire, aussi les deux escaliers de secours sont-ils reliés à un balcon extérieur à chaque second palier entre étages, ne troublant pas ainsi l'intimité des appartements.

Toutes les unités sont de même dimensions (87 m<sup>2</sup>) et de même agencement. La pièce de séjour et de repas en forme de "L," la terrasse en retrait et la chambre à coucher font face à la vue; cuisine, salle de bains et seconde chambre à coucher sur l'arrière donnent sur un parc au loin. Ossature en béton armé. Poteaux de longueur variée contenus dans l'épaisseur des murs de remplissage. Dalles de planchers de 24 cm. en béton armé.

**D** Dieser 40 Eigentumswohnungen umfassende Bau steht auf einer abfallenden Parzelle, deren Längsseite gegen Nordosten gerichtet ist, und bietet einen Rundblick über den Hafen. Sämtliche Wohnungen sind der Aussicht zugekehrt und mit einem Lift und einer Feuertreppe paarweise bedient. Die Verbindungsgalerien zu den Treppenhäusern in jedem zweiten Geschoss, die so angelegt sind, dass das Privatleben der Mieter nicht gestört wird, resultieren aus einer örtlichen Bauvorschrift. Alle Einheiten stimmen in Grundriss und Flächeninhalt überein (87 m<sup>2</sup>). Der L-förmige Wohn-Essraum, die Terrasse und das Hauptschlafzimmer sind der Aussicht zugewandt. Die Küche, das Bad und der zweite Schlafraum überblicken einen Park. Die Tragkonstruktion besteht aus armertem Beton. Stützen von verschiedener Länge sind den Wandstärken entsprechend dimensioniert. Eine 24 cm starke Betonplattendecke, die nur dort mit Unterzügen verstärkt ist, wo sie als Verbindungsgalerie auskragt, überspannt die Geschosse.



<b>Image caption</b>	The dining room of Harry and Penelope Seidler's apartment in Ithaca Gardens, Elizabeth Bay, May 1960, showing Josef Albers' <i>Study for visa versa</i> (1943). Sourced from National Gallery of Australia.				
<b>Image year</b>	c1960	<b>Image by</b>	Max Dupain	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	Harry Seidler and Associates





<b>Image caption</b>	Entrance canopy along the southern elevation.				
<b>Image year</b>	2024	<b>Image by</b>	GML	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	GML



<b>Image caption</b>	Southern elevation.				
<b>Image year</b>	2024	<b>Image by</b>	GML	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	GML





<b>Image caption</b>	Retaining wall along the northern elevation.				
<b>Image year</b>	2024	<b>Image by</b>	GML	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	GML





<b>Image caption</b>	View of the northern façade above the folded concrete retaining wall.				
<b>Image year</b>	2024	<b>Image by</b>	GML	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	GML





<b>Image caption</b>	Northern elevation, showing the sun shading and recessed balconies.				
<b>Image year</b>	2024	<b>Image by</b>	GML	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	GML





<b>Image caption</b>	Cantilevered folded concrete roof over the parking area on the northern side of the site.				
<b>Image year</b>	2024	<b>Image by</b>	GML	<b>Image copyright holder</b>	GML

