

Amendment History

Amendment No.	Amendment Description	Date of Effect
0	Establishment of the Guidelines	07 December 2022

Waverley Council

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The Waverley Inter-War Design Guidelines are published by Waverley Council.

Introduction

The aim of the Inter-War Building Design Guidelines is to reinforce the importance of Inter-War flat buildings, while allowing some managed change.

Inter-War flat buildings are part of a global tradition and Waverley has the second highest density of Inter-War buildings in Sydney.

Inter-War buildings are an important typology in Waverley. Collectively, they reveal an important historic period which has a strong aesthetic character still evident today. They contribute to the streetscape and Heritage Conservation Areas. Many are heritage items.

Different styles from the Inter-War period are identified with the simple utilitarian and bungalow styles representing 55% of all flats of the period. Art Deco and Mediterranean also feature.

These guidelines are based on a typology study of approximately 600 buildings, which has identified 6 distinct types and 34 sub-types.

The 6 distinct types are:

- Type 1: 2 flats per floor
- Type 2: 4 flats per floor
- Type 3: 2 flats per floor one at the front, one at the back
- Type 4: 1 flat per floor
- Type 5: 3 flats per floor two at the front, one at the back or vice-versa
- Type 6: linear corridor

These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with *Part B16 Inter-War Buildings* of the Waverley Development Control Plan.

1. Key Steps

Managing Change

Visible change can alter and erode the significance of the individual building, the pair or the group. This involves visible additions but also changes to the form, finishes or detail and changes to the landscape setting.



2. Key Steps - Identify the style of your Inter-War Flat building

The Inter-War style guidelines follow Irving Apperley et al categories in "A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture" based on period and style. The style time frame has been extended into the 1950's.

Each style has particular characteristics that reinforce the experience from the façade, entry to foyer to apartment. The original design of a building reflects the greatest design intent with detailing supporting the overall composition. Later modifications usually weaken the design intent.

Speculative builders of the Inter-War period often constructed flat buildings in a number of standard plan forms or typologies and overlayed one of the various styles. This led to a uniformity of scale, form and articulation and a variety of façade treatment. A combination of elements from different styles was also used to provide variety.

This study has identified 10 styles:

- Inter-War Georgian Revival
- Inter-War Free Classical
- Inter-War Stripped Classical
- Inter-War Mediterranean
- Inter-War Spanish Mission
- Inter-War Functionalist
- Inter-War Art Deco
- Inter-War Old English
- Inter-War Utilitarian
- Inter-War Bungalow





Georgian Revival

Free Classical



Stripped Classical

Mediterranean



Old English

Bungalow

Utilitarian

Inter-War Georgian Revival - Key Features

Form/massing	rectangular, prismatic, symmetrical form
Roof	hipped roof with boxed eaves
Walls	plain wall surfaces of face brickwork or render on plinth quoining, string course and cornice common
Openings	repetitive fenestration multi-pane Georgian windows; often with shutters semi-circular headed windows/ openings to ground floor panelled front door with sidelights and fanlight and fanlight motif groups of three windows
Entry	entrance with classical order treatment
Detail	classical elements such as porticos and pediments





Inter-War Free Classical - Key Features

Form/massing	symmetrical form with central entry
Roof	parapet with classical cornice remnant pediment
Walls	rendered wall surfaces articulated pilasters tripartite division of the façade intercolumniation may be too wide or too narrow
Openings	free interpretation of Palladian motifs
Entry	projecting portico
Detail	use of classical elements, and columns, in simple exterior. conventional or unconventional classical order of architecture







Inter-War Stripped Classical - Key Features

Form/massing	symmetrical form division of the street-facing façade into vertical bays simplified classical feature
Roof	parapet and flattened or remnant entablature or cornice
Walls	plain wall surfaces usually painted in light colours simplified remnant classical base
Openings	openings usually of vertical classical proportions use of spandrels between floors simplified fluted classical piers emphatic portal
Entry	remnant classical portico
Detail	simplified classical motifs



Inter-War Stripped Classical style is rare in Waverley.

Inter-War Mediterranean - Key Features

Form/massing	informal massing and arrangement of building elements
Roof	medium-pitch hipped or gable tiled roofs exposed rafter ends
Walls	light-coloured smooth or textured walling
Openings	arcades, loggias and round arches vertical, double-hung sash windows with hinged shutters fanlight, window grilles and wrought iron detail
Detail	simple classical motifs including arcades, porches, loggias, balconies







Inter-War Spanish Mission - Key Features

Form/massing	irregular arrangement of building elements
Roof	medium-pitch hipped or gable roofs Spanish or Roman roof tiles
Walls	stucco with exaggerated texture decorative parapets shaped corbels
Openings	grouped arched openings window shutters arcaded loggias and porticoes
Detail	ornamental metalwork concentration of ornament barley twist columns cartouches









Inter-War Functionalist - Key Features

Form/massing	asymmetrical massing common
	corner sites exploit 3-dimensional expression
	contrasting horizontal and vertical motifs
	long horizontal spandrel or balcony
	semi-circular projecting wing
	stair expressed by vertical emphasis
Roof	flat roofs concealed by a parapet
Walls	plain rendered or face-brick walls
Openings	fenestration in horizontal bands ribbon windows, corner windows metal framed windows, curved glass, and glass bricks
Detail	cantilevered balconies, hoods and roofs

Inter-War Art Deco - Key Features

Form/massing	symmetrical form common stepping of the building mass
Roof	stepped parapet
Walls	decorative face brickwork vertical fins or piers
Openings	ornamental window grilles
Detail	parallel line motif and chevron motif decorative elements concentrated on the upper- portion of the building





Inter-War Old English - Key Features

Form/massing	often asymmetrical form
Roof	medium-pitched gabled roofs half -timbered gable ends decorative timber bargeboard
Walls	face-brick walls
Openings	casement windows with leadlight glazing with diamond pattern
Detail	herringbone brick detail common



Inter-War Old English style is rare in Waverley.

Inter-War Bungalow (domestic utilitarian) - Key Features

Form and massing	simple rectangular brick prism usually symmetrical, sometimes
asymmetrical	projecting bays
Roof	medium-pitched hipped roofs, often pyramidal gable with timber battens
Walls	dark face brick walls bays often with shingled finish
Openings	white painted double hung timber windows sometimes convex glass panes to top sash



Inter-War Utilitarian (warehouse) - Key Features

Form and massing	simple rectangular brick prism
Roof	medium-pitched hipped roofs
Walls	dark face-brick walls
Openings	expressed concrete lintels dentilated brick sill detail
Entry	central entry
Detail applied	minimal, occasional classical flourish



3. Key Steps - Identify the type of your Inter-War Flat building

Type 1 - 2 flats per floor - central entry

Type 2 - 4 flats per floor - usually side entry













Type 3

- 2 flats per floor, one at the front, one at the back

- side entry

Type 4

- 1 flat per floor - side stairs

Type 5

- 3 flats per floor, two at the front, one at the back or vice versa - generally side entry

Type 6

- linear corridor
- multiple separate stairs

4. Guidelines for Change

Form and Massing

Element Discussion				
Form				
Loss of simple form Complicated roof forms	Simple forms are a key characteristic of Inter-War flat buildings in Waverley. Additions to the simple prismatic masonry form change the character of the building. This is particularly important to their group value. Simple hipped-roof forms are a key characteristic of Inter-War flat buildings in Waverley, and roof additions that are dominant in views from the street permanently alter the character of the building. Cut outs in roofs can affect the simple roof forms. Minimal dormers that do not dominate can improve the amenity.			



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Massing

Additions to façade Loss of stepping of building mass Additions can impact on the symmetry of a flat building and the stepping of the building mass which can be a key characteristic of a style. Refer to the characteristic massing as outlined in style table.



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Roof

Element	Discussion
Finishes	
Change of roof finishes	Terracotta and multicolour concrete roof tiles are a key characteristic of Inter-War flat buildings in Waverley. They provide a textural quality to the roof. Original roof tiles should be retained and conserved. Where replacement is necessary the original profile and colour should be used. Modern black or grey tiles are not appropriate for Inter-War flat buildings due to their uncharacteristic colour and monotone appearance.



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Parapet

Removal of parapet and/or parapet detail Extension of parapet Parapets are key features of several Inter-War styles and provide a stepping of building mass. Some parapets have specific stylistic features such as Spanish Mission and Art Deco buildings. Buildings and streetscapes with characteristic skylines should be retained.





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Walls

Element	Discussion
Finishes	
Finishes Bagging, rendering or painting of face brick	The character of Inter-War flat buildings in Waverley relies on retention of original face brickwork. This provides textural quality to the façades. Most of the key styles in Waverley are characterised by the use of face-brick finishes, and often decorative brickwork which
Loss of decorative brickwork	is no longer made and rare. Painting, rendering or bagging of face brickwork results in the irrevocable loss of character and should be avoided.
	Where face brickwork has been previously painted, the original character can be better interpreted with dark neutral tones to suggest face brickwork. This is of particular importance to retain the group character.
Loss of original textured render finishes	Original textured render finishes (smooth, fan-trowelled, roughcast) provide a textural quality to the wall and should be retained.
Loss of original shingle/ battened sheet finishes	Original shingle finishes and original battened sheet finishes are evidence of the variety of early finishes and should be retained
Loss of textural contrast	The textural contrast between materials is a key feature of Inter-War flats.







Signage

Name of building not legible

Inter-War flat buildings strove to have their own identity and individual character identified by a building name. The name often alluded to overseas examples as a form of aggrandisement. The building name was often prominently displayed on the façade and should be retained. New work can highlight this feature and reinstate lost features based on evidence. Refer to Waverley Council Inter-War signage guidelines.



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Wall Openings

Element	Discussion
Verandah	
Infill of verandah	The Inter-War flat building often featured verandahs to the street
Opening altered	façade. The glazed infill of openings changes the articulation of the façade, by reducing the modulation and play of light and shadow and introducing vertical divisions. Original verandahs should be retained and previously infilled verandahs should be recovered, or interpreted with frameless glazing.

Fenestration	
Change to fenestration pattern Additional opening	Inter-War flat building façades were characterised by a formal arrangement of windows. Their style and proportions reflect the Inter-War style of the building. New openings to the façade can affect this arrangement.
Additional opening	
New windows	Where changes are essential they should reinforce the original pattern of fenestration to the street façades.
Convert windows to doors	Where windows are replaced by doors, the proportion and glazing pattern of windows should be replicated in the new door.
	Original hardwood timber-framed windows are generally a higher quality than later replacement windows, and should be retained and repaired. Some Inter-War flat styles feature steel frame windows. These should also be retained and conserved as they contribute to the character of the building.
Replacement of original windows	When replacement of windows is necessary the width and depth of the frame and the glazing bar pattern need to match the original.
	Decorative obscure 'Kosciusko' glazing, leadlight glazing and curved glass can be key features of façades contributing to their style, and should be retained.
Security Bars	Security bars can impact on a characteristic fenestration patterns set out by the glazing bars. Alternatives such as internal security bars, alarms or laminated film applied should be pursued.









Dover Heights

Entry

Element	Discussion
Entry	
Replacement of entry doors and fan/side lights	The entry of an Inter-War flat building is a continuation of the style of the façade and is important to the total experience of the building. The entry sets the tone for the experience of the interior.
Entry steps retiled Railing replaced	The character of the buildings entry is created by elements including the path and steps and handrail, porch, awnings, terrazzo flooring/ unglazed terracotta floor tiles, timber doors, fanlights and sidelights with multi-pane glazing and leadlight. Original lighting, panelling and stairs to the foyer are also important to retain.
Fire and safety upgrade intrusive, loss of fabric	The original BA plans will often indicate the original detail and decorative treatment of the entry. Other local buildings from the period can indicate the original detail.
Security upgrade intrusive	It is important to manage fire, safety and security upgrades to retain the original fabric and character of the entry and foyer. Heritage guidance can assist in retaining original features.

Stylistic features		Bondi Junction
Removal of stylistic features	The features listed in the style tables combine to create the distinctive character of Inter-War flat buildings. These features should be retained. The original BA plans and early photos can indicate where stylistic features have been removed and could be reinstated.	







Bronte

Additions

Element	Discussion	
Attic conversion		
Conversion of hipped roof form with skylights, balconies	Hipped roof forms can be converted to provide extra floor space within roof form with minimal dormer without impacting on the integrity of the flat building in terms of its roof form.	
Gable conversion with fenestration	Gabled roof forms can be converted to provide extra floorspace without altering the characteristic form and massing of the building. In these cases, original gable end finishes should be retained and any fenestration must support the original style and character of the building in its proportion and vertical divisions.	





Dormers

Front dormer visible from street

Side dormer prominent in street

Dormer windows are not typical characteristic features of Inter-War flat buildings. Adding large dormers to hipped roof forms can impact upon the form and character of the Inter-War flat building. The visibility of dormers directly relates to the scale of adjacent buildings and the topography. Dormers facing the street are generally highly visible and therefore inappropriate. Rear dormers are generally acceptable.

Side dormers may be achievable depending on the context, and specifically how visible they will be.

Traditional dormers are not characteristic and can be visually prominent. The location, size and finishes affects their visibility. Extended gabled or hipped dormers that continue the dormer roof to the original roof and eliminate the side walls may be less dominant.





Dormer DAs

Additions

Element	Discussion
Roof Additions	
Extra Floor Can result in loss of character, consistency or streetscape	An additional floor will generally result in the loss of characteristic scale, form and often the consistency of the streetscape. It should only be contemplated when the existing building is not accomplished, characteristic and/or intact and an additional floor would support the established streetscape scale and character. Parapets are key decorative features of many Inter-War flat building styles. Original parapets should be retained.
Visible additions behind parapet Visible dividing wall Balustrade on parapet Extension of parapet Creation of parapet	Any additions behind the parapet should be setback to enable the parapet to be viewed against the sky and reduce the impact of the addition. Roof terraces and additions behind a parapet may be able to be achieved without visual impact, provided any structures such as balustrades or dividing walls are set back and not visible.
	Where the additional floor reinforces the street context, it can continue in the same style or different styles. New floors may interpret the predominant use of face brick in new ways.

Before additions











Additions

Element Discussion			
Balconies			
Balcony additions obscure original façade	Balconies are key stylistic elements of some Inter-War flat buildings. The simple prismatic form and lack of balconies is a key characteristic of many Inter-War flat buildings.		
Projecting glazed balconies detract from masonry char- acter of flat buildings	Original projecting balconies are rare but generally only occupy part of the façade. New balconies can obscure original façades and create an uncharacteristic horizontal massing. Glazed balconies are inconsistent with the solid masonry character of the Inter-War flat building.		
	Some of the verandahs have been infilled over time. Reinstating the original balconies is a preferred outcome.		
	Balcony additions are generally only appropriate to rear façades.		
	New balconies should support the stylistic characteristics and articulation of the façade.		
Inappropriate door pro- portions when converting window to door	Where original window openings are converted to door openings to access new balconies, the width and fenestration patterns of the original window opening should be respected in the new door.		

Before verandah infill





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Alterations

Element	Discussion
Undercroft alterations	
Laundry conversion	Inter-War flat buildings were typically constructed with communal laundries to the undercroft or roof. Many of these have become redundant. The re-use of laundries and undercroft areas is generally acceptable as the form of the building is retained.



Rear additions

Additions to the rear, set down below the gutter height, that reinforce the original form and do not impact on the character of the group or on neighbours may be supported.



Setting

Landscaping

garden

Removal of original fencing

Inappropriate front fencing High fencing to street

detracts from communal

Element	Discussion
Fences and gates	
High fences Extending low fences with picket fence	Inter-War flat buildings typically provided low masonry fences to the street frontage.
	This provided an important demarcation of the boundary. The correlation between materials and style of building and fence is important. Low wrought iron and steel gates, and metal ribbon and flat iron panels between masonry piers were commonly used. Picket fences and palisade fences are not generally characteristic of the period. High fences are not characteristic where privacy is needed, hedges behind the low fence can be provided.







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North Bondi



the reserve. Landscape controls can enhance the setting of the flat buildings.

Landscaped frontage can conceal new larger mailboxes and bins.

Mailboxes	
Mailbox dominant in streetscape Mailbox increase height of	Original inset mailboxes built into the fence should be retained if possible. These can be supplemented by additional letter boxes. Banks of steel or aluminium mailboxes on the street boundary can
fence	dominate the streetscape, the flat building and original fencing. Nev letterbox should be concealed. The impact of new mailboxes can be mitigated if they are a dark recessive colour, setback from the street boundary and located within the landscape.

which contributes to the amenity.

Parking

Element	Discussion
Parking	
Parking dominating front setback	Some Inter-War flat buildings provided basement garages in the front façade that reinforced the fenestration pattern. Some provided basement garages and a lawn due to the site fall. These were often treated with stone facing. Original garages should be retained.
	Openings generally should not be widened, unless the composition of the façade is not affected, and the change occurs in an informed manner that respects the symmetry and proportion of the original.
Loss of fence and landscape setting for parking	Original driveways were often concrete wheel strips with grass/ groundcover between and fences defining entry and street. The loss of this landscape and fence for car access removes the boundary demarcation and degrades the presentation of the building to the street.
	New garages or carports in front of the façade are generally inappropriate as they obscure and dominate the façade.
	Pergola with climbers may be appropriate to mitigate broad expanses of carstands in elevated Spanish Mission or Bungalow-style flat buildings. New garage doors should be recessive in façades.



Bondi Beach



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Interior

Element	Discussion
Interior	
Change of internal layout Demolition of interior walls	Generally, modification and upgrade of the individual apartment interiors can occur provided the primary elevations and style characteristics are retained.
	Encourage retention of original interior character and detail that enhances the value.
	Encourage the retention of significant internal features within individual units.
	Conserve the character entry and internal common areas. Creating more open planning can occur while retaining some legibility of the plan.
	Where internal walls are demolished, retain nibs.



Modification



Original

Element	Guidelines	Compliance
Form and Massing	Explore the retention of simple prismatic masonry forms, simple hipped roof forms and respond to the character of the building.	
	Retain the principal form of the buildings.	
Streetscape Elevation(s)	Retain the principal streetscape elevation(s).	
Roof Finishes	Retain terracotta tile finishes or replace to match.	
	Replace flat roofs as necessary.	
Roof Parapet	Retain parapets and do not extend. Reinstate where previously removed.	
Wall Finishes	Retain decorative brickwork and do not paint or render face brickwork.	
	Paint non-original finishes in dark neutral tones to suggest face brickwork.	
	Retain original textured render finishes (smooth, fan-trowelled, roughcast).	
	Retain original shingle finishes and original battened sheet finishes including projecting window bays.	
Signage	Retain building name on façade or reinstate building name based on evidence.	
Verandah	Retain original openings and do not infill original verandahs except in noisy locations where highly sympathetic additions may be appropriate.	
	Explore opening up of previous infilled verandah or replace glazing with frameless glazing.	
	Retain the pattern and proportion of original windows and timber or steel finish.	
	Replacements need to match the original proportion and finish.	
	Retain proportion and glazing pattern of windows converted to doors.	
	Remove external security bars and provide alternate security sympathetic to the style.	
Fenestration	Retain the pattern and proportion of original windows and timber or steel finish.	
	Replacements need to match the original proportion and finish.	
	Retain proportion and glazing pattern of windows converted to doors.	
	Remove external security bars and provide alternate security.	
Entry	Retain original timber French doors with multi pane-glazing.	
	Retain / restore porch.	
	Retain original steps and simple pipe handrail.	
	Retain terrazzo flooring, unglazed terracotta tiles, original concrete slab awnings and wall finishes.	
	Fire and safety and security upgrade discreet and retain original fabric.	
Stylistic features	Retain stylistic features listed in Style table (list in these Building Design Guidelines) and reinstate lost features.	
Additions	Minor additions should retain the overall form and character of the building.	
	Minor additions should not be visually prominent from the street.	
Attic conversion - storage and	Use of space in the roof form may be acceptable, with consideration of WLEP building height and floor space ratio development standards	
habitable	Control size and location of skylights and retain gable end finishes.	
	Fenestration should respond to the scale and proportion of the existing fenestration.	
Inset Balcony	Avoid inset balconies to visible roof planes.	

5. Compliance Table/Checklist

Element	Guidelines	Compliance
Dormers	Front dormers are not acceptable.	
	Rear dormers may be acceptable as they (are not visible from the street) have limited visibility from the street.	
	Side dormers should be proportional in scale with the existing roof, and may be acceptable depending on visual impact and impact on views.	
Roof Additions	Roof additions are generally only supported where established surrounding streetscape scale is higher.	
	Retain parapet and set back additions behind parapet to ensure skyline is retained.	
	Use recessive finish detail and colour to minimise impact of additions.	
	Minimise the thickness of the roof edge.	
	Setback dividing walls from parapet (planter solution) to ensure skyline is not interrupted.	
Balconies	Balcony additions to rear only.	
	Balcony should support stylistic characteristics and articulation of façade.	
Undercroft Alterations	Re-use of laundries and undercroft areas is acceptable.	
Rear Additions	Set down additions to the rear below the gutter height.	
Fences and Gates	Retain original low masonry boundary fences and retain original materials.	
	Do not raise height of fence. Use landscape to limit access and provide privacy.	
Landscaping	Retain landscape areas forward of building line and maximise landscape to street front.	
	Use landscape to conceal mailboxes, bins and new ancillary facilities.	
	Landscape – retain 'crazy' flagstone, fountains, approach paths and other hard landscaping features.	
Mailboxes	Retain original inset mailboxes built into fence.	
	Expand in similar style as necessary or locate new mailboxes within landscape.	
Parking	Retain original basement garage opening widths.	
	Do not widen driveways. Retain concrete wheel strips.	
	Do not construct garages or carports in front setback or in front of buildings	
	Pergolas may be appropriate to mitigate broad expanse of carstands.	
	Recess garage doors.	
Interior	Modification of the interior can occur if there is no impact on the street façades.	
Upgrades	Fire security upgrades must be discreet and respect original fabric.	
	The character of the street presentation and foyer need to be retained as far as practical when implementing upgrades.	
	Alternative solutions should be explored to allow the retention of the original fabric.	