



CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

GROTSKI RESIDENCE

5903 CAPILANO CRESCENT NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Grotski Residence is one-storey single family residence in the Capilano Neighbourhood of East Edmonton. The house occupies a special riverside lot with a commanding view of the North Saskatchewan River and the neighbourhood of the Highlands across the river.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Grotski Residence is significant for its association with the theme of urban development in post-war Edmonton.

The Capilano neighbourhood was one of the new communities in post-war Edmonton, to accommodate a greatly expanding population. This neighbourhood is one of only a few that have direct river valley access and was an ideal location for Douglas Cardinal to experiment with his nature-based design aesthetic.

The Grotski Residence is associated with lawyer John Grotski, who was a prominent member of the legal community during his work life, which extended from the mid-1950s to the late 1990's. In addition to his legal career, he was an important Edmonton developer having been instrumental in the construction of Chancery Hall and Century Place office towers.

In addition to his legal work, Grotski served numerous community roles including president of the community league, a lifelong Lion's Club member, which included a stint as president, Knight's of Columbus member, and Little League baseball umpire, often returning to the office in the evening.

The Grotski Residence is also associated with the career of internationally recognized Alberta architect Douglas Cardinal. It was designed as a renovation and addition to an existing house in 1977 and constructed the following year. This residence contains references to his trademark curvilinear design as well the West Coast Post and Beam Style that was prevalent at the time. The design also displays Cardinal's curiosity to explore his unique stylistic inventions that include a nature-based, "organic" design aesthetic.

The Grotski Residence is also an important component in the career evolution of Douglas Cardinal who has been nationally and internationally recognized as a master architect. The design of the Grotski Residence embodies Cardinal's native identity, his association with the environment and the prairie landscape, his academic roots in the fluid designs of numerous previous architects, and his non-conventional personality.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Grotski Residence include:

Exterior

- + unique form, scale and massing;
- + expression of post and beam construction;
- + extended and overtly expressed roof beams around the perimeter of the residence;
- + large expanses of glazing between the wood clad structural columns;
- + commercial style bronze-anodized aluminum window frames;
- + unique brick-clad chimney with its double sloping shafts and arched top treatment;
- + colour and style of the brick;
- + exterior cedar cladding and its clear finish;
- + patterns of the cedar cladding;
- + covered west side porch and the wood deck that extends around the back of the residence;
- + framed main entrance door feature; and
- + broad front entrance sidewalk with its brick treads and risers.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 15718 in May 2011.

Interior

- + unique form, scale and curvilinear massing of the living room fireplace;
- + curvilinear low brick wall that separates the living room from the dining room;
- + interior steel handrails;
- + colour and style of the brick;
- + brown-coloured glazed floor tile throughout the main floor and the deliberate blurring of the distinction between indoor and outdoor floor surfaces;
- + extensive use of cedar wall, ceiling and beam cladding; and
- + geometric patterns of the cedar wall and ceiling cladding.



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