



Photo: Detail from 'Edwardton' Brook Street Coogee.
Courtesy Alan Lloyd

Coogee Art Deco Walk

Randwick City Council Coogee Art Deco Walk





1. 182 Arden Street, 'Juvina', approved for construction by Mr Edward Faes and his wife in February 1936. 'Juvina' has a prominent central entrance and is designed with a 'Skyscraper style' parapet with concentration of ornamentation at the skyline.



2. 1 'Ormond Gardens' c1941
Owned by JE Goodwin of River Street Bellevue Hill. Built on Catley's Estate. Charles Catley purchased two blocks at Coogee in 1849 and 1853. He made his fortune growing cauliflowers.



3. 195 Coogee Bay Road
This block of flats was completed in January 1939. The owner, Mr Williams, lived in Quail Street Coogee at the time of construction. The entrance portico and the feature windows are particularly ornate and typical of art deco block entrances.



4. Shops + Flats Corner Coogee Bay Road and Brook Street
Application was made in 1933 at the height of the depression to build this three storey block of flats. Mr O Rheuben of Darlinghurst was the builder and Mr Ravel of Bellevue Hill was engaged to build the property.



5. 118 Brook Street 'Glenross'
9 Flats in the block that was completed in 1939. Mr Hickson of Pitt Street Randwick was the owner. Flats are on the Thompson Subdivision. Unusually the facade detailing continues down the sides of the block as well.



6. 122-124 Brook Street 'Brook Court'
Built by GE Rush of Judge Street Randwick completed by August 1936 at a cost of £6000. 'Edwardton'
Built in 1940 for £4800 by Norman Day. A flat sold in September 2013 for \$795000.



7. 138 Brook Street c1940.
The entrance portico of these flats is quite ornate and features in brick detail one of the enduring motifs of the Art Deco era – the rising sun. A symbol of a new dawn or new era, in architecture, style and attitude.
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8. 'St Brigid's Church and Hall' corner of Brook and Waltham Streets Coogee
Architect Alfred Bates designed this church, built 1921. The land was earmarked by the local parish priest and purchased by the Catholic Church for a princely sum of £6000.



9. 72 Dudley Street
Built by Mrs E Thornton of Park Avenue Randwick, four flats and three garages were approved for construction in September 1940. It is more an example of streamline modern style, an offshoot of Art Deco.



11. 192-194 Oberon Street

Completed by August 1936, these two blocks were built by G E Dwight who lived in Denning Street Coogee at the time of construction. They are a pigeon pair built for £1800 each block. The facades have been altered to give the illusion of difference.



12. 321 Arden Street - 1938

Owner J Cantor commissioned Clemour Brothers to build this impressive block of six flats. The detail in the brickwork of the façade would have been time consuming and kept tradesmen employed during the worst days of the depression. The glass brick feature is also a hallmark of the era.



13. 26 Alexander Street

This unusual façade with yellow brick features was completed by May 1937. The owners Mr and Mrs [Frankland?] of Judge Street Randwick commissioned a block of eight flats. The yellow bricks are highly unusual.



14. 2-2A-4 Alexander Street

All built by the same speculative builder, Mr W Nielson of Pitt Street Randwick, these flats were constructed between 1937-1938. The facades were slightly modified to give the impression of difference.



15. 90 Dudley Street

More a streamline modern design but still built by Mr W Nielson of Pitt Street Randwick in 1937. Note the detail of the entrance portico fronting onto Dudley Street.



17. Crumpe Café and shops 15-17a Havelock Avenue

Built by owner M Foots, these shops and flats are designed by architect A Powell and were completed by October 1935. Notice the black and green tile detail on the front of the shops. The shops still retain their Art Deco windows and other features at street level.

Art Deco was a reaction to the organic and flowing forms of the Art Nouveau period and was characterised by a clean and minimalist style which encompassed everything from fashion and decorative arts to interior design and architecture.

Popular in the 1920s to 40s, Art Deco architecture contrasted starkly with the more ornate Victorian and Federation periods. Art Deco had a pure, no nonsense simplicity, and an uncluttered design style and has a timelessness which makes it still one of the most popular periods of design and architecture in our history. Art Deco pieces remain highly collectable.

As in greater Sydney, the 1920s-1940s saw an explosion of residential building activity in Randwick and Coogee, catering for the boom in population between the wars. Many of the blocks of flats (Gower-Galtees in Coogee Bay Road), shops (Belmore Road in Randwick) and public buildings of this era (Randwick Ritz Cinema), are examples of the Art Deco style. Art Deco architecture and objects reflected a time of unprecedented change in the world and its clean, geometric design was appealing to many in a world that would continue to rapidly change.