

The 4½-acre site is a partially wooded block sloping north towards the Lane Cove River. The building programme divided itself into two main parts—the Administration Building and the Warehouse. Both of these, being fundamentally different in use, are housed in separate buildings joined by a bridge connection which houses the Addressograph Room.

The complex of buildings is designed for extensions, toward the west additional bays of the Administration Building, toward the east additions to the Warehouse, a possible new office and light manufacturing building at a lower level on the north and a possible new production building on the eastern end of the property.

Both completed buildings are arranged along an east-west axis in order to fit easily into the contours and to face the long glazed facades of the Administration Building to north and south and the overhead roof lights of the Warehouse to the south. In this way no objectionable low-angle sun orientation of glass areas results (to the east or west).

The main entrance to the building is through a pavilion on the south side of the three-storey Administration Building placed level with the large paved car and trucking area. This pavilion houses the main reception and visitors' waiting lounge and is one half level removed from the top and middle floors of the Administration block. It is connected to the various offices by a bridge and half flights of the main staircase. This "split-level" arrangement turns the problem of a sloping site into an asset by emphasising the level differences and making a feature of them.

The Administration Building houses the various divisions of the company as well as the dyes and plastics laboratories on the top two floors. The bottom floor, level with the grass area to the north of the building, houses the Canteen and Kitchen, Caretaker's Flat, Room Reserve and various mechanical equipment rooms. This building is equipped with horizontal concrete sun protection overhangs on the north, providing com-

plete shading to all office floors during the hot months of the year. The eastern glass wall of the Reception Pavilion is protected from undue sun penetration by vertical concrete louvres. The Warehouse is a fire-proof building housing both storage and production of the various divisions on two levels. The south light roof of this building is formed by shell concrete vaults, each spanning 54' 0" with a thickness of only 3". A stair connects the two levels and provision is made for vertical connection of production processes on the two levels by a flexible steel grid floor in the production bays.

The materials used throughout the building have been selected for their complete freedom from maintenance. The entire building is constructed of reinforced concrete left 'off-the-form' on the outside with infill walls of dark grey concrete bricks. All windows are of clear anodised aluminium. A feature wall of the Reception Pavilion is faced with white quartz chips set in a CIBA product 'Araldite'. The Canteen floor also used a CIBA product for the first time in Australia—Araldite terrazzo. The interior of the building exposes some walls of the same face bricks as the interior. Partitions are in aluminium frames matching the windows with infill panels of Mountain Ash. Ceilings throughout the Administration Buildings a reof removable acoustic plaster sections interrupted by continuous recessed fluorescent light troughs. All year air conditioning is installed throughout this Administration Building.

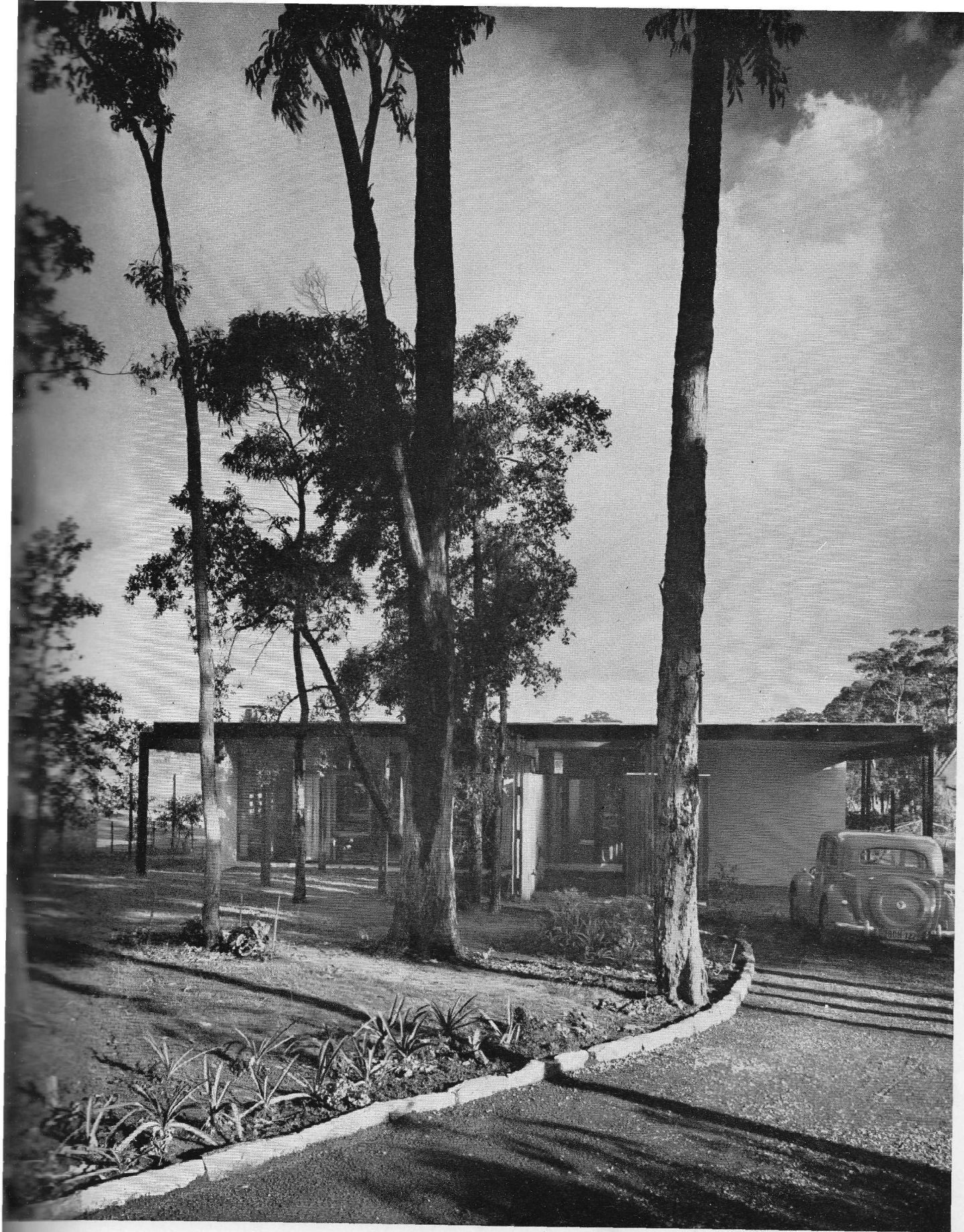
Aesthetically, the building complex combines rectilinear forms with the curves of the warehouse concrete vaults and the opposing catenary curve of the Reception Pavilion roof and loading platform shelter. The forms of the building are enhanced by a simple directness with an expression of the structure on the exterior and a complete absence of any service features such as pipes or wiring. Colour accents are provided on the interior by the orange/yellow sprayed acoustic plaster ceiling of the Reception Pavilion and by various dark feature colour walls of blue/green and brown.

House at St. Ives, New South Wales

John Allen & Russell C. Jack, Architects

An attempt has been made to integrate this house with its semi-bushland environment by using natural materials where possible; window frames are finished naturally inside and out, brick walls are bagged and painted and a feeling of openness generally flows throughout the house. The problem of the northern aspect of the site being to the street was overcome in part by retaining as many trees as possible between the house and the street and also by allowing for future planting on the terrace in front of the living room.

The building is framed with twin timber columns, timber beams at roof level connected with TECO connectors, these beams are exposed internally.



David Moore

House at St Ives, New South Wales