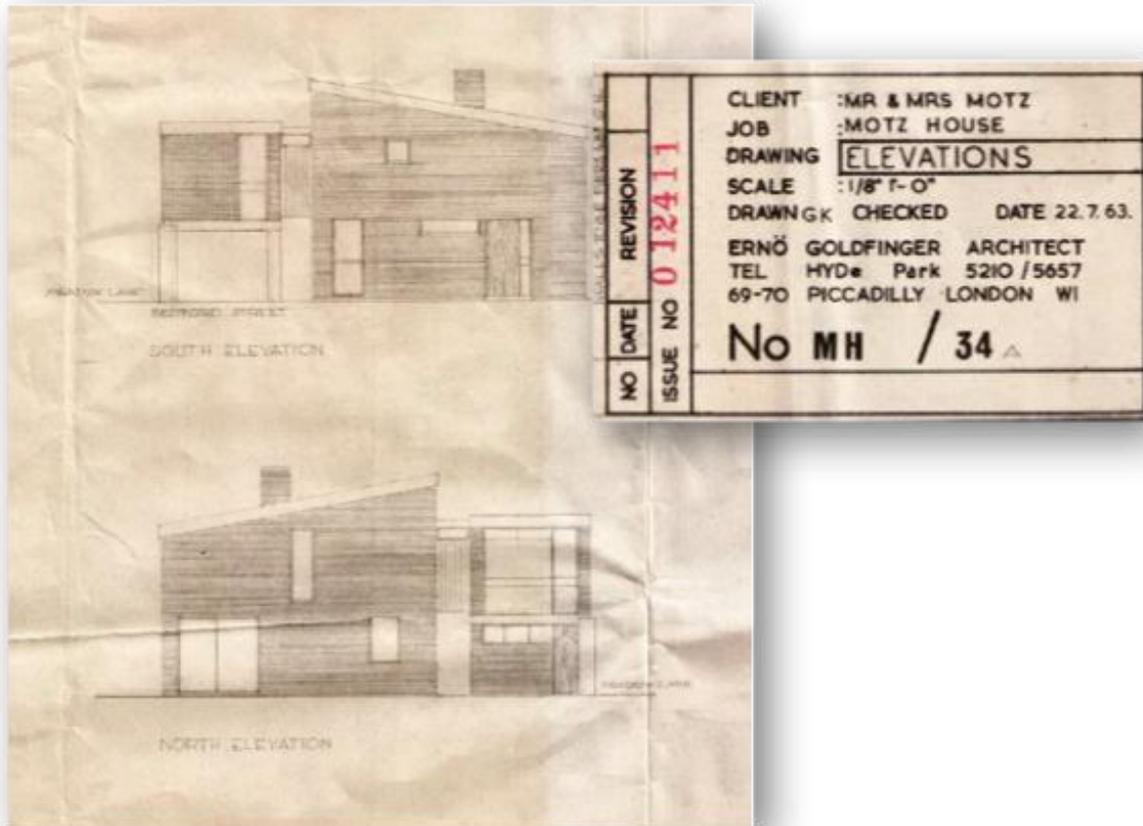


Nominate a Heritage Asset

'The Motz House' No. 16 Bedford Street



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1. WHAT IS IT? Is it one of the following?	Tick
a building or group of buildings	y
a monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)	
a place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)	
a landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)	

2. WHY IS IT INTERESTING? Is it interesting in any of the following ways?	Tick / Rank
Historic interest – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry	
Archaeological interest – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	
Architectural interest – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	y
Artistic interest – It includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including landscape design) to enhance appearance	
<p>What is it about the asset that provides this interest?</p> <p>Architectural Interest: This house, built in 1963 for the Motz family was designed by the nationally renowned architect Erno Goldfinger, who is well known as the architect of tower blocks but also produced numerous smaller houses, offices and school buildings in an unashamedly modernist style making use of reinforced concrete structures to create light and open interiors, whilst his exteriors are characterised by simple lines with high quality materials. The plans reveal that the Motz house was constructed of handmade brick with a reinforced concrete mono-pitch roof by the equally ground breaking modernist partnership of the Tecton Group. The interior was designed with Goldfinger's typical qualities including a dining room open to the roof and viewed from a gallery to the first floor sitting room that had large picture windows providing vistas across the meadows to the west. A separate block provided a washhouse and car port at ground floor level with a studio above reached via a footbridge from the sitting room. This arrangement of separate accommodation and service blocks connected by footbridges recalls the similar arrangement of Balfron and Trellick Towers (commissioned in 1966) been seen here on a smaller suburban scale.</p> <p>Further detailing includes the attractive wave forms created in the brick walls that provides the property's boundary to Meadow Lane, demonstrating an attention to detail that goes beyond the construction of the housing to the aesthetics of minor structures in its curtilage..</p>	

3. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED? Is the interest of the asset valued locally for any of the following reasons?	Tick / Rank
Association: It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area	
Illustration: It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character	y
Evidence: It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history	
Aesthetics: It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	y
Communal: It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community	
<p>How is the asset locally valued as heritage?</p> <p>Illustration: The building provides illustration of the development of Goldfinger's style and influence of the modernist movement on British suburban housing in the later 20th century.</p> <p>Aesthetics: The house provides a strong contrast to the surrounding red brick Edwardian housing. It includes attractive detailing although externally it would easily be overlooked as 'another' late 20th century suburban infill house. The building is designed to make the most of its setting by, originally, providing views over the green setting of meadows to the west (although this</p>	

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has since been replaced by the modern school.

4. WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL? Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment?	Tick
Age ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	
Rarity ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	y
Integrity ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	y
Group value ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	y
Oxford's identity ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	y
Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
<p>How does this contribute to its value?</p> <p>Rarity: The building is thought to be the only example of Goldfinger's work in Oxford, if not in the county, whilst a number of buildings of similar scale in the Chilterns have recently been criticised for the loss of key elements of their Goldfinger designs through subsequent alterations. As such it is one of a diminishing number of well-preserved small-scale works by the architect.</p> <p>Integrity: The building appears to be well preserved (externally), although it is not known whether it has received any significant alteration internally. A minor alteration has been the conversion of the former car port into a habitable room.</p> <p>Oxford's identity and Group value: In addition to its more historic architecture Oxford is notable for the range and quality of its post-war modernist architecture, numerous examples of college and university buildings that exhibit the work of many of the country's leading later 20th century architects. As a domestic building by an architect of particular note No. 16 Bedford Street is an important addition to this wider group of buildings and contributes to the identity of Oxford as a centre for architectural quality and innovation.</p>	

Sources:

Warburton, N, 2003, *Ernö Goldfinger: The Life of an Architect* (Routledge)