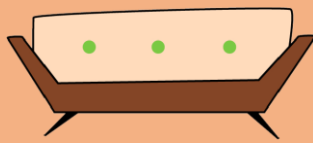
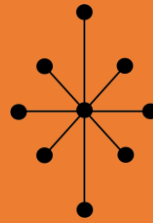


Hervey Bay

character

Fact Sheet



*Retro!
Modern!
Art Deco!*

Hervey Bay doesn't have character!

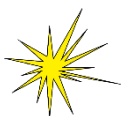
That is the first thing most people say if you tell them that Hervey Bay does in fact have character. But what is it? And how do you recognise it?

What is character?

We usually define character as:



Buildings which display architectural characteristics of a particular era, especially intact patterns and streetscapes that contain these buildings.



A neighbourhood in which the relationships between the various elements, including building types, era and spacing, the amount and type of vegetation and the street space are apparent, demonstrating a significant sense of place.

Hervey Bay: The Seaside Resort

Hervey Bay began as a small farming settlement in the 1870s. By this time Maryborough was a prominent town. People wanted to spend time by the sea and the first hotels and boarding houses opened in Pialba by the end of the decade. Although farming remained important, Hervey Bay's history and identity are defined by its popularity as a seaside resort.



Hervey Bay began to really grow when a railway was built from Colton to Pialba in 1896. The railway brought more visitors and holiday makers to the Bay. The Urangan Pier was built in 1917 and a branch railway was extended from Pialba to the pier. The small villages along the Esplanade - Scarness, Torquay and Urangan – began to grow, all with their own railway stations.

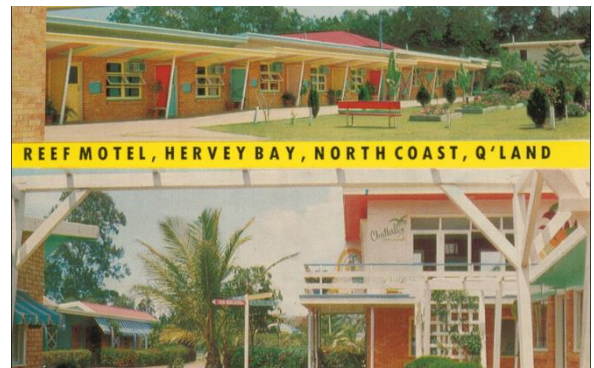


Hervey Bay in the 1930s had all the features of a modern resort. There were grand hotels in Pialba, Scarness, Torquay and Urangan; dance halls and picture theatres, including our very own

'Jazzland'; kiosks and cafes; and camping grounds and boarding houses.



However, the motor car had the biggest impact on Hervey Bay. After World War II, Australia's population boomed, incomes rose and employees enjoyed longer holidays. More people came to Hervey Bay by car and the accommodation changed to suit. Houses changed too, taking on new forms and vibrant colours.



Modern motels, flats and hotels sprung up along the Esplanade and the residential population increased. The Bay attracted investors and by the 1980s bigger resorts were planned, with the first highrise, 'Riviera', built in 1993.



Hervey Bay's Character

Hervey Bay is lucky in that it has buildings from the late 19th century through to kitsch motels from the 1970s and everything in-between. Our character is more than just buildings too; it includes our foreshore, former camping grounds and caravan parks. The examples below are only a selection of the common building styles found in Hervey Bay.

Federation



Federation houses are the more typical 'Queenslander' style with a front or return verandah that most people are familiar with. There are no commercial buildings left from that period, but there is at least one boarding house! Federation-era houses tend to be located in Pialba and Urangan because of the railway and pier.

Interwar Bungalow



Queensland's own housing style, the 'Queenslander', was updated in the Interwar period (1919-1939). Influenced by the Californian Bungalow, which

appeared in California in the 1910s, houses were designed with street-facing gables, porches and modern decorative features distinguishing it from the traditional Queenslander.

Art Deco Modern



The 1920s was a period of dynamic experimentation in architecture, fashion and art. The pastiche of styles that appeared at this time is referred to as 'Art Deco'. The style influenced almost everything, from buildings, vehicles, furniture, radios and vacuum cleaners.

The most popular style in Hervey Bay was the 'Streamline', which appeared internationally in the 1930s. The style was influenced by the aerodynamic design of ships, cars and trains. Architects applied elements such as rounded corners, porthole windows and rendered brick to reflect the smooth, sleek and modern industrial designs

Postwar Modern



The postwar period was defined by rapid growth and suburban expansion. Architects began to experiment with new approaches to building design. These changes were influenced by international developments in art and technology, especially the space race and the beginning of space exploration.

In coastal towns in Queensland the style was best represented by the so-called Beach House. Informal and inexpensive, it typified the postwar coastal lifestyle. Roofs tended to be flat, skillion, butterfly or low-pitched gable. Buildings were typically clad in fibro or narrow chamferboard. Abstract, geometric patterns and features were common, such as angled posts and fins that resembled space craft. Paint colours tended to be bright and bold.

A distinct form of holiday architecture that appeared in the 1950s is the motel. A contraction of 'motor' and 'hotel', the style became popular in Queensland resorts. It could be single or double storey.



Postwar Conventional

House construction slowed dramatically during World War II. After the war ended, the majority of house designs

were much simpler compared to the typical Queenslander house because of austerity measures introduced by the Commonwealth government during the war. Many of the new styles were the same as those built in southern states and from this time on the 'Queenslander' effectively disappeared as the preferred affordable house design.



Like the beach house, Conventional houses were typically built from fibro or chamferboard. The style was increasingly built with brick by the 1960s and the first lowset houses with a built-in garage began to appear in this decade, presaging the modern brick veneer house built all around Australia from the late 20th century. Another popular, simple style was the rectangular house with a gable roof.





Hopefully this fact sheet shows you that Hervey Bay has character, more than you might think. Keep a look out and you'll begin to spot character everywhere, especially skillion roofs and funky flats and motels. You never know what you might find...



Hotel Torquay. Hervey Bay, Q.

