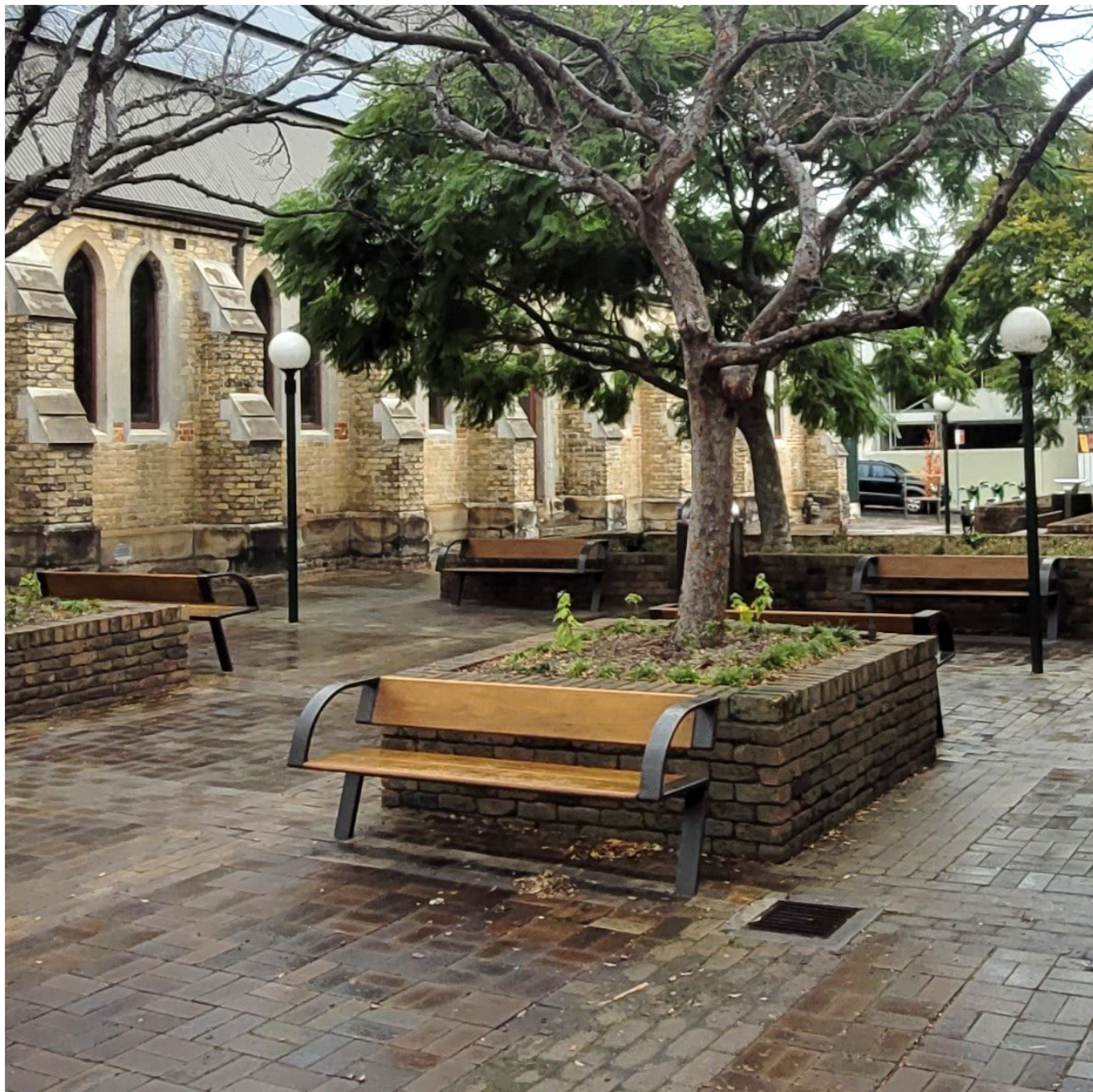


Attachment M

**TKD Heritage Assessment – Ulster Street,
Paddington**



Landscaping Ulster Street, Paddington

Heritage assessment

Prepared for City of Sydney

January 2026



TKD Architects acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and create, recognising their continuing and unbroken connection to the land, water and sky.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and express our gratitude for their sharing of knowledge and cultures.

Cover

Photograph by Matthew Taylor

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1 Aerial location image (top) and aerial detail image of the Ulster Street landscaping
Source: Nearmap with TKD Architects overlay.



1 Introduction

1.1 Background and purpose of report

This report has been prepared on behalf of the City of Sydney to assess the heritage significance of landscaping in Ulster Street, Paddington. The property was identified as a potential heritage item in the Albert Smillie and Ilmar Berzins City Architect and City Landscape Architect Heritage Study (TKD Architects and Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects, October 2023). Ulster Street is located in the Paddington South Heritage Conservation Area (C48).

The assessment of heritage significance has been undertaken using the heritage assessment criteria contained in the New South Wales Heritage Office Guidelines, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (2023),

1.2 Site description

Ulster Street is a small street closure between Oxford Street and Church Place in Paddington. It is rectangular in shape and is bounded on the south-eastern side by the St Matthias Church Hall. A two-storey residential building defines the street's north-western boundary. Both buildings are located on the site boundary, with their main orientation relating to Oxford Street.

The design of the street closure consists of a formally laid out brick paved plaza with four raised rectangular brick garden beds. Located in these planters, mature Chinese Weeping Elm and two Jacarandas form a treed canopy through the street closure. The layout of the brick paving is characterised by a strict rectangular grid that is highlighted with a contrasting lighter brick colour. There is minor planting in the raised garden beds of a ground cover nature.



2 View of the Ulster Street landscaping, looking south through the space.

2 Historical context

The Ulster Street Road closure is one of a series of road closures undertaken by the City of Sydney in the 1970s and 1980s. Locally, the road closure is part of a series of road closures along the southern side of Oxford Street, Paddington that were part of Action Plan 26 South Paddington Precinct C4, approved by Council on 2 July 1973. The streets selected for closure were Regent Street, Newcombe Street (subsequently partially reopened), Elizabeth Street (Strong Memorial Reserve), Ulster Street and Stewart Street. The locations of these road closures were deliberate as they are located adjacent or close to the busy Oxford Street, a main arterial road. The road closures recognised and enabled pedestrian priority as an ongoing outcome of the City Council's 1971 'Greening of Sydney' plan, and were closed as part of a traffic management initiative after lobbying by the Paddington Society to prevent constant "rat-running" from Oxford Street to Moore Park Road. The closures evidently improved amenity for residents.¹ Prior to the road closure, Ulster Street formed a minor road that linked Oxford Street through to Church Lane.

Documentation describing the closure and attendant landscaping was prepared in 1974. Ilmar Berzins was involved with the project – his signature appears as Chief Technical Officer on the drawings prepared by the Council's Parks and Recreations Department.

The demand for increased pedestrian amenity through the city was the result of social changes and the impact of gentrification where former working-class neighbourhoods such as Paddington, Ultimo and Glebe had been rediscovered by a new (generally) middle class educated generation as convenient places to live. Along with the street closures and increased pedestrian amenity was the extensive street tree planting that was undertaken through the city. This had the effect of increasing the aesthetic and ecological values of the place and thereby attracting further middle-class people to the areas.

Significant road closures were being instigated across the city, Martin Place being the most prominent example with the final stages being opened in 1979. Road closures and rationalisation of road alignments to allow for greater pedestrian amenity were just some of the measures that were undertaken. Taking advantage of Sydney's irregular grid for example, the corner of Hunter and Bligh Streets, where the memorial to the Reverend Richard Johnson occupied a traffic island, was incorporated as part of an extended pedestrian pathway while retaining traffic functions for the intersection.

Other methods of extending further pedestrian amenity included blisters on corners that in some cases incorporated street planting, raised pedestrian crossings and the like. Planting to streets were generally of Australian native species with Paperbarks, Eucalypts, Callistemons and Casuarinas widely used across the city in both the public domain and residential areas.

Exotic species, notably London Plane trees and Chinese Weeping Elms, were extensively used for their deciduous habit and were allocated to more urban areas such as Central Sydney. These species were also used extensively across Sydney suburbs, with minor variations and reflected the social and political attitudes of the time with an emphasis on Australian natives. The focus on Australian native was further encouraged by the election of the Labor Federal Government in 1972 as part of a broader national identity. Many of the natives were cultivars



3 Looking down Ulster Street towards Gordon Street, 3 May 1961. St Matthias Church Hall is visible at left.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00007270.

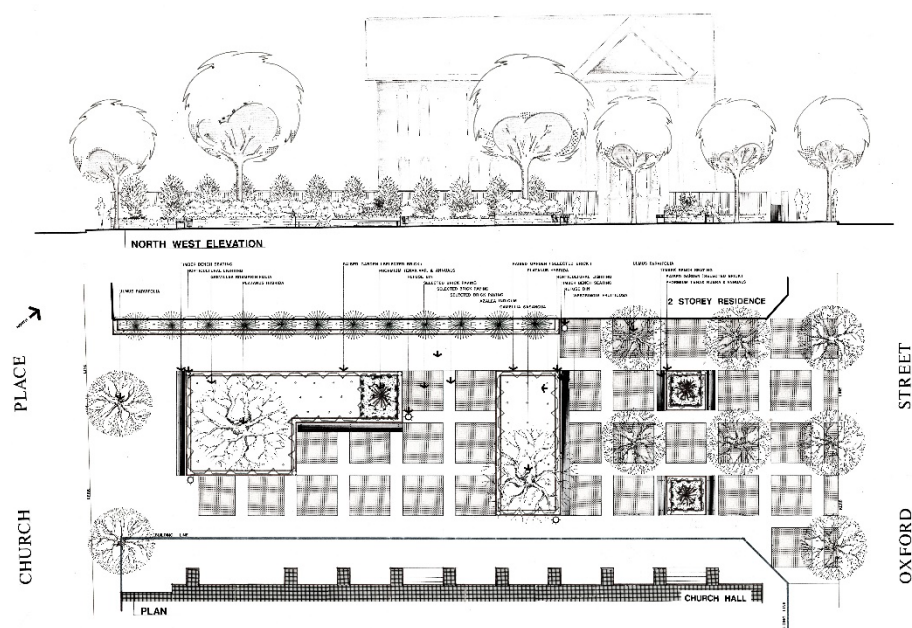


4 Looking north-east from Gordon Street along Ulster Street to Oxford Street, 22 November 1972.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00017626.

¹ "A brief history of the Paddington Society" at <https://paddingtonsociety.org.au/paddington/our-history/> accessed 14 July 2025.

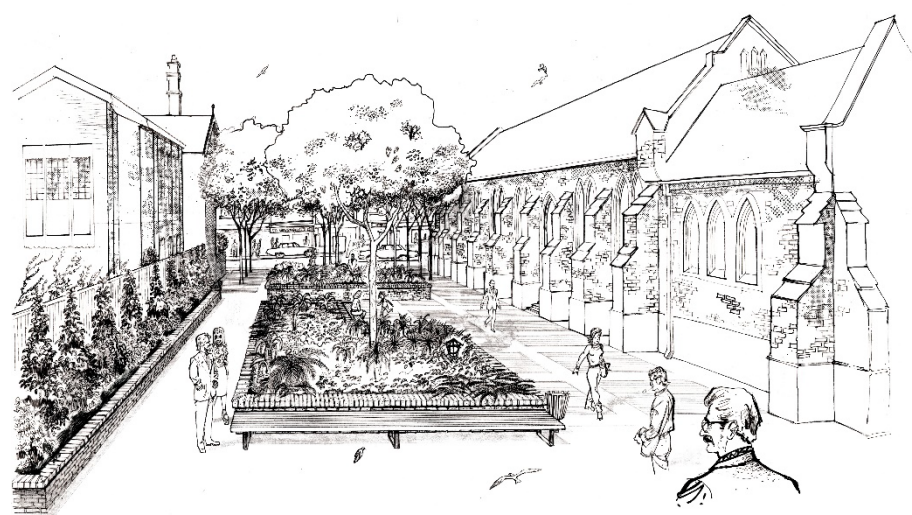
from across Australia (Grevillea "Robyn Gordon", a cultivar from Western Australia for example) that had shown resilience to a wide range of conditions found in public landscapes where maintenance was not a high priority. These species and others became the staple for the new generation of landscape architects that were graduating from universities.

It is noted on the original plans that instead of the existing Jacaranda trees that are located to the southern portion of the closure, London Plane trees were proposed. The Chinese Weeping Elm trees were retained as per the concept plan. Under planting consisted of Australian native shrubs such as *Grevillea rosemarinifolia* with some Azaleas to the side of the closure. This selection of shrubs reflects species that were widely used through both the public domain and private holdings. Photographs show the mature canopy of Chinese Weeping Elms and Jacarandas. The original seating shown that is very similar to the timber seats that were installed in Fitzroy Gardens.



- 5 Initial plan of landscaping at the Ulster Street closure. The layout of the paving responds to the buttressing of the adjacent St Matthais Church Hall. Ilmar Berzsins signature appears as chief technical officer. The drawing is dated 2 July 1974.

Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-01200749.



- 6 Perspective rendering of the Ulster Street road closure. Note the formal nature of the layout and clear sightlines along the street shown.

Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-0120074.



- 7 Left: 1943 aerial view of Ulster Street, a short connecting vehicular thoroughfare between Oxford Street and Church Lane. There is a lack of vegetation to all streets in the vicinity with some limited planting associated with St Matthais Church grounds.
 Right: this 1971 aerial view of Ulster Street shows that it remained essentially unchanged from 1943.
 Source: https://www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/products_and_services/aerial_and_historical_imagery with TKD Architects overlay.



- 8 Left: 1982 aerial view of Ulster Street. The distinctive grid of the brick paving is evident along with immature tree canopies in the reserve. There is evidence of some limited street tree planting to Gordon Street and private plantings to selected terrace house backyards.
 Right: 1986 aerial view of Ulster Street. There is evidence of the maturing of the tree canopies within the reserve with some further planting noted in the adjacent streets and the two churches St Matthais and St Francis. The two Jacaranda trees are noted to the southern section of the reserve.
 Source: https://www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/products_and_services/aerial_and_historical_imagery with TKD Architects overlay.



- 9 2005 aerial view of Ulster Street. The canopies of the trees within the reserve have matured with a substantial tree canopy to the Oxford Street entry. Substantial plantings are evident in the church properties, the extension of Ulster Street to the south, streets and private plantings terrace house gardens.
- Source:
https://www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/products_and_services/aerial_and_historical_imagery with TKD Architects overlay.

3 Physical evidence

The Ulster Street road closure extends from Oxford Street to the north to Church Lane to the south. The place retains the original formal character of raised planters constructed out of clinker bricks and the formal grid of brick paving. Of note is the extension of the formal brick grid to the Oxford Street kerb, thus extending the form and character of the reserve in to the main public domain of Oxford Street.

The built form adjacent to the reserve remains comprising the 19th century context of the St Matthais Church Hall to the southeastern side and the two storey terrace house to the northwestern side.

The raised planters are of clinker brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern terminated with a brick header course. The detailing of the planters is consistent with Fitzroy Gardens in Kings Cross, undertaken by Berzins in 1971 as part of the upgrading of that park.

Planting consists of the Chinese Weeping Elm trees in the planters to the north of the closure and two Jacaranda trees in the southern portion. Underplanting consists of newly planted ground covers and reflects an ongoing refurbishment of the place that responds to changes in shade density as the trees mature and the need for underplanting to adjust to the environmental conditions.

Seats are located adjacent to the raised garden beds that are of a design used by the City of Sydney from the early 2000s and were purpose-designed by Alex Tzannes for the City.



10 Looking south-west along Ulster Street from Oxford Street.
Source: Matthew Taylor.

4 Comparative analysis

4.1 Ilmar Berzins

Ilmar Berzins (1921-1993) was born in Latvia.² He studied horticulture at the State Horticultural College in Riga, Latvia and landscape architecture at the State Horticultural College and University of Technology in Hanover, Germany. He, along with his wife Lucija (and son Alnis) arrived in Melbourne on 23 February 1949. Migration records indicate the family's destination as "Hazelhome" in Orange, the home of the Sampson family.³ While in Orange Berzins worked in the Email Ltd whitegoods factory to pay off the bond for the fares to Australia. During this time Berzins prepared a master plan and nominated plantings for the Orange Golf Course:

Something between two and three thousand trees and shrubs have been planted since 1949 – pines, elms, magnolias, chestnuts, crab-apples, flowering cherries and prunuses, rhododendrons, berry-bushes, viburnums, azaleas and a multitude of others. The plantings have been carried out under the supervision of Elmar [sic] Berzins, who has had wide European experience in landscape-planning.⁴

Ilmar Berzins and his family moved to Sydney in 1951. Berzins started working at Sydney Municipal Council on 13 June as a first-grade draftsman. His recruitment by the Council is widely said to be the first employment by local government of a formally trained landscape architect in Australia. According to pioneering landscape architect Allan Correy,

... he brought Modernist European design styles to a city desperately seeking innovative civic design ideas. Berzins was given many opportunities to create new community spaces and redesign existing parks. He developed a distinctive style that incorporated free-form shapes. Sandstone book-leaf walling, naturally sculpted boulders, water-worn pebbles, and strongly contrasting plant forms and textures, all artistically arranged to form pleasing compositions, a marked contrast to the traditional council designs of that time. His most important designs were completed during the 1950s and 1960s...⁵

In 1953 Ilmar Berzins was promoted to senior draftsman. He and Lucija became naturalised citizens in April 1958.⁶ His abilities were recognised by the City Council, and he was promoted to supervising draftsman in 1964, followed by assistant landscape architect in 1966. He was promoted to chief technical officer in 1971, followed in 1984 by promotion to Director of Parks and Gardens. In this role he would advise external consultants on major urban projects. Berzins retired in 1986.

Ilmar Berzins was described by his colleague John Sweaney as "very flamboyant, probably one of the best draughtsmen and most knowledgeable person associated with horticulture that I'd encountered".⁷ According to landscape architect and urban designer Tempe McGowan, "[Berzins] held the passionate belief that all people need to enjoy nature and that nature in turn



11 Ilmar Berzins, 1949.
Source: National Archives of Australia, Series A2571, ID 203663834.

2 His name appears as Ilmars Berzins on immigration records held at the National Archives of Australia.

3 National Archives of Australia Series A2571, ID 203663834

4 "Golf and Blossom", *The Bulletin*, 21 October 1953, p.4.

5 Allan Correy, "Berzins, Ilmars" in Richard Aitken and Michael Looker (editors), *Oxford Companion to Australia Gardens* (Oxford University Press in association with the Australian Garden History Society, 2002), p.87.

6 Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, 'Certificates of Naturalization,' Thursday 24 Apr 1958 [Issue No.23], Page 1261.

7 John Sweaney, Interviewed by Jo Kijas on 8 May 2012 (City of Sydney oral history collection), quoted in biography of Ilmars Berzins provided by the City of Sydney.

can ameliorate the human temperament ... His designs were socially responsive and typical of trends in international, modernist design culture in the way he created little arcadian retreats in the city wilderness.”⁸

Berzins' abilities were suited to the task, for he had the unwavering aim of introducing nature into the city and he instigated very liberal planting programs. His aesthetic was not related to Australian indigenous landscapes, instead introducing a European sensibility to the thoughtful design of public open spaces in Sydney, detailing his landscape designs in a way that was unprecedented in public works. Over the many years which his career spanned, Berzins gradually utilised more Australian natives and applied the principles of the Sydney Bush School of landscape architecture.

4.2 Comparative reserves

Ilmar Berzins' time with the City of Sydney coincided with a later twentieth century movement toward pedestrianizing public spaces or closing sections of road to expand public space. According to Andrew Briger, former Deputy Lord Mayor and an important figure in the formulation of the 1971 City of Sydney Strategic Plan,

In December 1971 a new Floor Space Ratio Code and a Parking Code were approved and the long-term process of implementing the integrated city-wide pedestrian network commenced following the closure of the first section of Martin Place to vehicular traffic. This led to numerous streetscape improvements in what was referred to as the “greening” of the city. Most notable amongst these were Sydney Square, the Circular Quay and Dixon Street (Chinatown) malls, Railway Square, Wynyard Place and the street closures of South Paddington, Surry Hills, Chippendale, Pyrmont, Elizabeth Bay and the Fitzroy Gardens extensions at Potts Point.⁹

Berzins designed the layout and landscape treatment of a number of such pedestrianising schemes. Some notable streetscape upgrades designed by or under Berzins include landscaping to public space in Ulster Street, Paddington (1974), the street closure and landscaping for Springfield Avenue, Kings Cross (1983) and streetscape treatment of Macquarie Place and Macquarie Place Park (1975).

The following reserves provide a comparative context for the street closure and works undertaken at Ulster Street. Examples in Paddington that are contemporary with Ulster Street include Newcombe, Stewart, Regent and Elizabeth Street (Strong Memorial Reserve).

Strong Memorial Reserve, Paddington

Located between Oxford Street and Elizabeth Street leading to Gordon Street, Strong Memorial Reserve is characterised by a formed grassed mound as a focal centrepiece. The reserve features the memorial fountain *Boy with Paddle* that was the first drinking fountain installed in a suburb in New South Wales in 1881. It was reinstalled in 1968 as part of the park works. The reserve is one a series of pedestrian open spaces through road closures that were formed to the southern side of Oxford Street during this time. Concrete unit pavers and concrete edge blocks are used for the reserve, this contrasting to the use of brick paving in Ulster Street.



12 Elizabeth Street, Paddington, looking towards Oxford Street, November 1972. Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00011939.

8 Tempe McGowan, 'Humanising the City', *Monument*, Issue No. 25, 1998, p.58.

9 Andrew Briger, "The Politics of Planning" in Peter Webber (editor), *The Design of Sydney: Three Decades of Change in the City Centre* (Law Book Company, 1988), p.52.



- 13 Circa 1977 photograph of the Strong Memorial Reserve. It remains intact in its layout and concept.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00063314.



- 14 Photograph taken in March 1988 showing the memorial fountain (Boy with Paddle) and its relationship to the Strong Memorial Reserve.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A- A-00060069.

Regent Street Closure, Paddington

Located between Gordon Street and Oxford Street, the Regent Street closure was being planned during 1975 but only completed in 1982. It is characterised by substantial mature evergreen street trees, a broad brick paved area that links Oxford Street to Regent Street, seating and supplementary planting to the sides of the closure. Regent Street closure forms part of the pattern of road closures on the southern side of Oxford Street.



15 Above: the Regent Street closure after completion, 1982.

Left: perspective sketch of the Regent Street closure. The drawing is dated 20 March 1975.

Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-01200752.

Newcombe Street closure, Paddington

Newcombe Street is adjacent to Paddington Uniting Church, the scene of the Paddington Markets since 1973. The street was the subject of a plan for temporary closure using movable planter boxes and seating in 1973.¹⁰ The north-eastern end of the street is understood to have been closed off and planted with trees and was regularly used for Market activities. A strip of lawn extended south-west along one side of Newcombe Street to Gordon Street. Following community consultation, in 2016 the northern-eastern end of the street was re-opened to vehicular traffic and some Jacaranda trees planted.¹¹ The south-western end of the street was closed to vehicular traffic at this time.

Fitzroy Gardens, Kings Cross

This area was part of the 1841 subdivision of Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay's 54-acre Elizabeth Bay Estate. The first stage of the park was the site of Osterley at 62 Macleay Street which was built in the 1870s and demolished in 1927. It was resumed and landscaped in 1939 and named Fitzroy Gardens after the Fitzroy Ward of the City of Sydney, named after NSW Governor Sir Charles FitzRoy. The park was enlarged with the purchase of Maramanah at 64 Macleay Street in 1943. This house was built in the 1860s and demolished in 1954, at the same time as the council resumed the house known as Tenilba at 60 Macleay Street. In 1959 the Florence Bartley Library was built on the site of Tenilba and in 1961 the El Alamein Fountain was added to the park.

Fitzroy Gardens was considerably extended in 1975 with a portion of Elizabeth Bay Road closed to traffic. Prior to the road closure in 1975, the park was substantially upgraded in 1971 with extensive paving, raised planters, planting and sitting areas. These works were undertaken under the direction of Berzins and indicated an evolving style of landscape design that reflected

¹⁰ City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-01200745. The drawing is dated 9 November 1973.

¹¹ "Newcombe Street upgrade works" at <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/improving-streets-public-spaces/newcombe-street-upgrade-works> accessed 14 July 2025.

contemporary needs for a park in an urban setting. Details reflect the influence of the “Sydney School” of architecture that was popular at the time, such as the selection of brickwork. The works also reflected Berzins’ interest in broader horticultural trends in the use of Bird-of-Paradise plants and other exotic species.



16 1980s photograph of Fitzroy Gardens showing raised planters, extensive paving and urban nature of park as instigated by Berzins.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00012065.

Richard Johnson Square, Sydney

From the beginning of the 1970s the City of Sydney initiated several streetscape projects in Central Sydney that involved closing sections of streets, one of the outcomes of its 1971 Strategic Plan. It contained 16 major policies that dealt with the economic, social and physical environment of the city. In some ways the Strategic Plan mirrored post-war European planning practice, which embraced car-free spaces and pedestrianisation of shopping and civic places. Successful initiatives included the following:

- the pedestrianisation of Martin Place, which took place in several stages between 1968 and 1979.
- the incorporation of Macquarie Place into the adjoining Macquarie Place Park, circa 1974.
- the formation of public open space by the closure and landscaping of Farrer Place, documented in 1976 by the City of Sydney.
- The eastern section of Wynyard Street, which was closed to traffic and transformed into a pedestrian plaza in 1973. It is known as Regimental Square.
- Closure of Dixon Street and conversion to a pedestrian mall, which opened in 1980.



17 Macquarie Place following its closure and conversion to pedestrian space. The photograph was taken in August 1974.
Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-0001372.

Richard Johnson Square, at the intersection of Hunter and Bligh Streets, is named in honour of Australia’s first Anglican clergyman in Australia, Richard Johnson. It is reputedly the site of Australia’s first church, erected in 1793 and destroyed by fire five years later. In October 1908 members of the Anglican Church hierarchy committed to the erection of a memorial to the first church on its site. The City Council reserved the site in March 1909 and then granted it in November 1911. In February 1916 details of a splendid octagonal Gothic spire were released. Little happened until August 1924, when a revised design by architect John Burcham Clamp, was submitted to the City Council. The memorial was completed around May 1925. For about 50 years the memorial remained a small island separating the flow of traffic at the intersection. The

platform around the monument was enlarged and integrated with the Bligh Street footpath in 1974. The simple, economical and very effective works were designed in the architectural office of Clarke Gazzard Pty Ltd. Architect, which was also involved in the pedestrianisation of Martin Place.



18 Pedestrian space created by the street closure and landscaping works at Richard Johnson Square, circa 1980.

Source: City of Sydney Archives Unique ID A-00012866, photographers Diane Graham, John Garth.

4.3 Conclusions

Ulster Street, Paddington, is representative of the social undertaking in the greening cities movement that was prevalent in the mid to late 20th century. Ulster Street was part of the Action Plan 26 South Paddington Precinct C4 of 1973 that created the road closures along Oxford Street, others being Regent Street, Newcombe Street, Elizabeth Street and Stewart Street. This action formed a deliberate and comprehensive achievement to prioritise pedestrian amenity within the local government area. The formal design of the paving and planter layout and materiality tracks the project stimulus of Fitzroy Gardens as an evolving design for urban spaces. The design is reflective of the influence of the "Sydney School" architectural aesthetic on landscape design (the "bush school"). This is reflected in the use of materials such as clinker bricks, a counterpoint to the nineteenth century setting of Paddington.

5 Assessment of heritage significance

5.1 Assessment

Historical significance

Criterion A An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Ulster Street, Paddington, is part of a series of street closures from the 1970s that continued into the 1980s to pedestrianise urban precincts as part of the City Council's "Greening Sydney" policy, formalised in the 1971 City of Sydney Strategic Plan and its attendant Action Plans. It forms part of a series of contemporary landscaped road closures to the southern side of Oxford Street, Paddington.

Ulster Street Paddington has social/historical significance in relation to urban and conservation measures in Paddington. The gentrification and resultant demand for community open space is embodied through the displacement of vehicular access for communal use, and resulted from agitation from the Paddington Society during the 1970s. This resulted in the closure and landscaping of Ulster, Newcombe, Stewart, Regent and Elizabeth Street, of which Ulster Street is the finest.

Ulster Street fulfils this criterion at a Local level.

Historical associations

Criterion B An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance to NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Ulster Street, Paddington, is associated with Ilmar Berzins, the City of Sydney landscape architect who was responsible for extensive improvement works throughout the City of Sydney from the beginning of the 1950s to the second half of the 1980s. It is a distinctive example of his work related to street closures.

Ulster Street meets the threshold for listing at a Local level.

Aesthetic significance

Criterion C An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Ulster Street, Paddington is a formal landscape treatment informed by the so-called "Sydney School". It is representative of the application of the Sydney School aesthetic, most evidently the use of a type of clinker brick for the planter boxes and brick paving. The selection of materials brought design elements of the Sydney School into an established 19th century urban context. Ulster Street continues the design themes exemplified in Ilmar Berzins' significant redesign of Fitzroy Gardens in Kings Cross (circa 1971), notably the use of raised planters as a solution in urban areas to raise trees above the urban floor.

Ulster Street fulfils this criterion at a Local level.

Social significance

Criterion D An item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Ulster Street, along with the other contemporary street closures in Paddington, is evidence of the gentrification of the suburb during the 1960s and 1970s. Although it may be of significance to the community, more research is required to establish this.

Research potential

Criterion E An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Ulster Street has limited research potential as a demonstration of the attitudes to, and the design and implementation of, landscaped street closures in the 1970s and 1980s in the City of Sydney. Ulster Street provides evidence of the successful implementation of Action Plan 26 South Paddington Precinct C4.

Ulster Street meets the threshold for listing at a Local level.

Rarity

Criterion F An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Ulster Street is not a rare example of a 1970s landscaped street closure in the City of Sydney and does not meet the threshold for listing at a State or Local level.

Representativeness

Criterion G An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or local area's) cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environment.

Ulster Street is representative of street closures from 1970s and 1980s resulting from implementation of Action Plans associated with the 1971 City of Sydney Strategic Plan and is distinctive for its formal character established by the gridded brick paving and planter boxes.

Ulster Street meets the threshold for listing at a Local level.

5.2 Statement of significance

Ulster Street, Paddington, is historically significant as one of a series of street closures from the 1970s that continued into the 1980s to pedestrianise urban precincts, formalised in the 1971 City of Sydney Strategic Plan and its attendant Action Plans. It forms part of a series of contemporary landscaped road closures to the southern side of Oxford Street, Paddington. Ulster Street also has social/historical significance in relation to urban and conservation measures in Paddington during the 1970s. Ulster Street is associated with the significant City of Sydney landscape architect Ilmar Berzins and is a distinctive example of his work related to street closures.

Ulster Street, Paddington is a formal landscape treatment informed by the so-called "Sydney School" and is representative of the application of the Sydney School aesthetic. It demonstrates attitudes to, and the design and implementation of, landscaped street closures in the 1970s and 1980s in the City of Sydney. It is representative of street closures from 1970s and 1980s and is distinctive for its formal character established by gridded brick paving and planter boxes.

6 Conclusions

Ulster Street, Paddington fulfils the NSW Heritage Council's criteria for historical association, aesthetics, research potential and representativeness at a local level. It is also likely to fulfil the criterion for social significance. Because of this it warrants listing as a heritage item in Schedule 5 of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012.