



THE MORTONS AND CAVE HOUSE

years groups guided by knowledgeable architects and permaculturalists have enjoyed pre-arranged visits to unusual, environmentally sustainable, mostly handmade private homes and gardens. This initiative has a difference, however, in that local artists have been invited to create site specific works for the one afternoon when the house is open to visitors.

Modern Art Projects (MAP), the group co-ordinating this program of open houses is Billy Gruner, Sarah Keighery, Sarah Breen Lovett, Nicola Walkerden and David Haines. Jacqueline Drinkall has brought together the artworks which include her own under the title *Eco Spirit* and featuring Alex Wisser, Ben Denham, Beata Geyer/James Culkin, Bim Morton, Fiona Davies, Georgie Pollard, Gianni Wise, John Douglas, Locust Jones, Paul Greedy/Tom Ellard, Sarah-Jane Norman, Sarah Keighery and Vicky Browne.

Deirdre and Ivor Morton will talk to visitors about the design of the house and their life together there and present owners Cristina Ricca and biologist John Porter will talk about the home and its gardens.

Morton House, originally called Cave House, was built by Deirdre and Ivor Morton in 1979 in an organic modernist style influenced by Griffin's Chicago Prairie School. They had spent their early years in the Walter Burley Griffin estate in Castlecrag, the centre of an influential circle of artists, architects and bohemians.

Morton House open day is on Sunday 6 April from 1—5 pm. Visitor numbers will be limited to prior registration through eventbrite or info@modernartprojects.org or telephone 0431 434 904.

MAP is supported by the Blue Mountains City of the Arts Trust Cultural Partnerships Program.

Several years ago I was taken on a visit by an architect friend to an extraordinary house in Woodford in the Blue Mountains. The house isn't visible from the road—the only built structure that could be seen was a garage, providing an intriguing entrance to a secret place. The house was designed and built by the occupants at that time, Deirdre and Ivor Morton, firmly bedded in the timeless rocks of these ancient Mountains and overlooking a typical Blue Mountains rugged and steep valley, its bushland seemingly impenetrable and with a distant view of the civilisation of the city on the horizon. At least that is my memory.

To me the house had a fifties feel, handmade mudbrick walls, handcrafted furniture, tiles, pots, rugs, artworks, plants inside and out, including a roof garden of Australian natives and an atrium. A refuge, a haven almost as we might imagine our early ancestors to have created. Kevin McCloud would love this magical place.

And now more people are about to experience the delight of this unique home and other similar remarkable places in the Blue Mountains. Organised visits to special homes in the Mountains are not a new idea—for many

