

Home

9 Leopard Street, Kangaroo Point

Home is a grand 2-storey Federation era residence perched on the Kangaroo Point Cliffs high above the Brisbane River. It was designed by notable Brisbane architect Alexander Brown Wilson for John Lamb, co-proprietor of Edwards & Lamb. The red brick house erected in 1902–03 features Queen Anne-style ornate wraparound verandahs and a prominent observatory tower above its impressive entry.

Navigational hint: on the downstream side of the Captain Cook Bridge, look up to see a large residence with a red-tiled roof and observatory tower.

The Queen Anne style brought more elaborate flourishes to the Federation era and was highly favoured by wealthy merchants and industrialists of the late 19th Century. John Lamb's successful Edwards & Lamb drapery business traded in in several buildings at the top of Queen Street, Brisbane from c. 1881 until well into the mid-20th Century. Edwards & Lamb was a forerunner to Brisbane's large department stores and introduced retail innovations such as a cash-and-carry system and mail order service for country customers. The firm supported workers' rights by being active in a campaign for shorter working hours for retail employees. It also introduced a superannuation scheme and additional holidays around Christmas time.

Home, also known as Lamb House, remained in the Lamb family until 2021. New owners have undertaken major restorations to return the landmark residence to its former splendour.

The substantial face brick residence displays features typical of the Federation-era Queen Anne style, such as asymmetrical design, complex projecting gables with timber detailing, bay windows and highly decorated timber verandahs with cast iron balustrades. The 4-storey observatory tower is a landmark feature above an impressive portico entry with moulded concrete columns and pediment. The interior is also resplendent with pressed metal ceilings, ornate plasterwork, and detailed lead lighting that includes a laylight above a dramatic and stately red cedar staircase that is central to the arrangement of rooms.