

Purpose

The challenge of this project was that the client wanted more house, but with less building. Within an already dense inner city terrace site, she wanted a courtyard, a garden, a carpark, and a house that could be her home, her workplace and have the flexibility to accommodate her adult children.

Client Testimonials

"I often sit in the house and marvel at what was done with it. The spaces were so thoughtfully put together and wonderfully connected to the new courtyard. It simply fits so well with the way I live, both inside and outside."

Solution

This project's design accommodates this contemporary and complex household – not by adding floorspace – but by providing new amenity and flexibility. The way we renewed this dwelling was by creating new kinds of spaces within the existing home – a provision of variety rather than an addition of area. In this way the house could be expanded while its site coverage was reduced.

The kitchen was renovated and a flexible study/bedroom room was built at the rear of the house within the volume of an existing stable. Two bathrooms were added, one at the front, and a smaller one at the rear that serviced the flexible room. This allowed the room to operate independently from the rest of the house. With a street front and a rear laneway, the house could be accessed from either end, meeting at a central kitchen/dining area - the house's hub.

In a sense, the largest addition overall was the courtyard. It provided a garden, a service area and entertaining spaces, and is characterized by the materiality of the dwelling's history.

Together, the reconfigurations of the existing house, the courtyard to garden and entertain, and the flexible study/guest room provided all the places to fit the bits, pieces and people of her life.

Project Specifications

Architect/Author Antarctica
Project Director Simon Whibley
Project Team Simon Whibley, Nicola Garrod, Ben Inman,
Builder Grant Runting
Engineer Ketih Long and Associates
Client Belinda Probert

Date completed
2008

Location
Fitzroy, Melbourne

Services Provided
Concept Design
Planning Permit Documentation
Contract Documentation and Building Permit
Construction Administration

Key materials
Fielders Galvanised Super Six Profile Metal Roofing and Cladding
Cedar Double Glazed Windows
Sydney Blue Gum Flooring and
Briggs Sustainable Joinery Veneers in Sydney Blue Gum and Hoop Pine
Victorian Ash Kitchen Benchtop

Awards, publications & press
ReHousing – 24 Housing Projects, Melbourne 2009

