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INCREDIBLE HOUSES

CONTEXT-DRIVEN PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD

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VOLUME ZERO

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about volume zero

Volume Zero is an international design magazine website that strives to exhibit worthwhile architectural and design work of numerous architects and designers all over the globe. A community created by designers for designers. A platform to empower, encourage and inspire the talented youth, students and professionals. We are a publishing house and hold international architecture and design competitions, events and news so that people constantly challenge themselves to reach greater heights. It engages with content regarding architecture and interior design, pushes the envelope for design thinking while experimenting with contemporary avenues of design in the current times. For more details and insights, visit the website - volzero.com.

introduction

The making of a house is an elaborate process. It involves intensive engagement and the responsibility of creating spaces that add to the identity and the comfort of the individuals that inhabit them. The idea behind this compilation was to capture some of the best designed houses across the world. The projects included are set in a wide variety of contexts, from the vast expanse of hills in Nasik, suburbs in Fremantle, Australia to compact, populated streets of Noida. They respond to starkly different set of briefs and functional requirements. The firms undertaking the projects also hugely vary in terms of their scope, size, market experience as well as ideologies. From young firms that are testing the waters and experimenting with their practice to well established practices that have worked their way up through years of experimentation and engagement. However, the key concept that binds them together is the rich spatial experience that they create, their unique and evolved formal as well as contextual strategies and thorough execution of their design ideas. The projects show an exemplary understanding on the application of materials that are climate-responsive. These small-scale, residential projects have key ideas that either came up while engaging with the site or clients. The beauty of these projects lie in the the ideology that has been implemented through design and further explored both functionally and aesthetically. Real-time issues like ventilation, privacy, civil law constraints and regulations are bound seamlessly with the key idea. The compilation focuses on shedding light on the thought processes involved in the making of form and resolution of spaces. The result is the creation of spaces that are aesthetically justified, functional without compromising on the form and contextual while maintaining international quality standards.

08

AUSTRALIA

Philip Stejskal Architecture

Fremantle, Australia



PHILIP STEJSKAL

Philip Stejskal Architecture is an award-winning practice founded in Fremantle, Western Australia, whose focus is on creating spaces that are thoughtfully tailored. Their expertise is to bring innovative solutions to client's constraints, by recognising inherent opportunities and facilitating rich outcomes. They offer a full design and project management service for small to medium scaled buildings across all sectors, with particular experience in residential & public architecture. Their ideological starting point is an engagement with the notion of spatial well-being: an insistence that good design blends pragmatic, intellectual and emotional aspirations. They are a small yet versatile team with studios in Fremantle and Melbourne. Their portfolio consists largely of residential work, with previous project experience spanning commercial and institutional sectors across the past decade. Their work has gained formal recognition at both local and national levels, with a number of projects having received awards and commendations for their specific and wider contributions.

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South Terraces Alterations

Fremantle, Australia

(2004 - 2011) 2400 sq m

The aim was to create a house that is adaptable and layered, one that makes a subjective contribution to the family's desire for natural light. The first strategy was to carve a courtyard into the heart of the building. The second was to collect light at the high level through 'tall light scoops'. The third, to create raised terraces at the first and roof levels.

The original cottage was semi-detached and was constructed in 1910 with subsequent additions by European migrants in the following decades. The clients are Duncan and Annemarie Wyatt, both in their mid 40's and have two daughters named Charlie and Georgie, aged 9 and 11. The brief was simple; primarily programmatic additions were required in their old home and there was a strong desire for cross ventilation and natural light in the annex which would eventually flow into the existing house as well. A tree well to the first floor was added following the consultation. The 300sqm block characterized by a 6.37m width had an attached strata sibling to the south, two northern neighbors that were 1.5m away and a rear R.O.W access besides the frontage onto the busy street. The project involved the extraction of maximum amenity from this packed situation whilst managing impact on the surrounding properties. As a 'built strata' property, the neighbors' approval was required in order to proceed. Responding to the site, a fundamental objective was to harness north light. This had to be captured at a height due to the proximity of the neighbors and by using 'light scoops' to funnel the winter sun in and cast views out. Additionally, a central courtyard, first floor terrace and roof garden cement was added to increase the clients' access to the northern light. An associated glare is tempered by deep window reveals and perforated fiber-cement ('Hardi-lattice') screens.



ABOVE | courtyard looking onto the extension facade NEXT SPREAD | courtyard looking onto the living space





LEFT PAGE | daybed and staircase **ABOVE** | location plan

The existing bedrooms were kept largely untouched, with an exception of new cabinetry. The existing kitchen was converted into a bathroom, and the previous bathroom which was originally a side verandah now became the kitchen. The new living / dining area is situated under the existing main roof. Beyond the central courtyard, a single car garage doubles as an outdoor dining space and a first level master bedroom currently offers lodging for an extended family member completed with a private roof garden.

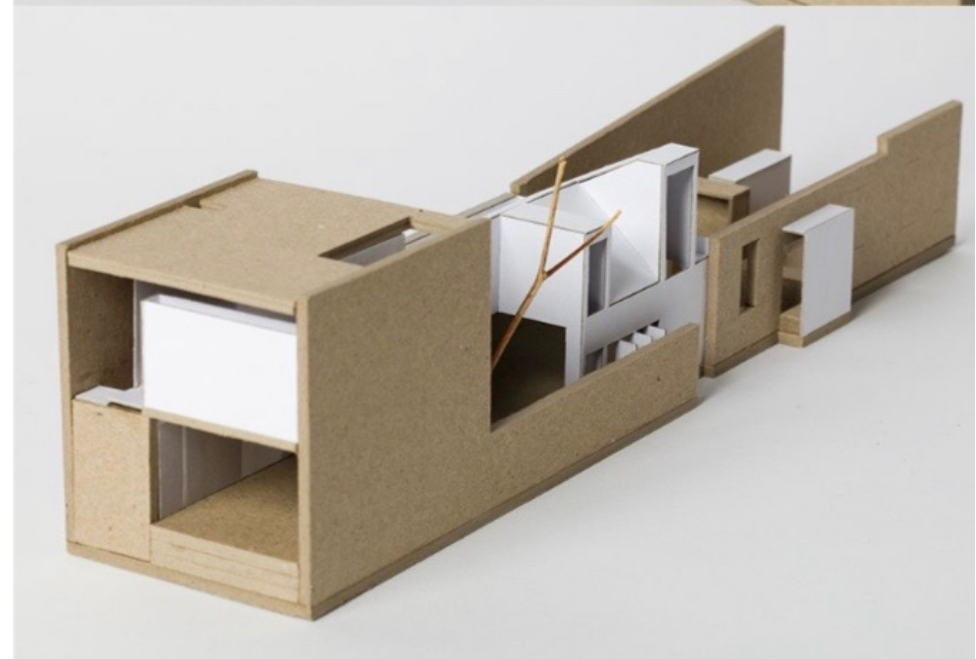
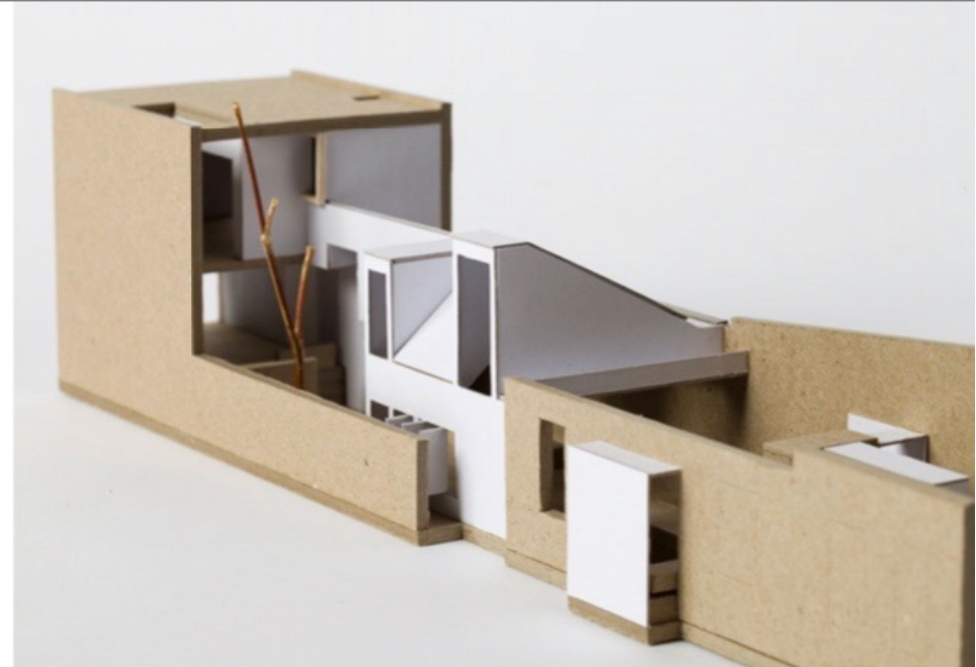
Cross ventilation is secured via consciously positioned apertures. Internally, a series of spaces cater to collective and individual occupation. A north-facing daybed occupies a thickened corridor, offering a place to read in the sun or be in the courtyard. The cabinetry creates spatial divisions and simultaneously weaves together old and new. Externally, the palette is face brick with a base to negotiate the level changes and acrylic render which essentially is a plastic surface created in order to respond to the spaces within, sometimes perforated to mitigate the glare received. This extension lets in a lot of natural light throughout



ABOVE | facing the internal courtyard RIGHT | MODEL IMAGES

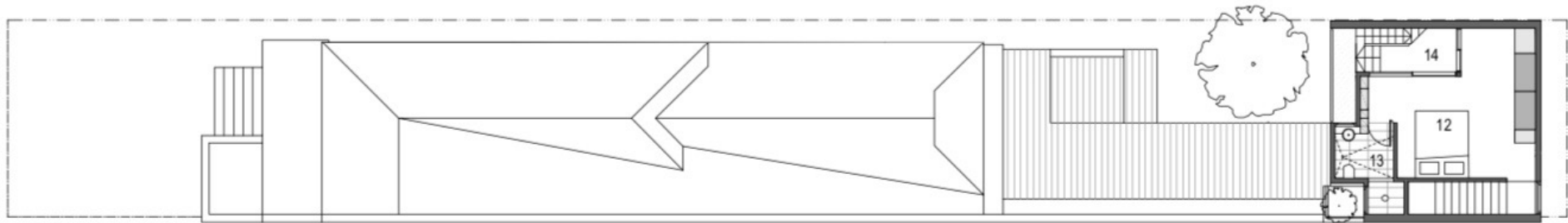
the day. The east-west orientation and densely built up surroundings (including the duplex neighbor to the south) and the narrow lot width meant that north-light had to be grabbed at a high level. A series of 'light scoops' were used that let in the winter sun deep into the plan, using the exposed concrete slab as thermal storage. These light scoops are fit with double glazing and are vented to expel heated air. The central courtyard which divides a two-storey addition at the laneway from the main single storey house is the other strategy for securing north light.

The flip side of natural light in Perth is glare. Off-the-shelf Hardie-lattice panels were used to create an economical brise-soleil screen to east and west facing elevations. The screen also serves as privacy screening at the first floor level. The measures listed above also serve to ensure good cross-ventilation. Louvered openings to the stairwell (onto laneway) and to the kitchen (to a new bay window), as well as hinged panels to the northern setback, serve to intercept breezes and suck them through the house. The previously mentioned high level openings allow heated air to escape and provide another route of escape for admitted breezes. The central courtyard has been grassed and edged in timber decking (as opposed to concrete paving) to retain minimal heat and deal with the glare.





ABOVE | living room looking over the courtyard



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

1. Corridor 2. Bedroom 3. Living 4. Dining 5. Kitchen 6. Courtyard 7. Carport / Alfresco 8. Bathroom 9. Laundry 10. Daybed
11. Store 12. Master Bedroom 13. Ensuite 14. Terrace 15. Rooftop Garden



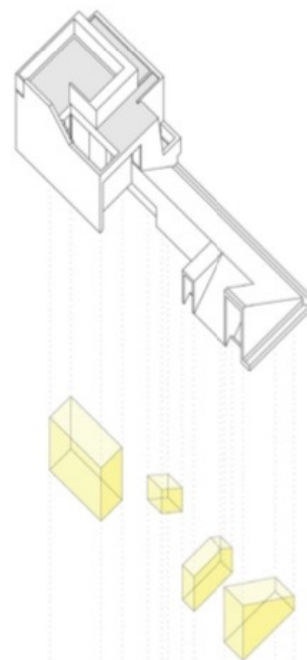
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ABOVE | children's bedroom RIGHT PAGE | AXONOMETRIC

Another passive strategy was to create zones within the house that make heating and cooling more efficient. A pivot door zones off the front bedrooms from the living spaces, and a concealed sliding door isolates the rear part of the house. A combination of double and low-E glazing has been used on the project to aid thermal management. The living area windows are protected by deep eaves and are double glazed so that the winter heat gain is unimpeded. Other areas are fitted selectively with low-E glass mainly as a measure against summer ingress of reflected light. A fundamental sustainability feature of the project is inherent in its re-use of the existing 1910 building. The adaptive re-use of this house means embodied energy of the original house is not wasted.





ABOVE | courtyard and living **RIGHT PAGE** | passage

Once secured, light is tempered by perforated lattice screens, deep reveals and colored surfaces, whilst openable sashes and shutters enable the building to breathe. Internally, the house comprises of a variety of collective and individual spaces, with overlap and cross-reference.





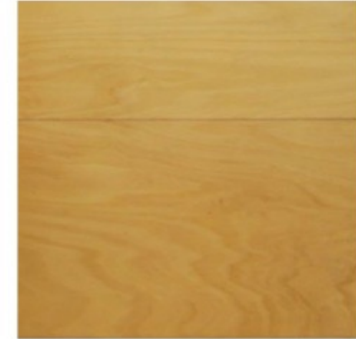
Flooring |
Engineered wood



Wall |
Exposed Brick



Tiling |
Terrazo



Staircase Landing |
Birchwood



ABOVE | kitchen and dining space
LEFT | deck outside the alfresco