Slice

Assembled by
Elizabeth Campbell

Project 1
Architecture Architecture

Park Life, Williamstown North
Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung Country

Park Life responds to the principles of the Garden City, integrating home, garden and streetscape, continuing the vision laid out by the Housing Commission in the 1940s. Across a vast nature strip, the artist's studio peers out. The timber wall and garden-nestled curves create a protected garden courtyard with stone paving and pale green bagged walls. A timber awning presses into the side of the house, creating dappled shade.

Inside, the living areas are loosely defined by tapering walls and pinched thresholds, expanding to accommodate homely comforts. Study, gallery and dining tie the old house to the new.

Walls are solid and substantial, everything else is light. Materials here are earthy, establishing living spaces that are grounded but protective, hugging the side and rear boundaries, sometimes stealing, sometimes surrendering space to the courtyard, ensuring both benefit from a sense of generosity.

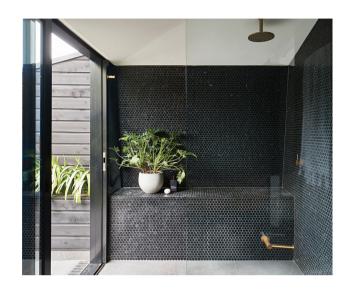Photographer Tom Ross

Project 2
Ha

Harry and Viv's House, Abbotsford
Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung Country

The centrepiece of the interior is quite literally nothing at all. The front corridor opens onto a double-height void, allowing skylights to draw natural light into the living room below.

The sense of openness continues to the rear courtyard. In collaboration with the landscape architect, and informed by borrowed space, the house achieves a harmonious flow of colour materiality and botanical elements. Kitchen with discreet integration of appliances, pantry and storage spaces, dining and backyard coalesce as one outdoor room.

Sustainable design is embedded throughout the old and new house. Key features are east and west-facing external sun-shading, well-sealed, double-glazed windows, concrete slab for thermal mass, hydronic heating with electric heat pump, solar array along the entire north-facing roof, ceiling fans, and a small footprint.

Photographer Dan Hocking

Project 3
Noxon Architecture

Montague Street House, South Melbourne
Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung Country

Montague Street House is a renovation and extension of a single-fronted, Edwardian-era brick cottage in South Melbourne. The project establishes a harmonious balance of elements including, heritage fabric, open shared space with secluded area and an inward focus with distant views. These qualities along with the dramatic external form arise from the client brief for a flexible contemporary urban home.

The design retains the front portion of the house, while a double-storey addition has been stitched to the roofscape to the rear, pairing generous open plan with private secluded nooks. A new small roof terrace welcomes the morning sun and offers magical glimpses of the tree canopy and historic roofscapes. An abundance of natural light and connection to the greenery of the gardens offers a serene and timeless backdrop to the lifestyle of a growing family.

Photographer Shannon McGrath

Project 4
Branch Studio Architects

Arts Epicentre, Braybrook
Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung Country

The Arts Epicentre is a new building, amalgamating Caroline Chisholm Catholic College's creative programs. The ground level has been designed to cater for drama and dance-based disciplines, while the upper level is primarily used for music and studio arts. Derived from a combination of an emblem on the existing building, four ply-clad light-catchers hang within the internal performance space.

The internal arrangement of spaces is curated around the idea of audience and performance mirroring one another. With stair circulation placed around the perimetre of a central atrium space. The upper level of the building is consolidated by a singular banded, slotted aluminium sun-screen. This was created for means of controlling afternoon summer sun, but also celebrating and reflecting the building's interior programs to the college and wider community.

Photographer Peter Clarke