

# ARCHITEAM AWARDS 2011

## BEST DESIGN MEDIUM BUILT PROJECT

Kew House  
Nic Owen Architects



ARCHITEAM COOPERATIVE LIMITED, 2011

### BEST DESIGN MEDIUM BUILT CATEGORY

**Winning Project** Kew House

**Architects** Nic Owen Architects

**Design Intent** The extension is an example of responsible rationalisation of a typical suburban house, which offers a stimulating environment and demonstrates environmentally sustainable design. The project is located on a 740m<sup>2</sup> site. The existing house, whilst generously sized lacked a clear thought out plan. The land fell 5.5m over its length and further aided the dysfunctional arrangement of spaces. The brief required a rearrangement of spaces to better cater for the young family, relating each space to the outside world. The design solution resulted in little change to the overall footprint, consisting of the removal of a late rear extension 'meals room' and replacing it with 'the claw'. Aptly named by the owners the new family room embraces the sloping land reaching up to the rear raised garden. The claw roof was conceived to provide solar protection to the north while allowing the winter sun indoors. The claw is surrounded on 3 sides with full height glazing extending the living environment into the rear landscaped yard. The folding theme has been carried on through the joinery with kitchen folding bench tops and plywood folding elements in the bathrooms. A splash of hue complements the simple colour pallet with coloured glass used throughout.

**Judges Comments** This project is a sophisticated extension which thoroughly revitalises this existing suburban house. It decommissions the garage at the end of a long space wasting driveway which unlocks the potential of the north facing backyard. On the ground floor the second bedroom is reclaimed to create a generous master bed suite whilst tired kitchen and meals areas are gutted and then extended to create an impressive new living area. The upper level absorbs the bedroom lost from downstairs along with renovations throughout. The extended living area, affectionately named 'the claw' by its inhabitants, reaches out into the steeply sloping backyard to confidently claim its new territory. The relationship between building and landscape is deftly handled whilst the quality and assemblage of materials is commendable.

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