

Modernisation

The owners of this small Victorian terrace house in Victoria's trendy North Fitzroy area approached Nic Owen Architects with hopes of expanding their home to match their expanding family.





The result is this renovated Victorian gem, in which modern glasswork and a light timber skin help to form the shell of the extension. The tiny site proved challenging for the designers who had strict council restrictions and heritage guidelines to adhere to. With this in mind, a unique design resulted in there being a brighter and more airy feel to the home.

As winner of the 2011 Abode Award for Best Alterations & Additions, this piece of architecture is truly something to marvel at. The glasswork used helped to draw in vast amounts of natural light, as well as adding vertical space and maintaining access to natural light for the neighbours to the south.

Allowing light into the space was one of the family's biggest requests and the architect has achieved this via the use of large skylights and an open timber and glass stairwell that leads up to the private living areas on the second story. The new design works are recessive, respectful and complement the historic setting.

The north-facing roofs house photo-voltaic cells, which generate electrical current from sunlight; and solar hot water panels in an effort to bring sustainability to the new dwelling. Another effort made in this respect was the expert use of plantation timbers throughout.

Ultra-modern furnishings and a clever use of space complete the look and functionality of the house which is essentially a beautiful big home living inside the shell of an unassuming Victorian terrace.

Photography: Rhiannon Slatter

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