

## Brick and Gable House



Application No.	<b>0002691</b>
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Project Category	1. Residential dwelling: alteration or new build
Project name	Brick and Gable House
Org name	Breathe Architecture
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Date of Completion	Jul/2019
Project Street Address	163 Station Street
Project Suburb	Port Melbourne
Project Post Code	3207
Client name	Claire Scott
Project Cost	679344
Site Area (m2)	261
Org Street Address	2/9 Florence Street
Org Suburb	Melbourne
Org Post Code	3056
Org Website	<a href="http://www.breathe.com.au">www.breathe.com.au</a>

## Organization overview

Breathe Architecture was founded in 2001 by Jeremy McLeod and Tamara Veltre. Underpinning all of our work is the rigorous pursuit of sustainable design that's simultaneously beautiful, seemingly effortless, and environmentally positive. We have maintained our position at the forefront of sustainable design since inception; and through our award-winning built works, advocacy and design leadership, have built a reputation for delivering high quality architectural solutions

## Brief description

Brick and Gable house is a modest but smart approach to living space. A home that feels lived in for longer than it has been. The project prioritises functionality, liveability and sustainability. It delivers on this mission with less material and less area, building less to give more.

## Response to key selection criteria

Brick and Gable House is about building less to give more. It is a modest, smart approach to living and a place our clients could instantly call home. Located in Port Melbourne, we retained the heritage listed front facade with limited alteration to the original terrace house. The addition sits lightly behind the terrace, with a new freestanding, recycled brick studio addressing the rear of the site. The clients initial brief was for a big family home, but after their experience of living in Copenhagen, they came home with the decision to live in a more simple and sustainable way. They realised they needed less space to live comfortably. Respecting this decision, the project was redesigned, the brief and budget cut in half. The project became about making simple, contextual moves that improved functionality for the family, while maintaining and celebrating the original character of the house and its context. The original Victorian character of the terrace house is celebrated and preserved. The spaces within the original house, downstairs and upstairs, were lightly touched. Upon entering the new open plan living, kitchen and dining space, you instantly feel at home. It is a space for the family come together, to relax and to entertain family and friends. A large, operable window opens out to the courtyard, an instant connection to the outdoors, to greenery. Characterised by a material palette of recycled red brickwork, Australian blackbutt timber veneer joinery and recycled Tasmanian Oak floorboards, this space a robust, textural and warm. Traces of the existing terrace house are embedded within the new addition. Brick walls were retained and painted white, differentiating the old from new. With an interface to a quiet street lined with roller doors and outbuildings, the humble new studio provides an additional guest room, painting studio, workshop and laundry. The structure is robust and informal, seamlessly integrating into it's context and it carries an architectural language that complements the extension of the main house. The sustainable and utilitarian recycled red bricks are used throughout the studio and main house blurring the boundary between house and garden. Brick and Gable House is both home and office, house and garden, private and urbane. The project prioritises functionality, liveability and sustainability. It delivers on this mission with less material and less area, building less to give more.



## Additional information

At Breathe, we always prioritise ethics over aesthetics, we think very carefully about each material we specify. We built the studio and renovated the house out of recycled, double, red brick. We excluded plasterboard, applied finishes and toxins from the building. The studio floor is finished with red brick at ground level, as well as brick pavers throughout the courtyards. The single, utilitarian material founded building and budget efficiencies and a single trade that became the keystone to the construction process. Here, we reduced waste, material consumption, money and time. Additionally, the uniform use of red brick blurs the boundary between house and garden. We consider it our professional responsibility to help our clients understand that they often need less than they may originally think: smaller footprints, less applied finishes, more robust materials and more efficient construction. Ultimately aiming to build less and give more.





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DESIGN  
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AWARDS  
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