



York St Residence



Application No.	0002692
Date Submitted	25/11/2019 2:45:01 PM
Project Category	1. Residential dwelling: alteration or new build;7. Sustainability;8. Heritage
Project name	York St Residence
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Date of Completion	Jul/2017
Project Street Address	St Kilda
Project Suburb	St Kilda
Project Post Code	3182
Client name	Confidential
Project Cost	0
Site Area (m2)	320
Org Street Address	1 Harwood Place
Org Suburb	Melbourne
Org Post Code	3000
Org Website	http://jcba.com.au/



Organization overview

Established in 1998 by Tim Jackson, Jon Clements and Graham Burrows, JCB is a design-led architectural practice of over 60 design professionals united by a shared commitment to the delivery of innovative design solutions. We offer a design approach that is site sensitive, engaged with local climatic conditions and adaptive to contextual opportunities.

Brief description

An existing heritage building is transformed through the introduction of a modern, two-storey addition that playfully re-interprets the distinctive geometry of the original dwelling through a contemporary lens. Capturing abundant natural light and garden aspects, the new addition employs a refined and subtle palette of brick, steel and timber.

Response to key selection criteria

Capitalising on the site's orientation and garden aspect, every component of the new addition is oriented to achieve maximum natural light and ventilation while also enjoying a leafy garden aspect. A conscious effort has been made to retain the key heritage features and structure of the existing dwelling, by providing a clear separation to the modern extension. The form responds to the hips and gables of the prevalent existing heritage building and the surrounding streetscape. The rear addition is recessive and connected to the existing via a glazed link screened by hit-miss brickwork, and a courtyard that celebrates the existing architecture and cascade into the landscape, clearly separating the heritage building from the proposed contemporary extension. Sustainable initiatives, such as solar PV panels and water harvesting (recycled for toilet flushing and landscape irrigation) have been incorporated into the design. The courtyard that separates the addition from the existing house is orientated to maximise natural light and enhance cross-flow ventilation. The glazing is protected with external retractable Venetian blinds to control solar heat gain. An existing heritage building is transformed through the introduction of a modern, two-storey addition that playfully re-interprets the distinctive geometry of the original dwelling through a contemporary lens. A conscious effort has been made to retain the key heritage features and structure of the existing dwelling by providing a clear separation to the modern extension. The existing Federation building presenting to the street was fully restored with period tuck pointing to original red brick. The rear addition is recessive with its material palette. A charcoal brick provides clear separation from the original red brick of the existing building. The form responds to the hips and gables of the prevalent heritage context of both the existing building and immediate surrounding street context. The refined palette of materials purposefully compliment the heritage building in their simplicity and remain understated as a respectful contemporary addition. The design embraces an open-minded collaborative approach, which resulted in a collage of contributions from the client, consultant team and builders. The design team, including interior designers and landscape architects, contributed to the design outcome and were complementary to the architectural intent. Interiors were both functional and sophisticated in their use of material and colour. The landscape outcome managed to achieve a striking balance between the urban setting and the materiality of the architectural form, through appropriate planting selections and hard paved elements. The project reflects a joyful take on the classic "box on the back" renovation. Its design embraces a nimble and sensitive response to a heritage context, while also meeting the specific needs of the client by creating a space that is a pleasure to live in. Transforming a previously dark and minimally ventilated house, the design breaks open the



Residential dwelling: alteration or new build



segregated floorplan (typical of this typology), to provide an engaging sequence of interlinked, yet not quite open-plan, spaces, each with its own character to create a quiet haven: a suburban sanctuary. A central focus is the sculptural staircase, which delivers its occupants from the ground floor to a landing study nook, set under a folding origami, timber-lined ceiling. The downstairs living spaces, while all being open plan, are delineated by a series of levels. These levels choreograph an engaging journey through the various components of the space (living, kitchen, dining, study), imagining each as its own individual space yet linked through a palette of textured materials and clever sightlines that provide striking vistas taking in the depth of the site and its multiple facets. Resolution of the brief was accommodated on a site with significant fall, from back to front, allowing for a sunken living space in the rear addition with a visual connection to the external landscape via outdoor decks. The first floor contains bedrooms serviced by a bathroom with a full length skylight offering controlled light. The space offers the extended family and guests' accommodation with an enhanced level of amenity and privacy. The transformation cleverly captures the texture, craft and quality of the surrounding architecture through its modest palette of brick, steel, timber and glass. The client saw considerable value in a robust external cladding material which responded to the heritage context and value in a considered approach to external articulation of windows through external venetians and blinds. The result was a dwelling with presence and purpose.



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