



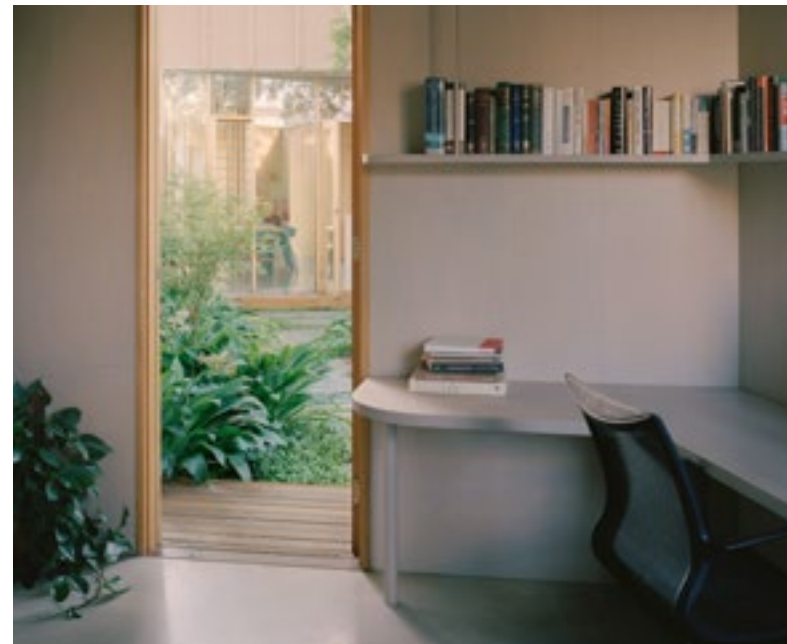
A blending of architectural eras  
hides a secret garden and a happy  
home at the core of this sensitive  
Melbourne extension.



Autumn House in Melbourne is designed to resemble a secret garden hidden behind a street-facing wall. The project carefully adds a new layer to a Victorian row house that features a 1980s renovation by architect Mick Jörgensen and, crucially, a mature elm tree in the backyard. Studio Bright's design sympathetically balances the three different architectural eras of the family home.

The 1980s renovation involved reconfiguring the interior of the original structure as well as the addition of a studio, storerooms, and garden buildings around courtyard spaces. Studio Bright inserted a series of curving and angled moves at ground level that holds new living, kitchen, and dining spaces as well as an activity space at the front of the site. A brick perimeter wall wraps around these new additions, appearing as a simple garden wall around the precious elm, while at the back of the site an angled form rises up over the brick base in a mesh-screen wedge.

At the ground level, operable sliding glass doors and expansive windows allow for seamless passing between interior and exterior, as though the courtyard extends into the living spaces. The indoor spaces are finished with wood paneling and off-white terrazzo kitchen fixtures complemented by fall tones that resonate with the name of the family home. Upstairs in the new wedge unit, the views are more protected; a small terrace garden encloses the bedrooms, both of which sit behind screen layers that filter light and create privacy from the neighbors. In time, the planting will take over these screens to act as a green landmark in the neighborhood, further emphasizing the appearance of a secret garden overflowing with organic life.



A brick perimeter wall, the terrazzo kitchen, and new wood paneling wrap around Autumn House's secret garden (opposite) that is dominated by an elm.





Privacy in the bedrooms in the new wedge unit is maintained with metallic screens that filter light and, in time, will become covered with greenery.

