



A tight plot becomes an expansive family home through smart design and space for organic life to flourish.





Garden Tower House is a renovation on a tight plot in Cremorne, a suburb southeast of Melbourne's central business district. Despite the density of the site, the family home has a breezy feel partly facilitated by the perforated breezeblocks that define the site's outer edges. As well as defining the rectilinear forms that sprout up at the back of the plot—the towers—the breezeblocks allow Melbourne's cool light to flow into the building's interior.

From the front door, however, these cuboids are only glimpsed. Instead, visitors are met with a weatherboarded porch and a white picket fence: original features that root the building firmly within the neighborhood. This single-story structure contains two bedrooms and leads into the contemporary additions that contain living spaces, courtyard gardens, an additional bedroom, and a tower-top terrace. Pastel greens and sandy browns define the interior spaces that feel airy and spacious thanks to high ceilings and built-in furniture that maximizes floor space despite the narrow nature of the building plot.

No space on the site is wasted. Every inch works hard to support the life of the family making their home in Garden Tower House, including the gaps between the breezeblocks and the wooden structures of the towers, which feature planting that will eventually grow to take over the silhouette of the whole project. The central courtyard is the gravitational center of the ensemble, acting as a focal point from the ground-floor living spaces and from a glass corridor that links the two towers. Relaxed paving and planting are prominent in the garden, which is bathed in daylight yet sheltered in privacy from the surrounding neighborhood.



Garden Tower House's small central courtyard is a serene focal point, blending daylight and privacy with relaxed paving and lush greenery.

