

**HEDGE
AND
ARBOUR
HOUSE
BY STUDIO
BRIGHT**

Hedge and Arbour House captivated the jury with an intriguing yet rigorous built form interlaced with landscaped spaces. The home offers an alluring sense of wildness and deference to nature, its harmonious composition hovering between encroaching suburbia and natural bushland.

The architects have worked cleverly with the found conditions – a tall sculptural hedge to the suburban street, and site topography that dips down at the rear into a gully of natural wilderness – to craft a home that breathes and expands into the landscape, and whose architecture dissolves into its site.

Robust materiality is elegantly handled. Extensive use of steel mesh as plant trellis reads as a soft veil rather than a hard barrier, and its depth forms a habitable, shaded threshold between house and garden. Large openings in the screen frame views of the landscape, while blockwork walls to the street have a ruin-like quality as they describe external spaces, suggesting edges for perching that may eventually be consumed by the loose native garden. The neat square of lawn to the west invokes the suburban context and is the sole “tame” outdoor space from which to view the treetops beyond.

With its soft and subtle edges, this home looks afresh at the relationship between house and landscape, both tended and wild. The jury would be delighted to see such ideas proliferate in our suburbs.

From the Houses Awards jury.

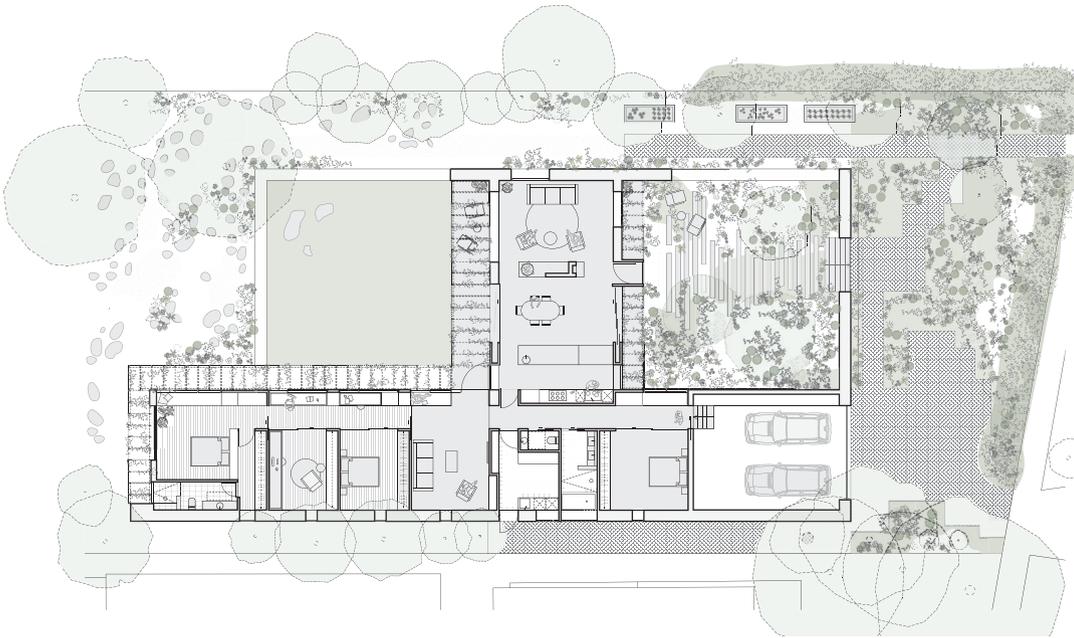


Section 1:400

Award for New House
over 200 square metres
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Floor plan 1:400



Hedge and Arbour House
is built on the land of the
Wurundjeri people.
Location
Naarm/Melbourne, Vic

Architect
Studio Bright
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Project team Melissa Bright, Emily Watson, Rob
McIntyre, Pei She Lee, Maia Close **Builder** Built by
Guild, Frank (Victoria) **Engineer** Meyer Consulting
Landscape architect Sarah Hicks **Landscape**
contractor Lucida Landscapes **Surveyor** Fotia Group

Photographer
Rory Gardiner