

Arthur

Oscar Sainsbury Architects

Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Arthur tackles the perennial dilemma of how to create a light-filled contemporary addition to a heritage building on a very modest budget. The design demonstrates a mastery of restraint by focusing on warm materiality, spatial composition, and connection to the outdoors. The result is a joyful and unpretentious family home that revitalises the original house while creating opportunities for the architect and his family to engage with the entire site.

Respecting the inherent solidity of the original brick house, the renovation component imposes only minor interventions. The design really lets its hair down in the new addition, including a bold slice in the floorplan that creates a splayed north-facing courtyard – a simple but powerful gesture that successfully draws light deep into the interior.

Glass walls and large sliding doors work in conjunction with exposed internal timber beams and pergolas to create continuity between the interior and the garden. Materials were chosen for ease of construction for the owner/builder/architect but also act to reinforce the home's informal and welcoming atmosphere. The design of the indoor/outdoor kitchen bench perhaps best encapsulates the social feel of the home as it invites you to sit at the very edge of the building envelope and let whatever is happening spill outside.

Jury

Holly Board, RAIA | Jury Chair

Antony Martin, RAIA | Juror

Mick Moloney, RAIA | Juror