



Charm in the detail

Charm and intrigue in a house is not wow factor. It is the incidental discovery of brilliantly functional innovations. Detail should be about function, not fashion.

Check the tilt-out plantation shutters on Hugh Campbell's re-imagining of an Alexandria worker's cottage in Sydney's inner west. They work for privacy and ventilation. Notice, too, the contemporary, square dormer windows so conversant with their setting.

Imagine experiencing the gorgeous greenhouse bathroom with overhead skylight that Breathe Architecture's Daniel McKenna

inserted into a Sydney Surry Hills terrace in place of the outdoor shower the owners wanted.

It's the microcosm example in Double Life House where all of the above-mentioned criteria were fulfilled. They tracked down a Melbourne architect whose work they admired, all parties listened to each other, the work was quirky (them), inventive and perfectly scaled (McKenna), and all went smoothly.

The result: a reborn old house that so successfully works every potential of its tight site it emerged as a multiple award-winning residence of notable originality.