

GREAT SPACES: INSIDE AND OUT

Overhangs, screens and verandas transform rooms into hybrid spaces, increasing their amenity and offering a retreat from the sun or rain. By paying attention to the edges of a building, we can create in-between zones to enrich our experience of inside and out.

Garden Pavilion

Location Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Architect Herbst Architects

Photo Jackie Meiring

This small garden pavilion, set in behind an island bach, captures westerly views across a field toward the island's mountainous interior. It is designed to enhance the holiday experience by providing an alternative cooking and dining space for warm summer nights.

1. A timber post-and-beam structure sits atop a generous timber deck, which floats on pilings.
2. Translucent roof sheeting lets light in but protects from the rain. Locally harvested manuka branches sit below, forming a 'ceiling' spanning between beams, to provide shading and natural texture and to cast beautiful shadows.
3. The built-in bench seat defines an edge along one side of the room, with removable cushions for casual dining.
4. Translucent screens are top-hung so they let in the breeze and act as awnings for wind and rain protection.
5. Solar lights and gas cooking mean no electricity is needed.



House Reduction

Location Melbourne

Architect MAKE Architecture

Photo Peter Bennetts

Located in a dense, inner urban area, the efficient planning of this house has meant that there was an actual reduction in its internal footprint. As an alternative to the large ‘box on back’ extension, this project looks at how smaller spaces and multifunctional rooms can provide a large family with the space they need. This image shows the edge of the kitchen cabinetry, the dining area and a weatherproof outdoor room.

1. Twin pitched roofs define paired volumes: one is an internal space, the other external, and the two are separated by stacked sliding glass doors.
2. Exterior sliding screens provide shade and filtered light while also letting in a breeze. They allow the living space to expand and contract flexibly, and shield the house from the busy road behind.
3. Built-in daybeds and joinery maximise the efficiency of the house and provide places to sit and enjoy the sun.
4. Floor levels between inside and outside are flush to maximise the usability of the combined spaces.
5. High-level louvres bring in a filtered view of the sky and increase the sense of place, while providing the requisite sun shading.