The design of Local House successfully interprets the brief of its clients, accommodating a desire for the family to congregate and connect with the community as we once did and still often yearn for; 'in the village'. — Sarah-Jane Pyke, IDEA 2015 Jury

Inspiration for this extension came from thinking about how this family lives and enjoys life. Spaces are playful – conceived more like a favourite local café than a private house, the design reflects this family’s desire to create a home that allows them to connect with friends, family and their local community. The existing Californian bungalow has been kept intact with the addition of a new contemporary gable-like, two-storey element to the rear. Effectively shifted off the side boundary, the new element opens the living spaces to the sun and connects the kitchen/dining space to the rear garden. Off-form concrete provides a heavy base with large expressed vertical elements connecting the base to the site. Concrete has also been used internally to create integrated seats, benches and durable surfaces for family life. Floating over the base, a decorative timber screen fills the end of the upper extruded gable roof form, giving warm contrast to the concrete and containing the main bedroom within. The angled panels of the screen mediate the sun and control the overlooking to the neighbours, while still providing distant views over the rooftops beyond. It was designed to be robust and durable, to take the knocks of family life, with ideas of beauty and delight still very important to the design thinking.