

AWARDED

 Design
Matters
National

SCOTCHMAN'S VIEW BY AYDAN DOHERTY



WRIGHT HOUSE
BY PETER JACKON DESIGN

WINNER
Alterations & Additions: \$1,000,001 - \$2M (EC)
Excellence in the use of Lightweight Materials (EC)

Location:	Middle Park, VIC
Photographer:	Craig Adams
Energy Assessor:	Adrian Smithwick
Builder:	ZD Constructions
Structural Engineer:	Mark Steller & Associates
Interior Design:	Matyas Architects
Building Surveyor:	Assent Building Code Consultants



Project Brief

To modernise a heritage home while preserving its historical charm. Key requirements included updating the kitchen and bathroom, creating a master suite, incorporating functional storage, and raising the rear living area ceiling to match the heritage portion. The clients wanted to transform the dark, restricted space into a light, airy home with contemporary interiors. They sought more natural light, connection to the environment, and a usable rear courtyard. A roof deck to capture city and bay views was also desired. Upgrading energy efficiency was a priority, including insulation, sealing, and new heating and cooling systems.

Design Solution

The design merged contemporary and heritage features, optimising the 166m² footprint within council restrictions. Creative use of glass and lightweight materials was central to the solution. Strategically placed glazing, skylights, and mirrors visually opened spaces and enhanced natural light. The first floor was cantilevered over the ground floor living area, with a cathedral ceiling in the master suite to create a sense of spaciousness. Smart utilisation of negative spaces, such as a study nook and wine cellar, maximised functionality. Lightweight materials like PermaTimber CX Castellated Cladding and BlueScope Steel roofing were chosen to minimise visual bulk and distinguish between heritage and contemporary sections.





Sustainability Considerations

Sustainability was integral to the design, with materials chosen for durability and minimal environmental impact. The ground floor extension used a concrete slab for thermal mass. A 1m first floor overhang provided optimal solar shading. Double glazing and the AWS Vantage Ventient™ Integrated Trickle Ventilation System were implemented throughout. The design balanced environmental and social sustainability, respecting the area's heritage while meeting modern living needs.

Occupant Experience

The clients report a dramatic transformation from a cramped, dark space to a bright, airy sanctuary. They particularly enjoy the heightened ceilings, creative use of glass and mirrors, and the open staircase that connects levels. The improved thermal comfort from insulation, double-glazing, and passive design principles has enhanced year-round liveability. Additional storage and functional spaces have made the home more enjoyable for family living. Overall, the Wright House has exceeded the clients' expectations, providing a light-filled, sustainable, and comfortable environment that seamlessly blends modernity with heritage charm.

