



HEBDEN ARCHITECTS

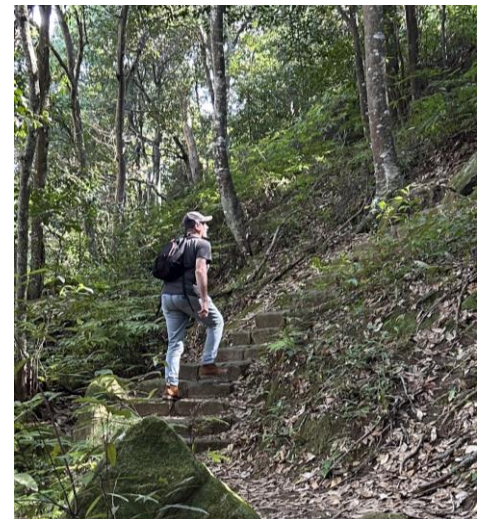
ADAPTABLE

SUSTAINABLE

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURE + NATURE Pt.2

Welcome to our Summer edition and there’s no better time to connect to nature and the natural environment! Sydney is blessed with large areas of remnant forest and bushland, particularly around its myriad of water ways. Hebden Architects principal, Andrew Hebden is a keen bushwalker and most weekends he can be found exploring one of the many walking tracks in the Sydney metro area and here (pictured) he’s walking near Castlecrag, an area designed and developed by American architect Walter Burley Griffin who, with his wife Marion designed our nation’s capital, Canberra in the 1920’s. He was a student of legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright who developed the philosophy of “organic” architecture, where buildings seem to “grow” from their site. The current “Biophilic” design trend shows how architecture continues connecting to nature in some way.



ICONIC BUILDING: WALSH ST HOUSE by ROBIN BOYD

The Walsh St House in Melbourne was built in 1958 by well known architect, teacher and writer Robin Boyd (after which AIA national award for housing is named), influenced by the International style and Functionalism as well as responding to its suburban context (unusual for it’s time). Designed for his growing family, it is divided into zones for adults and children, defined by an internal courtyard. A sloping roof starting from the top of the double storey block, drapes down to the single storey children's block. The roof is held up by single cables tied to steel framing and placed at equal distances by timber members. The creation of the roof involved built-up felt layered on timber decking and an aperture over the courtyard was constructed for direct sunlight into the courtyard.



TIPS FOR DEVELOPING IN A BUSHFIRE ZONE, Pt.2

Continuing on from our last edition, here are more points to consider when developing in a bushfire prone location.

Built form

Enclosing the subfloor area above ground prevents ingress of airborne embers or “ember attack”, which can cause heat to build up and windows to explode. In this way buildings “embrace” the ground, rather than sit lightly above it. In remote sites it’s better to build these in masonry or stone.

Positioning and Clearance

Trees are beautiful but, can be dangerous to live next to, particularly during a bushfire, where they can become inflamed and fall on an adjoining structure. National standards set out principles for locating houses to ensure safe clearances from surrounding vegetation and allow access for firefighting vehicles

Water Access

In remote locations away from town water supplies, some kind of on-site reservoir or dam is recommended. Most rural properties have them but, not always near the house. Having one close by allows for better access for firefighting and can be integrated into the landscaping as a feature, for irrigation & environmental cooling. Rainwater tanks won’t be enough!



The image above is of a simple cabin-like dwelling in the Blue Mts, near Sydney, surrounded by native forest. The galvanised steel panels fold down to cover the glazed opening and protect it from radiant heat and ember attack. It also provides security when it's vacant. When they're folded up they provide shelter and demonstrate the kind of measures we can expect to see in the future.

in FOCUS: Hebden Architects New Signage

We have new signage on our premises, a year after moving in! It ties in with the renovated exterior and the existing awning. The crisp white background and Helvetica font together with our orange logo give a clear, strong architectural expression. The window decals give a more subtle indication at ground level. The door sign says “by appointment” and we trust there’ll be more of those in the coming days!



In PROGRESS: project in Leichhardt

Our project at 15 Hathern St is at lock up stage! This new terrace-style residence is built on open space adjacent the client’s recently renovated Victorian era terrace house, where we closed in the side windows to allow for adjoining development. It’s in place of a garage and the challenge was to incorporate a new one in the footprint of the house, which council totally opposed. We got approval on appeal to the courts but, the conditions were v.strict, having to combine an OSD tank under a driveway for 99% of traffic (virtually impossible!) but, with our engineers, we did it!



FEATURE PROJECT – LEICHHARDT HOUSE #3

This free-standing Victorian Gothic style terrace located in Leichardt is located on a corner block, facing north. The owners are retired and wanted to develop the property for contemporary urban living by replacing the original single storey wing at the rear and building a new open plan living area incorporating kitchen and dining areas. This connects to an internal courtyard separating the new from the existing building as well as a courtyard and parking area at the rear. The original dwelling retains the grand bedrooms at the front on the ground and first floors, including a new bathroom. It also includes a third bedroom/study at the rear, over the new Dining room, accessed from a sky-lit gallery space around the new stair. The bedroom/study is now expressed externally as a metal clad box floating over the open space below. The form of the new addition slopes down toward the south boundary to minimise the impact on the adjoining neighbour. The floor level has been lowered for this purpose also but, the internal ceiling height is higher with hi-lites toward the north, providing abundant natural light. The resulting space has grand proportions reminiscent of the original house and connects easily to the private open space.



CLIENT TESTIMONIAL – LEICHHARDT HOUSE #3

“We engaged Andrew hoping he could provide an “X” factor for our renovation project. He certainly gave us that with his design concepts of style, light and space while at the same time respecting the character of the original Victorian terrace. We thank him for his persistence and professionalism as he navigated through difficult dealings with Council with respect to neighbour’s objections and planning restrictions. During construction he was on hand to offer advice on concept and style finish that was invaluable in achieving a very happy outcome for us. We certainly recommend Andrew as a helpful and engaging architect who can deliver a sympathetic and stylish project.

Micheal and Margaret Sams



MERRY XMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Contact us today about making your dream home a reality with our unique Hebden Home Design Method. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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