



HEBDEN ARCHITECTS

ADAPTABLE

SUSTAINABLE

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURE + ART: Magritte Exhibition

A comprehensive exhibition of the work of Rene' Magritte was shown recently at the NSW Art Gallery. He was a Belgian Surrealist artist known for his depictions of familiar objects in unfamiliar, unexpected contexts, which often provoked questions about the nature and boundaries of reality and representation. His imagery influenced pop art, minimalist art and conceptual art. It also inspired film makers such as Jean-Luc Godard, John Boorman and Terry Gilliam. The use of objects as other than what they seem is typified in his painting. Architecture can also mix symbolism to challenge perception of a building's identity, transcending the act of building to art, provoking thought and aspiration.



ICONIC BUILDING: The Royal Exhibition Building, Victoria

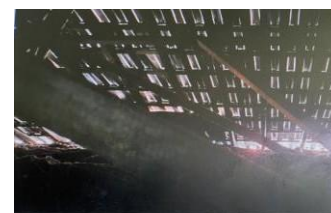
Located in Melbourne, Australia, stands as a significant historical and cultural landmark. Designed by architect Joseph Reed and constructed in 1879 for the Melbourne International Exhibition to showcase Victoria's industrial achievements. It's an exemplary piece of 19th-century architecture, boasting a stunning dome and intricate detailing inspired by Renaissance and Romanesque styles. It holds special significance as the first building in Australia to be awarded "Royal" status by Queen Victoria in 1880. Over the years, the Exhibition Building has hosted numerous significant events, including the opening of the first Australian Parliament in 1901. In 2004, it was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its architectural and historical importance.



HERITAGE + CDC

We have been developing a scheme for a property in Annandale which is in a heritage area but, not a heritage item. It's a late 19th century terrace house on the main road and the heritage control is mainly to the front façade. As the proposed works have evolved to mainly internal with minor external changes visible from the street, it is possible to undertake a CDC process. However, the apparent straightforwardness of this approval path belies the structural complexity involved in removing a major cross wall and the ceiling in the main bedroom to allow for an additional space in the attic space above. In this situation we are not permitted to remove and re-build the roof so all the existing support structure of many struts and purlins (pictured) will have to be removed and propped while a new ceiling/floor is built as well as a stair. A CAD model has been developed to explore how the structure might be resolved.

Removing an internal wall beneath the upper-level rear external wall will require a lot of intensive propping while a large steel beam is installed as well as integrating the supporting columns. Same for the side external wall (pictured top right) where a large opening will connect the private open space. It's a huge challenge in balancing structure with heritage and we'll keep you posted!



in FOCUS: Jane Langof, Feng Shui Consultant

Hebden Architects Principal, Andrew Hebden spoke to leading Feng Shui master Jane Langoff and asked about her specialty:

What is Feng Shui? It's the art of balancing elements in the surroundings to create an optimal energy flow. It affects mood, psychology, luck, etc.

What are its benefits? Optimised energy flow for well-being, stress reduction & connection to nature w materials, plants, water features, etc.

Are there any financial benefits? Strong Feng Shui principles enhance a property's appeal & fosters emotional connections which impact value. (it) holds importance for a large number of people..., making it risky for anyone who wants to maximise their results when it's time to sell.

Can it be done retrospectively? Sure but, starting with right foundation and getting the design right from the beginning maximises its benefits

Can it be applied to multi-res? Yes, I often collaborate with developers.

How much training is required? Many years of study & experience. It's an esoteric art with different schools of thought, theories & formulas.

Where can I learn more? <http://www.fengshuiconcepts.com.au>



In PROGRESS: Heritage item at Dulwich Hill

We have started documenting a Development Application for Alts and ads to a heritage-controlled house in Dulwich Hill. It's a timber cottage C.1880's and is a local heritage item. It poses a number of challenges, in particular the site, which is large and unusually configured. Many neighbouring properties backing onto it so privacy will be a key issue. The main works are proposed at the rear and not visible from the street but, being a heritage item will attract additional scrutiny from council. It also has many large trees and services running through it but, thankfully, the works don't extend that far. There will be a number of latent site conditions (old walls, etc) so, it will be an interesting journey!

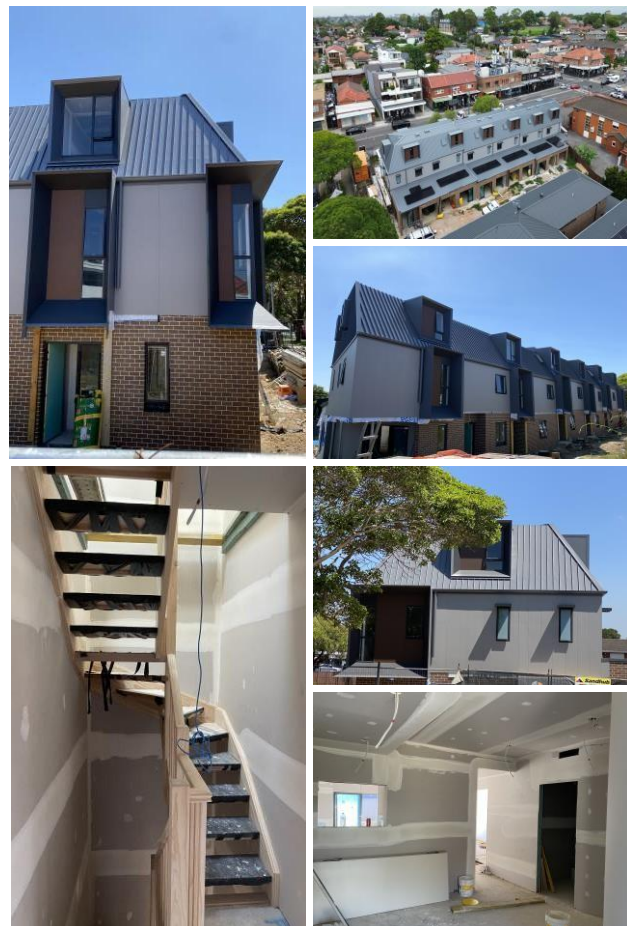


FEATURE PROJECT: Earlwood Terrace Houses, update

The story of our terrace house development continues, with external finishes largely complete. Solar panels were installed just before Christmas and these will help power these homes which are fully electrified, in response to the movement away from fossil fuels such as gas. With a growing proportion of the state's power supply being generated from renewable sources, this approach will become more common. And it is increasingly desired by a new generation of homeowners.

The planning is very compact in response to the strict controls of the Housing Code under which the CDC application was approved. A minimum distance of kitchen benches from windows forced kitchens to be located centrally and creates a separate dining area adjacent the entry. This in turn forms screening from the public domain to the private interior.

Most of these homes offer 4 bedrooms on the upper levels, two of them with ensuite bathrooms. The master suites in the attic level also include a retreat/study nook and large areas of storage. Skylights bring filtered natural light into the interior, down thru the open stairs. Bedrooms face the busy main road so the size and extent of windows on that side is limited to the minimum requirements for approval. Fresh air is supplied by mechanical ventilation for when the windows are closed due to noise. On the ground floor, most units have a large room facing the street which acts as extra bedroom, home office or sitting room. The main living areas open onto mini-back yards, all north facing with native soft landscaping.



TRANSPORT ORIENTED DESIGN: "T.O.D"

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) is a widely recognized urban planning and design principle that aims to augment transit accessibility by reducing reliance on private vehicles, focussing development around existing transit nodes. Originally emerging in the United States, TOD gained global attention as a strategy for promoting sustainable urban growth. In response to the housing shortage, the NSW government introduced planning pathways for quicker approvals for certain suburban centres identified for future growth. Many have new Metro rail stations and others coming soon. Essentially, it means more apartments in existing areas, changing the character but, providing more amenity. We aim to present a more in-depth article about in future but, for now, visit the Service NSW website for more information.



SUMMER IS OVER AND AUTUMN APPROACHES

As the weather starts to cool it's time to think about your new dream home or renovation. Contact us today about our unique Hebden Home Design Method! It analyses your options and explores the possibilities in one handy document, giving you clarity about your path forward.

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