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01. Rozelle Semi, New South Wales. Architect carterwilliamson

A north facing rear garden and a seven-metre wide block in Rozelle sounds perfect... if it wasn't for the five-storey warehouse directly behind and north of the house.

Carterwilliamson's response was to remove the rambling lean-tos and add-ons from the rear to make new living areas and a main bedroom. The Semi was dark with an entry that lacked privacy.

Our response was to make a separate private entry to the side of the house, then provide the relief of a void with natural light. A rich dark wall of joinery housed a fireplace, laundry, pantry, two fridges and all other kitchen appliances. To take advantage of the width of the lot we opened the side to increase the sense of space.

The bedroom level, one flight up, was much more private. A robe, ensuite and bedroom, complete with gallery study area to the void, completed the plan with an efficient use of space. A long low slot window with deep reveals provides a view beyond, while maintaining privacy.

The exterior cladding is tough robust stained plywood, which offsets the cool of the aluminium and the green front door.

Photography by Brett Boardman.

02. North Sydney, New South Wales. Architect liquidARCHITECTURE

The renovation of this semi-detached Heritage-listed Victorian terrace in North Sydney maintains period detailing to the streetscape and front rooms, while embrac a wholly contemporary rear addition. In do so, the constraints of the long, narrow site overcome by the holistic integration of the exterior and interior spaces.

Photography by Willem Rethmeier.

