

RESTLESS LIVING

"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."



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BENT ANNEXE II

Kew, Victoria, Australia

Pippa the groodle wanders around the backyard of the home of her family. She is surrounded by lush greenery and looks towards the family's new, light-filled addition to the rear of their character-rich period house. The BENT Annexe II, as the sustainable project is called, is aiming to emulate the feeling of living in a garden pavilion and solve the backyard's issues of disconnection.

"The original house, not unlike most houses of the era, had a series of annexe structures attached to the rear that created a disconnect between the house and the garden", Director at BENT Architecture, Paul Porjazoski, says. "Our intention was to create a contemporary annexe – an open and engaging structure which celebrated the utility of 'living'." One of the old disturbing elements was the original lean-to including kitchen, storage rooms and a toilet. However, this lean-to separated the living room completely from the garden area. Instead of knocking down the lean-to, Paul and the team added a new open-plan living area from boundary to boundary for two reasons. "Firstly, we always try to orient homes towards the north, stretching longways from east to west. This allows them to take advantage of the sun for passive heating in winter and capture





cooling breezes in summer. The backyard faces east and, while we love eastern sun pouring into the kitchen and meals area as we eat our winter porridge, in the middle of summer, the low eastern sun can heat up the home unnecessarily before the day has even begun”, Paul tells. “What is more, a large, two-story neighbor to the east meant we needed to search for a way to create privacy without sacrificing the sun and a leafy outlook.” As a solution, the annexe only offers glimpses to the east revealed through strategically placed windows partly covered by creepers and greenery.

BENT Annexe II is about bringing back joy to the garden. “Once you step into the annexe, you feel like you have stepped into the garden. The walls dissolve thanks to floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors. The structure of the addition shelters the home like an arbor and bridges the divide between inside and out. This creates an illusion which further blurs the boundary between house and garden”, Paul explains. Through warm timber, grays, charcoals, dusty greens, and a range of passive design strategies the annexe has given the family a greater opportunity to fully express their lifestyle and connect with the lush, suburban greenery. Just ask Pippa.

Architecture by **BENT ARCHITECTURE**

Photography by **Tatjana Plitt**

