

GREAT SPACES: INSIDE AND OUT

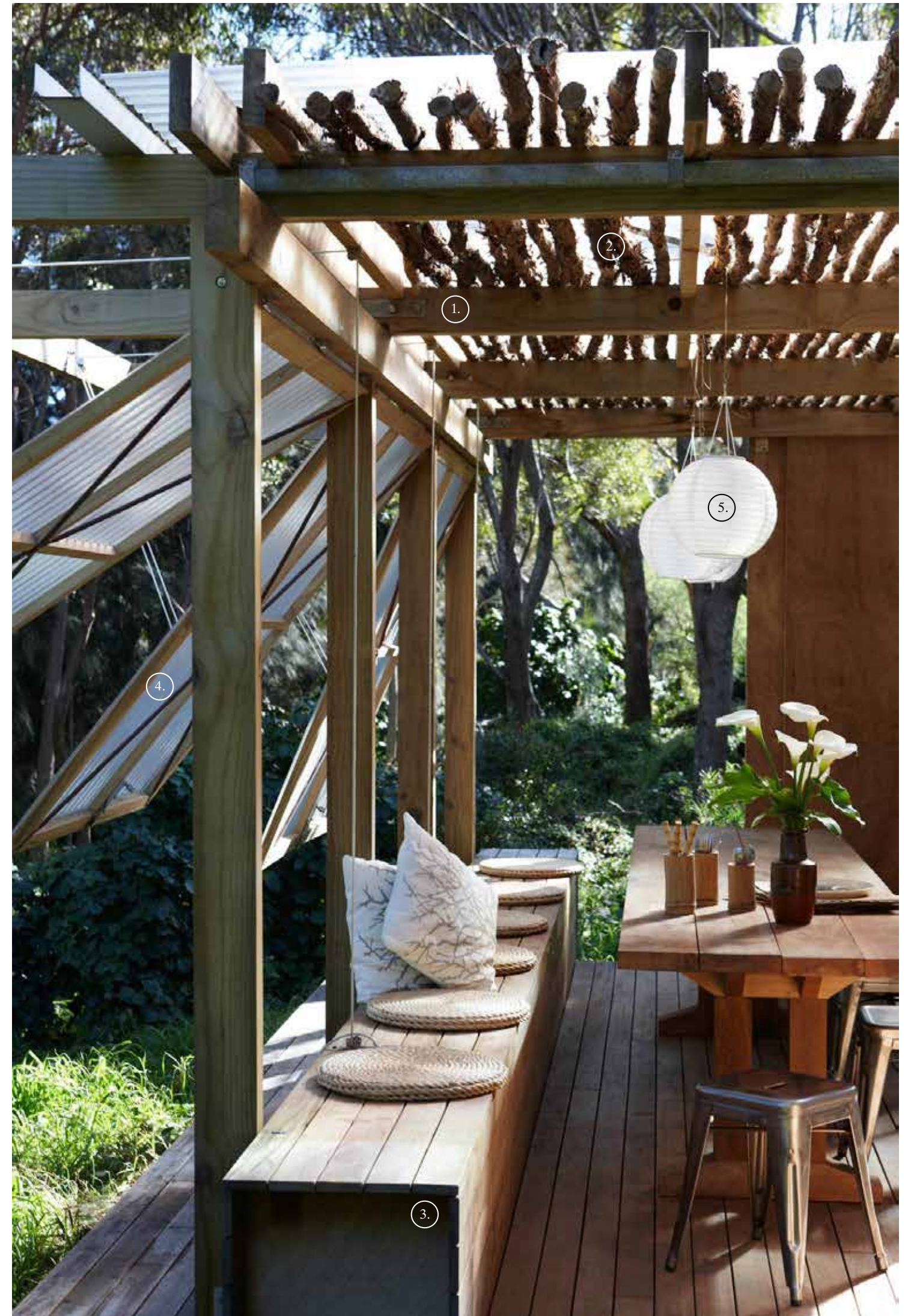
Overhangs, screens and verandas transform rooms into hybrid spaces, increasing their amenity and offering a retreat from the sun or rain. By paying attention to the edges of a building, we can create in-between zones to enrich our experience of inside and out.

Garden pavilion

Location Aotea/Great Barrier Island
Architect Herbst Architects
Photo Jackie Meiring

This small garden pavilion, set in behind an island bach, captures westerly views across a field toward the island's mountainous interior. It is designed to enhance the holiday experience by providing an alternative cooking and dining space for warm summer nights.

1. A timber post-and-beam structure sits atop a generous timber deck, which floats on pilings.
2. Translucent roof sheeting lets light in but protects from the rain. Locally harvested manuka branches sit below, forming a 'ceiling' spanning between beams, to provide shading and natural texture and to cast beautiful shadows.
3. The built-in bench seat defines an edge along one side of the room, with removable cushions for casual dining.
4. Translucent screens are top-hung so they let in the breeze and act as awnings for wind and rain protection.
5. Solar lights and gas cooking mean no electricity is needed.



Sawmill House

Location Victoria
 Architect Archier
 Photo Ben Hosking

The Sawmill House was a design/build collaboration between the architect and sculptor client (also a family member). Starting with 270 one-tonne reclaimed concrete blocks, they assembled the house structure, cladding and thermal mass. The pair then investigated bespoke yet cost-effective secondary elements in the details and fit-out, including a courtyard and a long, generous veranda. They opted for operable walls, with entire panels that slide or pivot to close or connect rooms.

1. Temperatures in the Victorian town of Yackandandah can range from sub-zero in winter to a 27-degree average in summer, occasionally reaching over 40 degrees.
2. Glass doors, timber screens and a section of the veranda roof slide away to take advantage of the local breeze, passively cooling in the summer months with crossflow ventilation.
3. In the cooler months, sun penetration is maximised by rolling back a 14-metre section of openable roof over the deck. This allows the sun to passively heat the dwelling for most of the year.
4. The operable wall panels not only assist with climate modulation, but also allow various social spaces to be created, from private to communal to office.
5. The client and architect designed and made all joinery, fittings, furniture and lighting.
6. Sheet brass panels line the built-in kitchen cupboard and storage wall.
7. Interior timber comes from storm-felled red stringybark trees that were dried, milled and dressed locally.





Mahurangi

Architect Strachan Group Architects
Photo Simon Devitt

This house was built for a family with a very active and gregarious live-work lifestyle, and strongly involved in local community groups, so the brief went beyond the normal requirements of a three-bedroom home. The atrium space (pictured) forms part of the wider brief for community space, and is designed as multi-purpose. Set in the centre of the plan, it functions as main entrance, protected courtyard and social focal point, and it also modifies the climate.

1. A concrete floor provides high thermal mass for sun absorption and energy release.
2. Large solar windows provide heat gain in winter.
3. Cross-ventilation is controlled with large sliding doors and high window vents.
4. The space acts as an extension to the adjoining rooms when hosting larger groups.
5. Exterior materials are used throughout the atrium and, combined with wide openings, create a strong connection to the outside.
6. The large volume and generous high-level glazing draws the eye to the tree canopies around the house.



House in Anjo

Location Japan

Architect Suppose Design Office

Photo Toshiyuki Yano

In Japan, a garden usually exists for visual appreciation. However, the architects here have covered most of the site with a large roof, and the external area is equal in size to the interior area of the single open-plan living room. The sheltered garden functions like a room, as the family actively use the space for their daily life – from listening to music, relaxing and reading books to sleeping in the hammock or bathing in the outdoor bath.

1. The 'garden room' extends the boundaries of the house with a large protecting roof.
2. Open skylights allow trees to grow through (and out of) the space.
3. Doors slide completely out of the way so that the indoor and outdoor rooms transform into a single large space. Similar materials are used throughout to connect the two rooms visually and make them appear as one.
4. A kitchen unit in the garden room encourages outdoor cooking and dining as part of the family's everyday routine.
5. The ceiling of the outdoor room is a continuation of the main roof line, and allows the bedroom floor upstairs to have outlook over the indoor garden.
6. Skylights help bring light deep inside the ground-floor and first-floor plans.



House Reduction

Location Melbourne

Architect MAKE Architecture

Photo Peter Bennetts

Located in a dense, inner urban area, the efficient planning of this house has meant that there was an actual reduction in its internal footprint. As an alternative to the large 'box on back' extension, this project looks at how smaller spaces and multifunctional rooms can provide a large family with the space they need. This image shows the edge of the kitchen cabinetry, the dining area and a weatherproof outdoor room.

1. Twin pitched roofs define paired volumes: one is an internal space, the other external, and the two are separated by stacked sliding glass doors.
2. Exterior sliding screens provide shade and filtered light while also letting in a breeze. They allow the living space to expand and contract flexibly, and shield the house from the busy road behind.
3. Built-in daybeds and joinery maximise the efficiency of the house and provide places to sit and enjoy the sun.
4. Floor levels between inside and outside are flush to maximise the usability of the combined spaces.
5. High-level louvres bring in a filtered view of the sky and increase the sense of place, while providing the requisite sun shading.

Beach Avenue

Location Melbourne

Architect Schulberg Demkiw Architects

Photo Derek Swalwell

Profiled in full in section two, this three-storey house is an ingenious solution to housing a family on a 108 square metre site. Floors are connected via light wells and small gardens, allowing the necessary privacy from neighbours without compromising on daylight, spaciousness and comfort. The internal courtyard brings light and air into the basement living room and study.

1. The basement living room has no external windows. Light is brought into the space from above via the courtyard-cum-light well.
2. The deck above, one of the outdoor spaces for the main living area, has a transparent Perspex floor, through which light floods into the basement.
3. A green wall is formed at the end of the courtyard by bamboo, which reaches up to the upper terrace through a gridded mesh (which also provides ventilation for the basement).
4. The close relationship between the interior and the courtyard is enhanced by the large sliding doors, which open the entire corner. These doors can even be left open during inclement weather as the Perspex acts as protection.
5. Walls and flooring between inside and outside are in the same plane to make the spaces feel like one.

