

HYDE PARK HOUSE
ROBESON ARCHITECTS





WORDS: TREVOR WONG
PHOTOGRAPHY: DION ROBESON

Hyde Park House is located on the busy Vincent Street adjacent to Perth's iconic Hyde Park. On first glance the house is oddly nostalgic, its rich textures and materiality seamlessly blending into the existing heritage streetscape. However, on closer inspection it is evident that the house is the product of a robust yet delicate design process from Simone Robeson and Lauren Benson at **Robeson Architects**.

Much of the familiarity of Hyde Park House stems from its playful dialogue of using both familiar yet unique materials. Its integration into the heritage streetscape starts from the western side where its bone-coloured stuccoed walls transition to a richly textured reddish-brown face brick. The subtle curve to the brick facade brings a robust warmth and softness to the eastern side of the home while paying homage to the Art Deco styled houses which are prominent on Vincent Street.

One of the primary design considerations was the importance of retaining views to Hyde Park while at the same time alleviating the stream of motor and pedestrian activity along Vincent Street. For the dining terrace, this was achieved by raising it half a metre above ground level and inserting a masonry planter to screen Vincent Street while at the same time retaining views to the beautiful greenery of Hyde Park.

Another important consideration was to have generous living spaces for the family to be able to spend time together and apart. This resulted in the program of the home being split lengthways down the middle.

The eastern side of the house sits on the natural ground level while the western side is defined by a subtle level change. The western side, which contains the spaces that are most often used (kitchen, dining, lounge, and activity areas), has generous ceiling heights and volumes.

Materials used within the house are paired back and reserved. The use of walnut timber cladding on the front facade wraps into the interior of the house to create a prominent feature wall to the dining room while concealing the powder room and a storeroom. This material motif is repeated in the master suite where walnut clads the walk-in robe.

The owners of Hyde Park House placed less value on flashy finishes, having a greater focus on sustainability. The house impressively features thermally broken double-glazed windows throughout. The home is orientated so that most of the glazing is north facing to maximise the energy efficiency of the house, with minimal glazing on the east and west facades.

The house is predominantly cooled in the warmer months by utilising natural cross ventilation through strategically placed operable glazing. This is aided by the use of ceiling fans to encourage Perth's Freo Doctor to cool the home.

The upper level of the house uses reverse brick veneer that has improved thermal efficiency over the traditional double-brick construction typically used in Perth. Extensive solar panels on the roof supply the home's general electricity requirements and the underfloor hydronic heating system.

Looking through the catalogue of work by Robeson Architects, their projects seamlessly blend juxtaposing elements such as traditional Australian motifs in face-brick cladding with calming Zen-like ephemeral spaces reminiscent of Japanese architecture. However, the one enduring constant in their work is the focus to deliver on the desires of their clients. This is another project that does just that. ■



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



HYDE PARK HOUSE / ROBESON ARCHITECTS

PHOTOGRAPHER Dion Robeson

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DESIGN TEAM Simone Robeson, Lauren Benson

KEY CONSULTANTS Structural Engineering: Cenit Engineering | Energy Certifier: The Study | Landscape: Carrier and Postmus Architects

BUILDER Formview Building / Completion date: August 2021

SITE Mount Lawley, Western Australia / Sqm site: 578 sqm / Sqm build: 411 sqm

KEY SUPPLIERS Exterior cladding: Brickworks Custom blend tan and red, Metal Cladding by Fielders | Windows and Doors: Vitrocsa for dining room sliding door, Casver for other doors and windows | Floors: Metz Tiles, Woodpecker Flooring |

Bathrooms: Wall tiling to ensuite and bathroom by Metz, Powder room by Mutina, Pool tiles by Artedomus, Ensuite bench top by Artedomus, bathroom benchtop by Caesar Stone | Lighting: Artemide, Artek, Alti | Furniture: District Furniture | Finishings: Temple Fine Rugs, Matt Hayes Art

SUSTAINABILITY NatHERS rating: 7.4 stars
Key sustainability measures • thermally broken double glazed windows throughout • northern orientation • minimal windows on the eastern and western façade • upper level reverse brick veneer • roof top solar panels power the home • underfloor hydronic heating • ceiling fans • cross flow ventilation