



Innovation

JENNY BROWN



Wherever you want it
Domain offers the best property coverage
on your tablet, smartphone or online

Crafty design helps to deliver more for less

Architect proves a tiny budget can go a long way.

This intriguing Thornbury house with the asymmetrical roofline makes a terrific case for how a modest budget and brief for an unostentatious home doesn't result in a mean building with evident compromises on show.

The client couple approached Bent Architecture asking for a small new build with three bedrooms and a generous study for a home-based worker who is a mother of one.

Preferring to preserve a 17-metre long northerly rear yard instead of getting a second living room and two-car garage, architect Paul Porjazoski delivered this charming wooden home for a shade over \$500,000.

That's about \$3000 a square metre.

"An architect-designed home that connects well to the garden, with expansive windows and nice finishes, was a challenge we relished," he says.

"And it turned out to be really rewarding."

Responsive to the client's interest in Japanese buildings and to the suburb's low-scale period vernacular, Thornbury House presents as a single-storey dwelling when in fact it has two bedrooms - including the main and

'If you've got a small footprint, light and height make all the difference.'

Paul Porjazoski

en suite - upstairs.

The lop-sided roof is, Porjazoski explains, "not for the sake of it, although asymmetry is our thing."

"It responds to the internal program and to the logical place for the staircase to go."

On a polished concrete slab, the compact floor plan is never experientially compressing.

Wanting privacy for their front door, entry is from the western side and opens into a foyer that looks immediately into the Zen-style courtyard.

Turning in one direction is to access the private realm of downstairs bedroom and study.

To the other side is the living/dining/kitchen, a substantial space where the room's functions are designated by different ceiling heights; 2.7 metres above the kitchen and 5.7 metres above the dining and living.

Porjazoski says: "If you've got a



This Thornbury house by Bent Architecture makes clever use of utilitarian materials. The kitchen (above) has a 2.7-metre ceiling. Left: There's space for play in a well-designed yard, and the living and dining areas (below) have 5.7-metre ceilings. Photos: Tatyana Plitt

"It's a technique," the architect admits.

bentarchitecture.com.au



small footprint, light and height make all the difference."

If you've got a small budget, even the most utilitarian materials can be distinguished by crafty design. Outside on the charcoal-stained

ply shadow-cladding, and inside on the plasterboard - "the cheapest material to use", thinly profiled Tasmanian oak has been artfully applied to effect "relief and distinction".