

# hporton house

Architect: Ed Lippmann

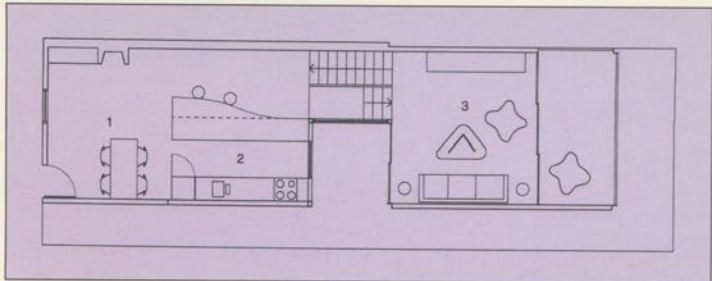
This project is an alteration and addition to a small timber worker's cottage. While the form of the existing front was kept to achieve budget requirements, the new rear plug-on is a dematerialised form of glass and steel permitting views, ventilation and light throughout. The interplay of levels which reflects the topography of the site heightens the sense of space and volume in what is otherwise a tiny house.

Photographer: Farshid Assassi

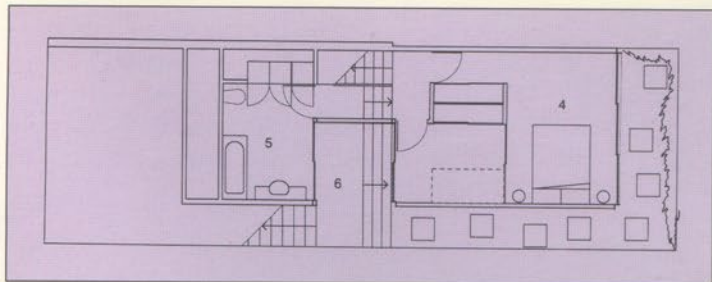


# balmain





Upper level floor plan

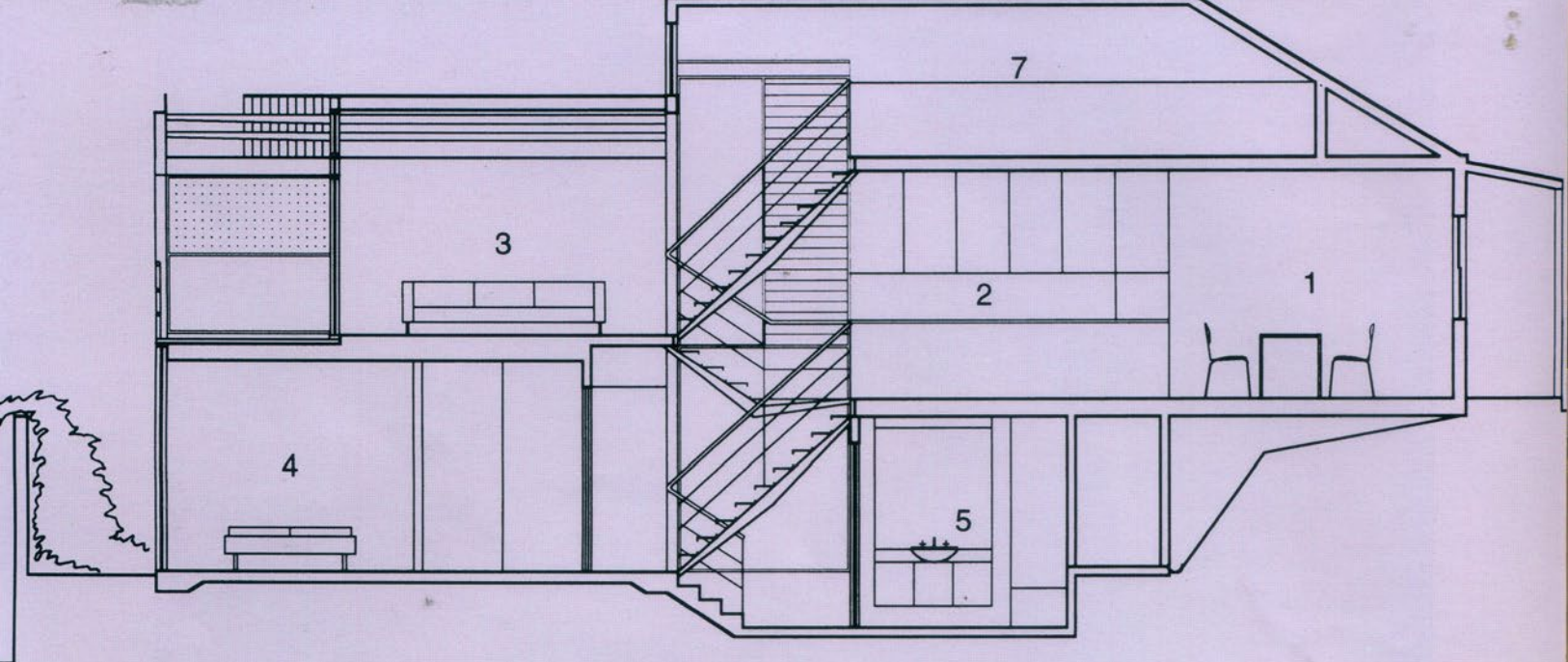


Lower level floor plan

1 Dining • 2 Kitchen • 3 Living • 4 Bedroom • 5 Bathroom • 6 Court







Cross section

1 Dining • 2 Kitchen • 3 Living • 4 Bedroom • 5 Bathroom • 6 Court • 7 Loft



The site is in a dense historic precinct where very little space exists between neighbours. The site itself is less than a hundred square metres. Although the footprint of the house is greater than the Building Code permits, the Land and Environment Court approved the design due to the manner in which open space, decks and light walls are incorporated into the overall composition.

It was crucial to maximise all available space, complementing interior functions with external spaces and aspect. Carefully framed views through substantial transparent walls contrast with the use of perforated screens and walls which offer privacy.

The dichotomy between the old and new is created by the retention of some original finishes of the cottage, contrasted with the industrialised finishes and lightweight technology of the new work. The spatial connection between old and new is tied around the staircase and small sunlit courtyard. The naturally lit and ventilated space is a surprise behind the traditional worker's cottage facade.

The framework itself is of modest proportion and span. Steel angle columns on the corners provide a negative space to reiterate the dematerialisation of the architecture. Extensive

use of modular plywood panels for wall and floor finishes are fixed to steel framing and establish a well proportioned horizontal module of easily transported units.

The house is composed of a series of 'trays' which interconnect to provide subtle definition and visually stimulating views through and beyond. A private zone on the lower levels consists of a subdividable bedroom arrangement and bathroom. Above is the living/dining/kitchen/loft area organised over a combination of levels which pivot around a lightweight cantilevered staircase. The stair is the central element which directs circulation and addresses the central court - the lung of the house.

The ground slab is topped with an oxide render and waxed while the upper floor is plywood panel with polyurethane finish. The stair is steel, the landing checkerplate with tubular hand railing. This assembly is juxtaposed with original front of the house which still maintains its traditional pitched form, internal timber finishes and corrugated roof.

Thermal mass is provided by a concrete ground slab poured underneath the new addition and also the original. Gas heating is provided for winter, and extensive use of carefully positioned louvre glazing, complemented by a skylight and air extractor in the loft, provide for stack cooling in summer.





