

w i t h i n
SMALL HOMES

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PAGE ONE

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Email: pageone@singnet.com.sg

Editorial Coordination & Text (in alphabetical order):

Anna Koor (Hong Kong, China)
Barbara Cullen (Melbourne, Australia)
Meng-Ching Kwah (Tokyo, Japan)
Reiko Kasai (Tokyo, Japan)
Richard Se (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
Savinee Buranasilapin (Bangkok, Thailand)
Tatsuo Iso (Tokyo, Japan)
Thomas Dannecker (Bangkok, Thailand)

Designers:

Chai-Yen Wong
Sharn Selina Lim

Sub-Editors/Writers:

Hwee-Chuin Ang
Narelle Yabuka

Art Director:

Jacinta Neoh

Editorial Director:

Kelley Cheng

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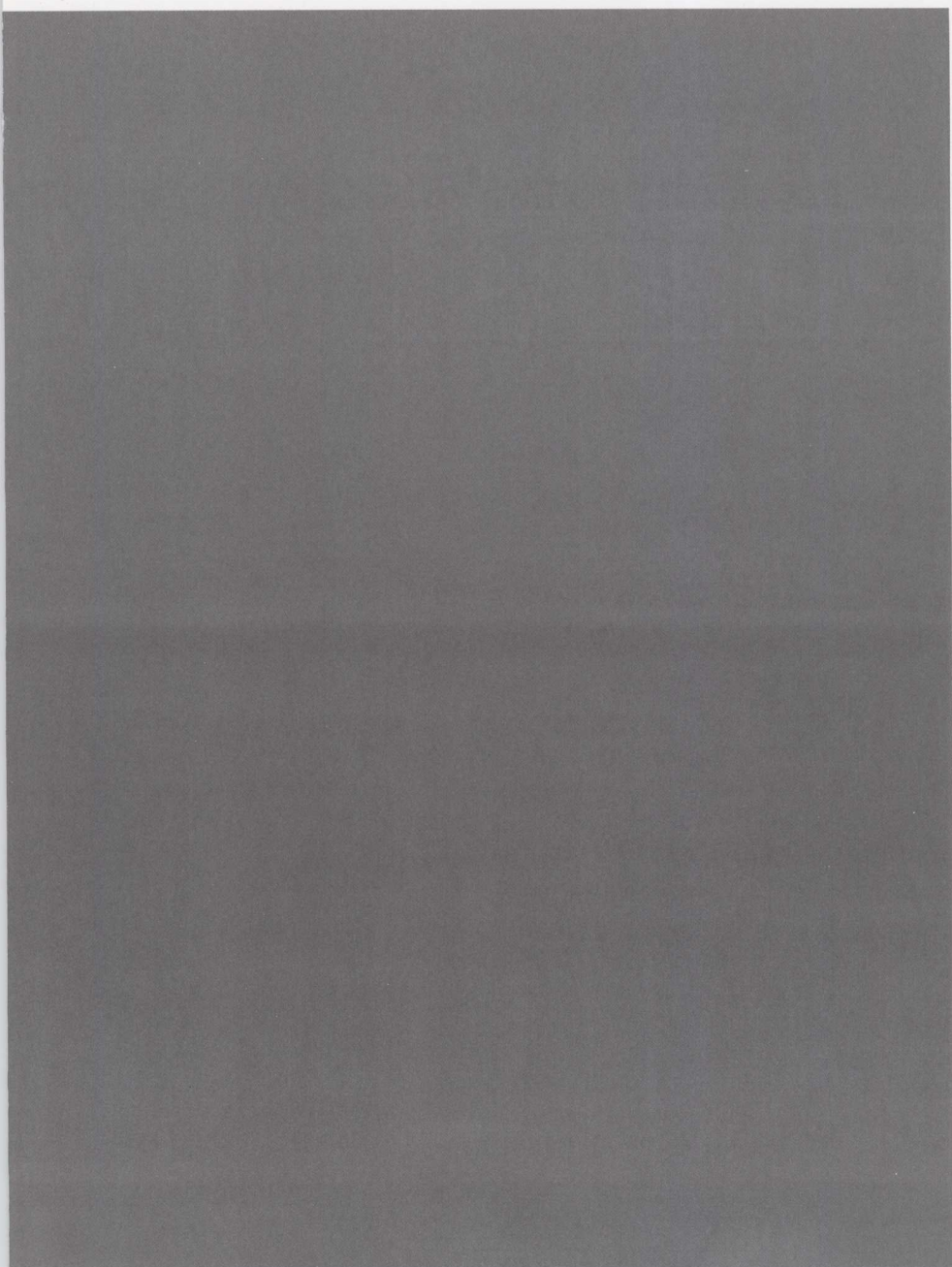


introduction

As our cities become more populated and dense, our dwelling spaces are becoming smaller and smaller. In the most crowded of cities, such as Hong Kong or Tokyo, an entire apartment may only be the size of a single room in a more spacious home elsewhere. Such spatial restriction, of course, requires of the architect or designer a great deal of innovation.

The homes presented in this book may be restricted in square footage, but they are unlimited in terms of innovation, style and practicality. They show exciting new ways to conceptualise and configure spaces within small homes for ultimate flexibility and full maximisation of space. With rich colour photographs and descriptive and analytical text, Within Small Homes showcases fifty small homes from around the Asia and Pacific region, which range from a tiny 330 square foot apartment in Hong Kong, to a Miles van der Rohe-inspired architect's house situated in a lush forest outside Bangkok. Reflective of new ways of living, these homes range widely in type - from free-standing dwellings, apartments, terrace houses and shophouses, to recycled spaces such as converted industrial warehouses and medical clinics. Varied in type they may be, but lacking in innovation they are not.

The benefits of small homes are many; besides having a lower purchase price, they have greater ease of upkeep, they use less energy and they can be decidedly cosy. Compact and efficient, these small homes offer terrific inspiration for the maximisation of space in the small home, and illustrate ingenious methods for dividing space, configuring storage, and using lighting and furnishings to the greatest advantage. Within Small Homes shows, above all, that bigger does not necessarily mean better.



DIVISIBLE BY 2

albert park house

An extension to an existing single storey weatherboard Edwardian house was an exercise in tight, dense planning. A severe orthogonal idiom has created what is, in effect, a new house co-existing alongside the old.

PROJECT LOCATION MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
FLOOR AREA 2152SQFT
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER NICHOLAS GIOIA, RODGER SMITH, NICHOLAS DOUR/NICHOLAS GIOIA ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHER TREVOR MEIN
TEXT NARELLE YABUKA



Before the renovation, this house comprised two distinct parts. The front half was single storey Edwardian in a reasonable condition, but it was very dark and gloomy. The back half, a "modern" addition, was a disaster. Although it was built barely 10 years ago, it was already virtually dilapidated. Furthermore, this single storey addition was crudely and illogically designed. Even after the renovation, the house comprises two distinct parts – and deliberately so. The brief stipulated that the house should encompass two elements making up one whole. The renovation does exactly that, but the change has been vast.

The Edwardian front half of the house has been inexpensively restored. This part of the house includes the master bedroom, guest bedroom, formal sitting room and a study. It is the quiet and rather formal part of the house, which also allows the owners a backdrop for their pre-20th Century furniture. The modern rear half of the house is 2-storey high and completely different from the front. The ground floor comprises the kitchen, dining and living areas and also the main bathroom, the laundry and the en suite to the master bedroom. The upper level comprises children's bedrooms, another bathroom, a recreation area, and, believe it or not, a "cellar". It is probably the only "cellar" in Australia on an upper floor, but it does work!

The language of this addition is modern. The owners say that it is well planned, and it definitely has presence. Although this rear half is 2-storey high, it is not at all visible from the street. Similarly, the Edwardian front half is not visible from the rear garden. This was a deliberate strategy – the creation of two houses within one – and it has given the owners the two types of residence they desired.







