

SMALL PLOT, BIG IDEA

This Melbourne new-build makes the most of its 10x15m plot. The owners were not allowed to build above one storey and had to leave adequate outdoor space, so Studio Gestalten (+61 395 251 162; gestalten.com.au) sunk a storey below ground and created a courtyard. The kitchen-dining-living space is on the ground floor and the bedrooms below with full-height windows leading outside.

DIARY DATE

The Olympics are over but the legacy has just begun. RIBA's After the Party exhibition in London examines how other one-off celebratory occasions have fared after the event. Until 27 November, free. (020 580 5533; architecture.com)

A cut above

Scenario Architecture (020 7503 8153; scenarioarchitecture.com) discovered an astonishing fact when planning the renovation of this London house: its owners spent 90 per cent of their time in just 10 per cent of the space, on the gloomy lower-ground floor. So, to make use of the upper-ground and bring daylight into the lower-ground, they cut a huge void between the two. Both floors now share light and views, and the house works better as a whole, with play and work areas upstairs overlooking the living area.

ARCHITECTURE

Grand ideas to use in your grand design

Words Luke Tebbutt

Opposites attract

GDM loves the exterior of this Canadian home, which uses opposites to distinguish old from new: light timber and black windows on the extension with dark bricks and white frames on the original. The new addition, designed by architect Melanie Morris and The Practice of Everyday Design (+1 416 824 8846; everydaydesign.ca), replaces four boxy rooms above the garage with one large master bedroom and bathroom. The architects conceived it as a container for the beginning and end of the owners' day and positioned the windows for the best view.

