## — PROJECT THREE— CARLTON HOUSE

## **ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT**

architect **Nic Owen Architects** photographer **Rhiannon Slatter** 

This project comprises an addition to the rear of an existing Victorian terrace in Carlton, on a small  $97\,m^2$  site.

The use of stacked concrete blocks for the addition connects the new building to the cobblestones seen in the laneways that wrap around the site, as well as the bluestone base of the existing cottage. The material palette has been limited to concrete, a ribbon of formply that grounds the house while discreetly hiding the garage door, vertical spotted gum timber cladding and black aluminium frames for windows and doors. Critical to the brief was the ability to accommodate

more private living space, reducing noise in the existing building and incorporating a multi-purpose room that could double as a garage or second living room in the future. In a further effort to use all available space, the roof space in the existing house was fitted out to create an artist's studio. This is accessed through a large access hatch, carefully concealed in the existing roofline, and entered by climbing a set of sculptural steps crafted from the same form-ply used to clad the addition. This plywood has also been used to create planter boxes on the north-facing balcony.

