

# KEW HOUSE THE CLAW

## ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

This extension is an example of the responsible rationalisation of a typical suburban house, offering a stimulating environment and demonstrating environmentally sustainable design. The project is located on a 740 sqm site in Kew, Melbourne. The existing house, while generous in size, lacked a clearly thought-out plan. The land dropped by 5.5 metres over the length of the site and further complicated the spatial arrangement of the home. The design required a rearrangement of spaces to better cater for the young family, relating each space to the outside world.

The design solution resulted in little change to the overall footprint. A previous rear extension, which

had housed a 'meals room', was removed and replaced with 'The Claw'. Aptly named by the owners, the new family room embraces the sloping land by reaching up to the raised rear garden. The Claw's roof is designed to provide solar protection to the north, while allowing the winter sun indoors. Full-height glazing on three sides extends the living environment into the landscaped yard at rear. The folding theme has been continued in the joinery, with folding benchtops in the kitchen and folding plywood elements in the bathrooms. A simple colour palette has been employed, with coloured glass used throughout. **ar**

architect Nic Owen Architects  
photography Rhiannon Slatter

