

WINNER
NSW OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES



Empire House Circa 1908

Winner: NSW Outdoor Living Spaces
Awarded to: Louise Williams, LAW Building Design Pty Ltd
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“Empire House” is located on the Central Coast of NSW. The project involved the refurbishment of the original heritage-listed 1908 cottage. Utilising old photographs the renovations included sympathetic additions that skillfully keep the historical significance and the unique nuances of the building intact whilst accommodating modern contemporary living.

The new additions have been sited to the rear of the original cottage which is located facing the waterfront reserve. This allows the cottage to remain the dominant feature in an enclave that is dotted with traditionally built homes.

All woodwork was hand crafted to match original joinery profiles. The window surrounds, picket fence and gable end profile were replicated having a sculptural quality made possible by the talented local trades people. The original Australian cedar doors were restored. Rusticated weatherboard cladding was selected as a close match to the original cladding profile.

The three dimensional form combined with the hexagon roof cabana provides high visual impact to the street frontage. A low skillion roof links the old cottage to the new. Landscaped gardens lead you to the new front entry. Open plan living areas flow to the pool terrace. Glass pool fencing was discretely positioned so it would not inhibit the flow of surrounding space.

This renovation provides a clear articulation of old from new, The “Empire House” project is a stunning example of what can be achieved when the preservation of a historically significant cottage is expertly combined with innovative, functional and sustainable design for a modern family home.

Photography by:
Stuart Rose, 0414 530 910

Acknowledgements:
Builder: Cain Marshall Asplan Building Services
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Structural engineer: Halcrow and Associates
Surveyor: Clarke Dowdle and Associates

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