

Award
Premier Award for
Australian Interior Design
/ Residential Design

Designer
Clare Cousins Architects

Stable & Cart House

Premier Award for
Australian Interior
Design supported by:



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Design statement —

Stable & Cart House is a humble interior fitout that values the past, preserving it for the future for both its occupants and the context it sits within.

Having owned the warehouse for 25 years, the client retired and relocated from New South Wales. This move was the catalyst to undertake the conversion from commercial tenancy to home. Originally a stable and cart store designed by esteemed architect Harry Norris, the house had a rich history of varied tenants, including an ironworks, a salvage warehouse and a dressmaking atelier.

Defined by double-height perimeter walls, the existing stables present as an enclosed, singular volume, encumbered only by the original feed loft cutting through the central airspace. Industrial patina, aged timbers and rusted corrugated roofing were key historic characteristics to be retained and celebrated.





Stable & Cart House

**Jury comment (Premier Award
for Australian Interior Design) —**

Jury members unanimously agreed Stable and Cart House is the absolute standout project across all categories by clearly being an exemplary piece of work. What resonates most is the authenticity of the design and the way it has been conceived to be lived in not just looked at. The material palette not only reflects a sustainable approach to how people live, but also displays a responsive understanding of an Australian design language that supports the opportunity for the house to age gracefully.

It is not about opulence, but a sense of naturalness and comfort within an engaging space that has warmth and a welcoming feel to it. The jury applauded the designer for using the existing conditions to bring light into the void, unlocking the immense potential and possibility of the building itself. A bold use of colour and detail is neither ostentatious nor working too hard. It is sublime in every way.



Jury comment (Residential Design) —

Stable & Cart House beautifully balances the retention of an existing building with very bold and practical new insertions. There is a real sense of the heritage nature of the original structure, and the new elements make it even more appealing. The jury acknowledged that re-using a big, dark space for residential living posed challenges and so were especially impressed by the transformation. Cutting in a courtyard to bring in natural light and air creates a stunning intervention, while the new material palette contrasts with the old, highlighting what was already there. There's nothing self-conscious about this project, and its honesty is complemented by the striking rawness of the existing building. The design's balance and restraint makes it simply amazing.



Project —
Stable & Cart House
North Melbourne Vic

Built on the land of
the Wurundjeri Woi
Wurrung people
of the Kulin nation

Design practice —
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