

Domain

NEW LIVING

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**HEART
OF GLASS**
Illuminated interiors

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“The further south you build or renovate, the more light you’ll be looking to bring into your domestic setting.”



Rising to the challenge: Pleysier Perkins Eagle’s Nest, above, below and right.



delight of natural light which is streaming in from the courtyard or, as the architects see it, from “a wonderfully generous sky space”.

Not quite done with creating more opportunities for illumination, the bedroom scores a skylight and so does the shower, which gives every appearance of also having lost its roof. It hasn’t.

“A single large piece of glass above the shower reveals the melding of paperbark and hackberry limbs entwined far overhead.”

It’s another instance that depicts how many new uses there are in making more of what we used to know as windows. We’re now getting all sorts of novel outlooks and effects.

panovscott.com.au



Looking up into the light

The 1800-millimetre oculus above the new circular staircase was, says architect Berit Barton, “another way to get light in and create more drama as you walk up into your own world”.

Barton, studio director with Melbourne’s Pleysier Perkins, led the practice’s return to a polished Armadale warehouse conversion they’d done back in 2006.


Although he looked far and wide, the client could find nothing that could better his two-level family home. However, the family did need more space so the default option was to stay put and add a third level as a whole beautiful main suite.

The first idea was to do a crane-on prefabricated structure “that might

take a week to install” but council scuttled the ambition and, after an 18-month log-jam in planning and with lots of conditions and a height limit built into the permit, Pleysier Perkins found not only the need for a highly-engineered solution but also found Mark Weill, a commercial builder “who was up for a challenge like this”, Barton says.

A spiral stair was the most effective way to get from one level to another. It was built in a wardrobe space and next to an existing long-form skylight that gave a second-level hallway a gallery-like feel. When viewed from above, the oak treads suggest looking into a shell.

The architect was keen to preserve the slot of sky so a steel beam now crosses it but has been disguised by being encased in plaster.

The oculus and stair have the same diameter and deliver “a very graphic” experience for the adults as they ascend to a “calm, different world” that gives them privacy along with outlook over the surrounding rooftops to the distant city. “It’s a really light, quiet space.” 

pleysierperkins.com.au

OUR COVER

Pleysier Perkins Eagle’s Nest,
photograph by Michael Kai.

MICHAEL KAI