

Lara

EXPERIENCE ARCHITECTURE.

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We design beautiful places for people.

Australia's cultural fabric, urban streets and natural landscapes provide limitless inspiration; international architectural tendencies offer cues for novel building design in local contexts.

On domestic, civic and commercial projects, our architects apply experience gained in Australia's most celebrated firms, and awarded buildings - experience that makes all the difference in modelling, specification and ultimately design.

Every project is approached with imagination and sensitivity. We work with you - introducing ideas, supported by a rewarding process, to help form and realise your personal vision.

A hallmark of our studio is the thoughtful curation of materials, and surprising use of light and space. We are passionate about architecture and the life changing experiences it creates.

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Member
Australian Institute
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The Experience Architecture Philosophy

Architecture is felt. The patina of a surface.
Warm light on skin. The smell of natural timber
or cool concrete. The joy of coming home.

At Lara, we explore the experiences our clients want to create; we use design and materiality to make that experience a reality – every day, in their personal place.

Fundamental to our practice is the premise that thoughtful architecture should be accessible for every person, and every building. Every space offers unique challenges and opportunities.

The collaborative process we enjoy with our clients places everyday and special experiences within a space, creating possibilities to enhance and surprise. Form should manifest passion and integrity. Functional needs can be met in graceful form. The journey should be every bit as rewarding as the destination.

The Lara Experience Architecture philosophy and process guide exploration, ideation and negotiation within the constraints of each project.

Let us show you how it works.

The Experience Architecture Process

1

Concept Design

- Understand the site's potential and constraints
- Explore desired experiences
- Design response: site and concept talk to each other in sketches, imagery and interactions
- Experience concepts: different possibilities are presented: bold to subtle in form, light, materials

3

Design Development

- Design and form are established.
- Client and architects work closely to realise the project as a wider team of consultants (structural engineer, ESD consultant, building surveyor, landscape designer, services, etc.) join the team
- Consultant scope and responsibilities are clear and managed
- Materials are specified and feature finishes are established.

5

Construction Administration

- Client engagement is consistent and planned.
- A can-do attitude is taken when addressing unforeseen problems
- The architects monitor and guide project completion to the highest quality and design standards.

2

Schematic Design

- The site response is established
- Design immersion and collaboration
- Precedents set the mood, create/gauge emotion
- Design intent is endorsed; scope is agreed
- Technical proposal drafted for council submission

4

Construction Documentation

- Client is advised and supported as a builder is selected and permits secured
- The project will be built as per the design intent.
- Documentation is completed to ensure the work of builders, specialist craftspeople and specific materials suppliers are costed and aligned

At each stage
we apply a
range of
creative tools
& techniques

RECENT PROJECTS.



Butterfly House



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Butterfly House

Caulfield South

A feature roof with a delicate and elegant geometry, creates a unique expression, as a butterfly landing on the house.

Located within a residential area, the existing house is now too small for its owner and in need of an addition with an open plan living area.

The existing house is renovated, and rooms are repurposed to increase the number of bedrooms to accommodate an expanding family.

With a keen interest for cooking, the client requires a new and spacious kitchen, where they can dedicate long hours preparing and cooking wonderful food for friends and family.

It is crucial that this new space is flooded with natural light and as part of the brief, the roof is to be a feature element both inside and on the outside.

The new addition faces north, and the new roof provides extra ceiling height as well as abundant access to natural light. Articulated to regulate the access of the northern sun, the design response leans on the roof as the unique feature of the house that will differentiate it from its neighbours.



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Wings House



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Wings House

Reservoir
(Design Documentation)

The client introduced the rear of the site as a blank canvas for a new outdoor entertaining area. The pool house provides a resort like experience, where the family can enjoy the beautifully landscaped surroundings.

On top of Reservoir, along the prestigious Oakhill Avenue, sits the period marking residence.

A house with a strong heritage aesthetic and value, it was extended by a level on top whilst brought back to its original glory. The front and side external areas were all landscaped to accompany a soft and clean design. The rear of the site, however, was left untouched.

The rear of the site presented an opportunity to start afresh. A mix of young and semi-mature trees provide a green backdrop for the family's haven.

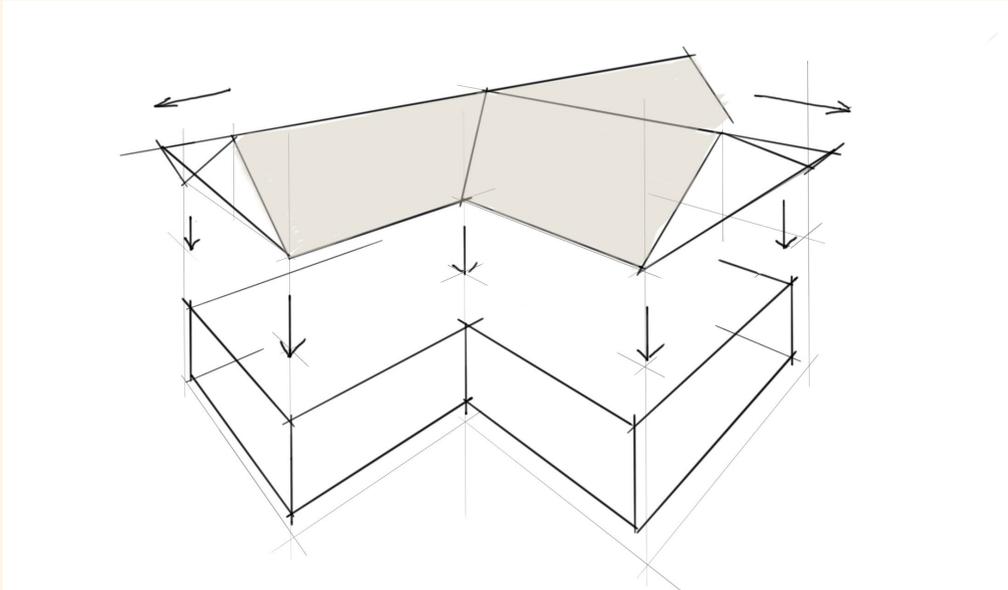
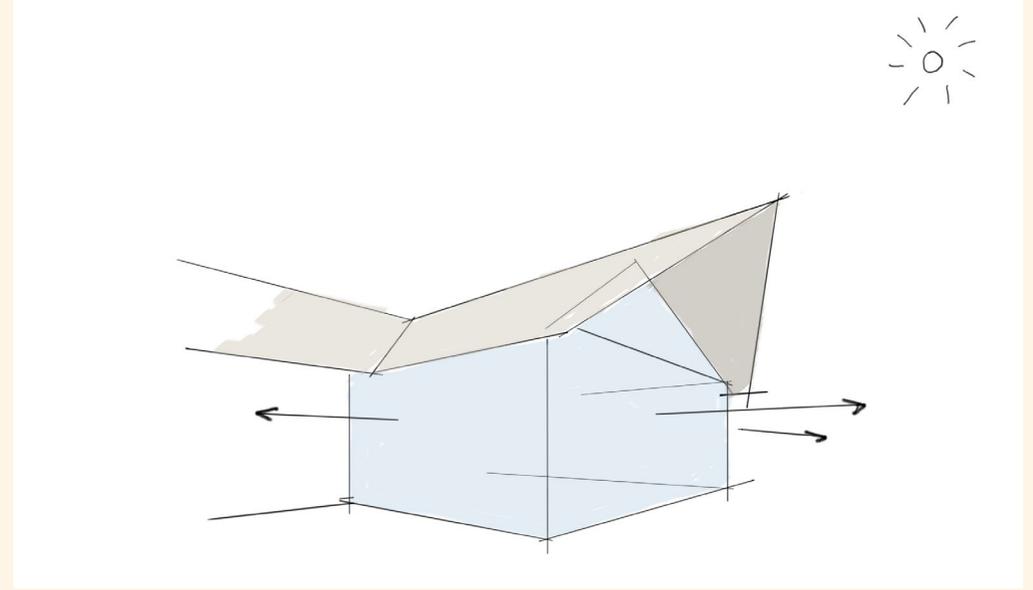
The brief includes a swimming pool and a spa accompanied by a pool house that will allow them to host family events, but most importantly enjoy the large backyard area available.

The proposal is bold and at the same time considerate, where all existing buildings at the rear are demolished to make way for a new build located to the south of the site, that is welcoming and filled with natural light.



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The Triplets



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The Triplets

Tullamarine
(Documentation)

As an investment project, a rational and cost-effective approach informed the design whilst ensuring that The Triplets Townhouses provide a feature to the corner site, contributing to the local streetscape.

An up-and-coming suburb, Tullamarine is a 20-minute drive from Melbourne's CBD, and is rapidly becoming a sought-after residential location for young professionals and families. Owned by the client for many years, a decision was made to develop the site and capitalise on the suburb's demand.

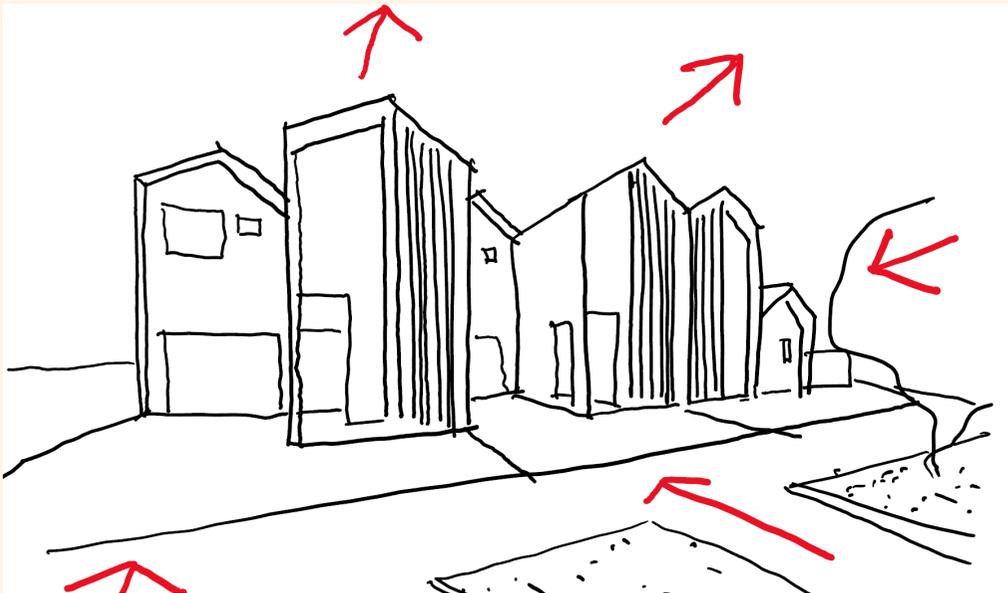
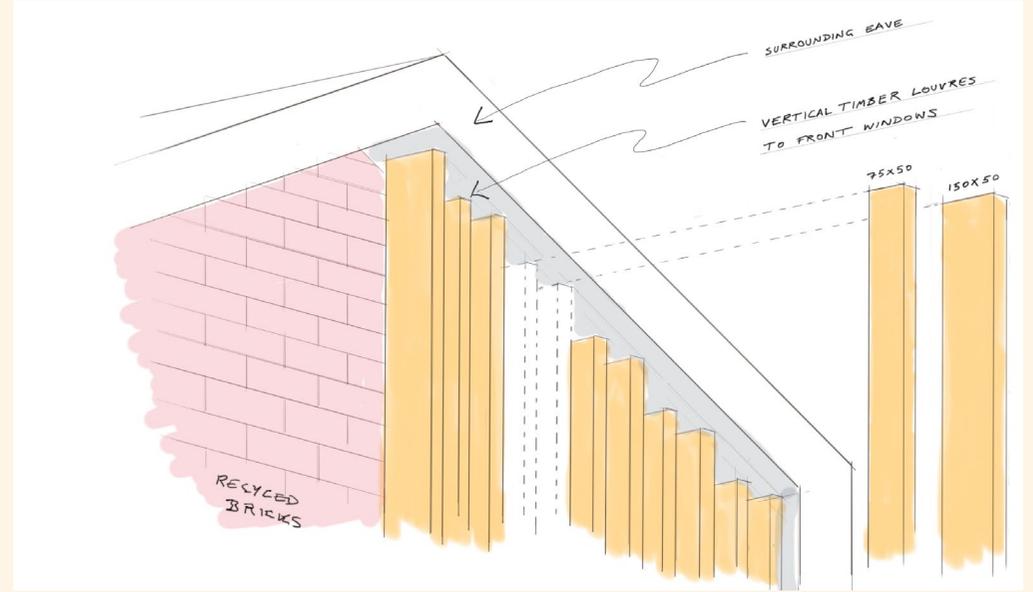
The brief was for three townhouses each comprising three bedrooms and a study. An enclosed carpark plus an outdoor parking space hold up to two cars within the property. The living areas are to be open plan with plenty of natural light.

Furthermore, the townhouses should be at an accessible price point while differing from competing offers which adopt a common aesthetic.

The proposal locates the main entries on the perpendicular Spring Street to make the most of corner setbacks to the development's advantage. This allows the three townhouses to fit within the site, where two are identical and the corner townhouse shares a mirrored upper level with a differentiated ground floor plan.

Overall the development provides a simple, yet controlled approach to materiality and form, a welcome contribution to streetscape.





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Dunkeld Visitor and Information Centre



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Dunkeld Visitor and Information Centre

Design Tender awarded September 2020. Construction Tender due 2021. In conjunction with Ochre Landscape

“This submission was selected for its proposed concept design which was thoughtful, considered and included a unique vision”
– Southern Grampians Shire Council

The existing buildings protrude past the sinuous roof, evoking the peaks and the vegetation of The Grampians in the distance.

The canopy roof extends out providing a sense of arrival and drawing the visitor into the new hub.

The project uses local materials and suppliers emphasising it's dramatic setting while building local community support and engagement.

The council's key goal is to attract bush-walkers from all over the world to stimulate the local economy.

The display of local flora and the inviting gateway structure will encourage short term visitors to linger in town and potentially extend their stay.





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Wedge House



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Wedge House

Richmond
(Town Planning)

Clad in aluminium and pierced with slot windows that minimise the impact of the western sun, Wedge House creates opportunity despite constraints in a modern and astute design response.

Located in Richmond, the house is within a Neighbourhood Residential Zone and covered by a local heritage overlay.

Surrounded by houses with strong character, the house is part of a line-up of single-story heritage cottages, with tiled roofs and weatherboard walls.

With its green footpaths and leafy trees, Cole Street is part of a small network of streets and lanes that help create a private and familiar character for Wedge House.

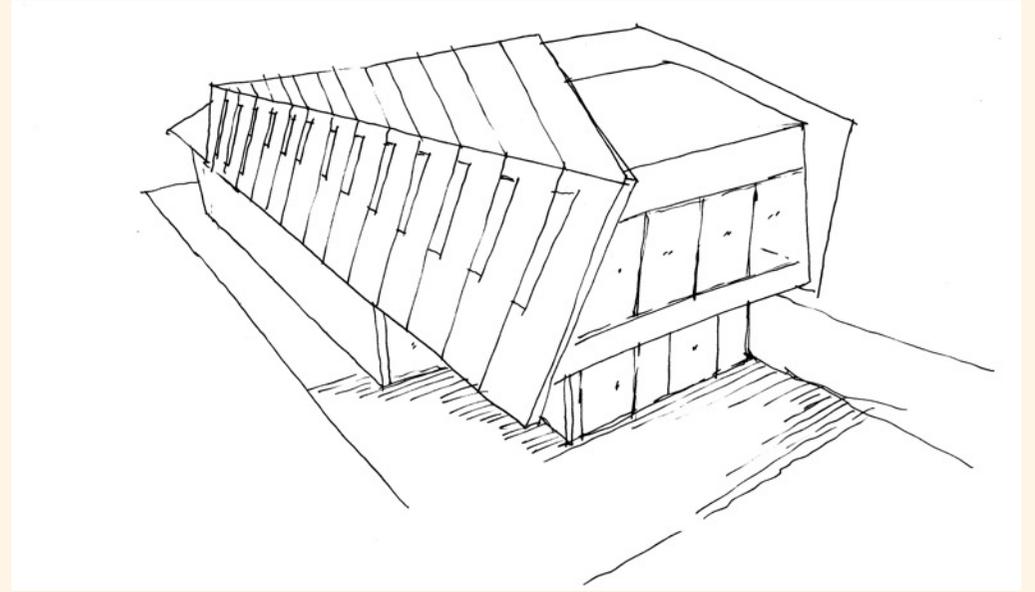
The house is to be renovated and extended on ground level with additional living and entertaining areas. Upstairs, bedrooms, bathrooms and a retreat will create a whole new floor for family living.

Downstairs, the house extends towards the south, taking advantage of the site's long proportions. In response to both the heritage sightlines and the regulatory setbacks, the massing of the house extension on the first floor is an interesting and contemporary form.



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Screen House



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Screen House

Abbotsford
(Concept)

With the use of simple and humble materials in an innovative approach, Screen House slots within its surroundings with a modern, yet thoughtful design.

A small site, with almost square proportions, provided a challenge for a client with high aspirations for their future dwelling. A brand new build, the key move for this project was to locate the main volume of the house towards the southern boundary of the site. This volume is to contain the main living areas at ground floor and the private family rooms upstairs.

Visibility into neighbouring interiors and private open areas had to be mitigated and the use of breeze blocks with a custom-designed perforation provides the perfect solution. Transparent and frosted glass inserts, strategically located, provide visual protection for the neighbouring dwellings.

The perforated wall is the main skin of the house, acting as a screen and providing transparency and access to natural light. The kitchen block is a smaller and more tactile element, clad in timber as a contrast to the main building block.

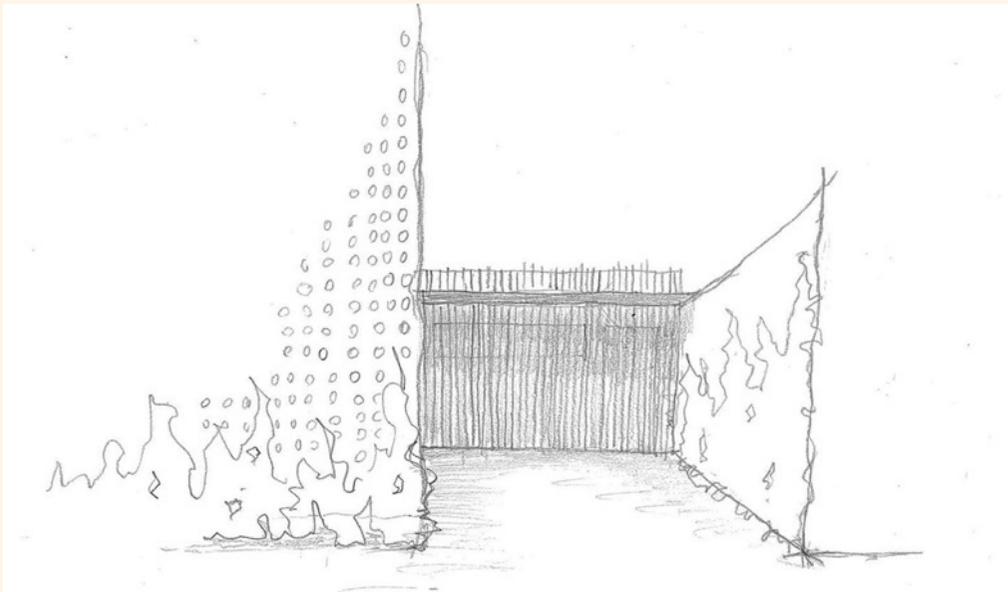
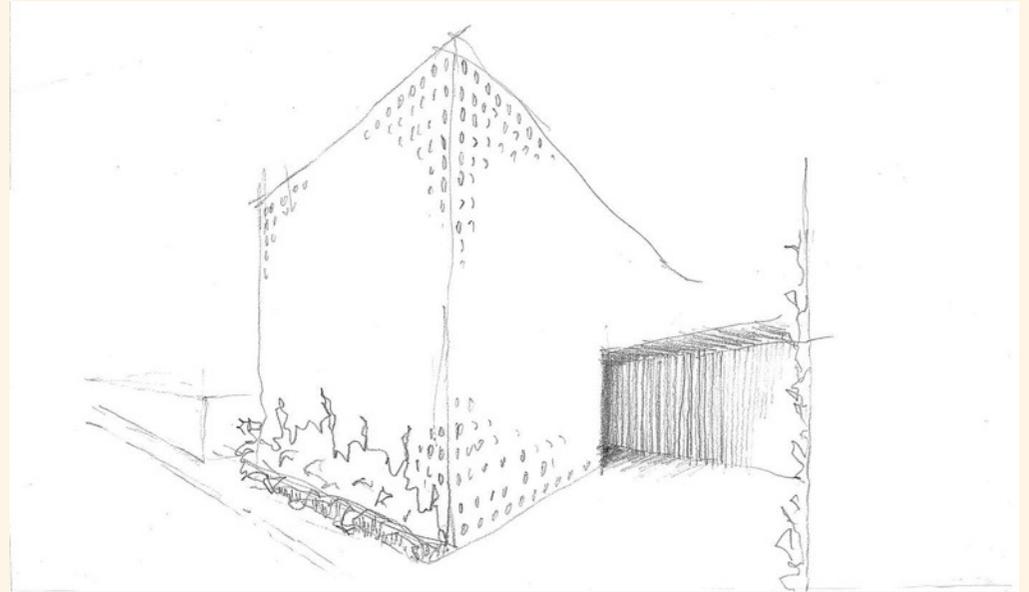
Set back from the street, it articulates the project's street frontage response to adapt to its neighbouring buildings and the street's heritage character.

Sitting between the external areas, the kitchen block is a central piece where the kitchen, laundry and a mud room are strategically located.



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ABOUT LARA.



Carlos Lara

I am deeply passionate about creating places in which clients fully realise their desired experiences – and some welcome surprises.

Lara Architects is led by Carlos Lara, a highly credentialed designer with Australian and international experience.

Originally from Ecuador, Carlos undertook his architectural degree at the PUCV in Valparaiso, Chile. He completed a Masters of Advanced Studies at UPC In Barcelona, Spain, and worked for several local firms before emigrating to Australia with his wife and family.

Since arriving in 2008, he has worked at some of Australia's most celebrated and innovative firms including DentonCorkerMarshall and Bates Smart.

Across many diverse residential, commercial and public projects, he has gathered a depth of experience in roles throughout the design and management process. Large scale projects also provided an invaluable knowledge of traditional and cutting-edge materials for introduction to Lara Architects clients.

A keen observer of architecture, urban design and culture – in Australia and across the globe – Carlos' concepts draw from a rich source of inspiration and life experiences.

When not sketching at his desk or collaborating with clients, Carlos is a tutor at the University of Melbourne in Applied Architectural Technologies.



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