

CASE STUDY

Darling House





Location

Darlington, NSW

Architect/Builder

CplusC Architects + Builders

Landscape Architect

Land Forms

Photography

Renata Dominik

Clients Needs

In renovating their heritage terrace in Sydney's inner-city suburb of Darlington, the owners of Darling House sought to create a forever home that would embody serenity, longevity and a deep sense of individuality. Their vision was for a personalised retreat filled with natural light and gentle air-flow – a sanctuary in which to unwind, meditate, exercise and enjoy life at an unhurried pace. The architectural concept was guided by Japanese traditions, with design elements such as a genkan entry at the rear of the property, a separate studio for quiet retreat, and an emphasis on raw materials including brick, timber, stone and ceramics. The focus was on investing in finishes and details that would elevate daily living and ensure the home would remain a sanctuary for decades to come.

Acacia was commissioned to craft bespoke windows and doors in Spotted Gum, chosen for its strength, durability and warm, enduring beauty. The timber was an essential part of the design intent, enriching the interiors with a tactile presence that anchors the home in both tradition and modernity.

Challenges

Delivering this project involved several layers of complexity for Acacia. The design called for unusually deep and wide reveals, requiring technical expertise and a careful sense of proportion to ensure the timber elements would sit harmoniously within the compact spaces.

The most demanding requirement was the manufacture of a combined joinery unit integrating a multi-panel sliding door system with adjoining louvre windows. Rather than fabricating these elements separately, the architectural vision required them to be constructed as a single continuous unit. This heightened the complexity of the joinery and added to the challenges of transport and installation.

As is common in Sydney's inner-city suburbs, access was severely limited, and all joinery had to be delivered via a narrow rear laneway. This called for precise planning and sequencing to ensure each unit arrived safely and could be manoeuvred into position without disrupting the build.



Solutions

To realise the architectural intent, Acacia drew on extensive experience with Australian hardwoods and our established systems for handling bespoke joinery. Detailed shop drawings were prepared early, resolving every junction before manufacture began. This ensured the multi-panel sliding doors and louvres could be fabricated within a single frame while delivering the required performance and refinement.

Spotted Gum was the ideal species for the project, its density and resilience providing the strength needed for large format doors while its grain and warmth aligned with the Japanese-inspired palette. Acacia's craftsmen employed advanced joinery and engineering techniques to achieve the unusually deep reveals with strength and stability, ensuring the doors and windows possessed both structural integrity and architectural presence.

Given the site's limitations, delivery was carefully coordinated with the build team, with joinery staged to align with construction milestones. Custom handling strategies were developed for the heavier units, enabling them to be manoeuvred safely into the terrace without disrupting the build sequence.

Outcome

The completed Darling House strikes a balance between heritage character and contemporary calm. Acacia's bespoke timber windows and doors play a central role, drawing light into the interior, enabling ventilation, and framing courtyard and garden views. The depth of the reveals offers solidity that reinforces the home's enduring quality, while the sliding and louvre systems operate with precision and ease.

The warmth and tactility of the Spotted Gum offsets the stone and ceramic finishes, creating spaces that feel both serene and deeply personal. The home is now a sanctuary that honours its history while fully embracing modern living – a forever home defined by calm, beauty and the enduring presence of finely crafted timber.



“We worked with Acacia on the timber doors and windows package for our Darling House project and the outcome was exceptional. Both our architectural and construction teams felt Reuben and the team were professional and reliable through the entire process. The end result was a stunning package of Spotted Gum doors and windows that matched our high expectations – craftsmanship and attention to detail we’ve come to demand on projects of this calibre. We would look forward to working with Acacia again on future projects.”

Clinton Cole - Managing Director, CplusC Architects + Builders



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