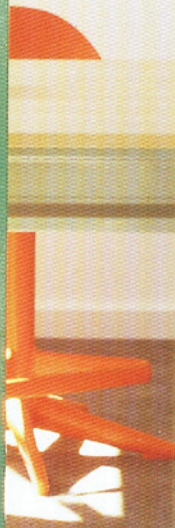
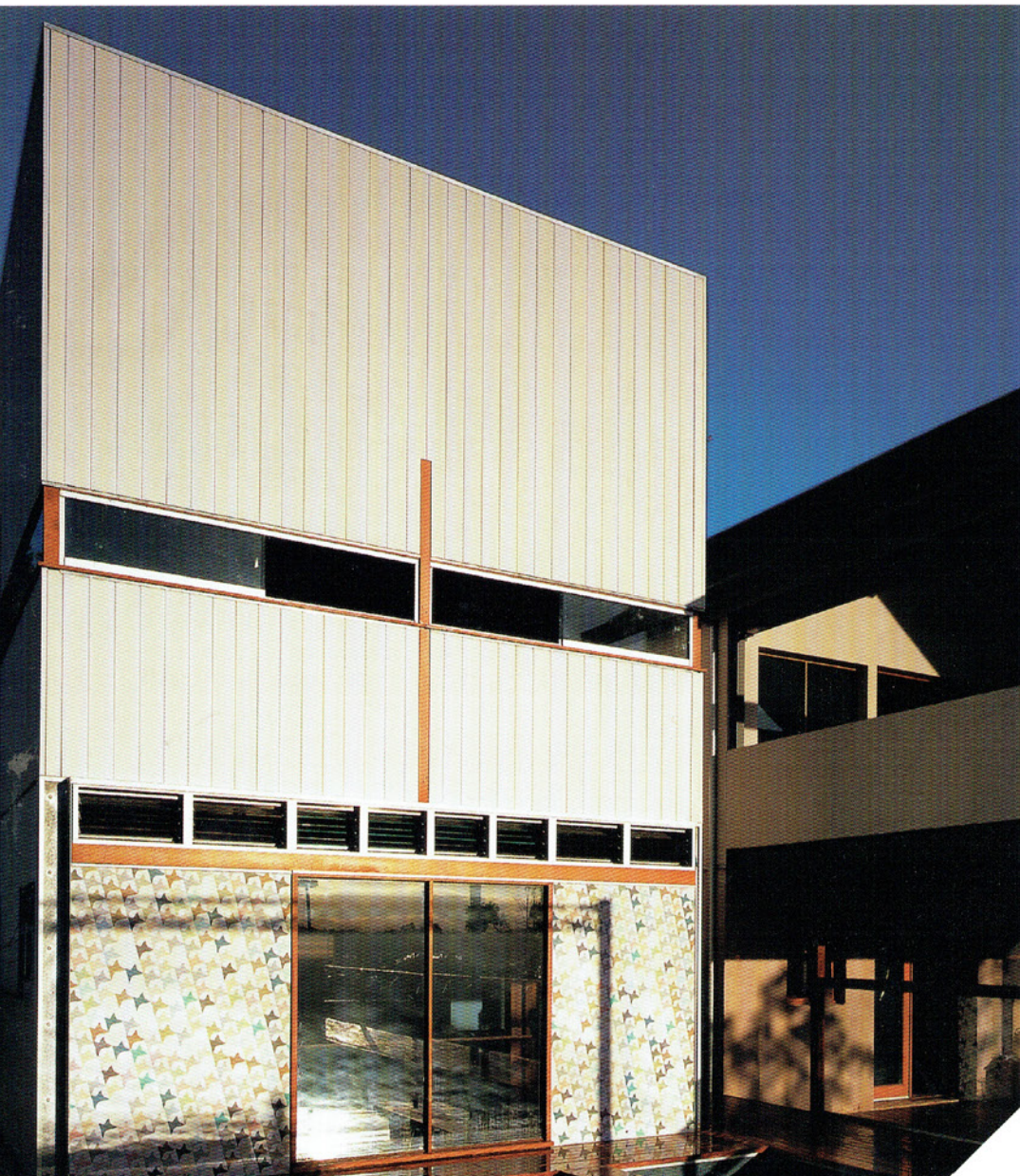


DAVID
BOWLE





Robinson House
Waverley, New South
Wales / Previous
pages / Sliding panels
between study and
living space /



Albury House
Albury, New South
Wales / Below / East
façade with study on
ground and television
room upstairs /

Albury House
Right / Lounge /
Opposite page
right / Bathroom
basin unit /





DAVID BOYLE/
ALEXANDRIA

Belmont Street House
Alexandria, New
South Wales/Above/
West (rear) facade
from courtyard with
kitchen and outdoor
entertaining bench/



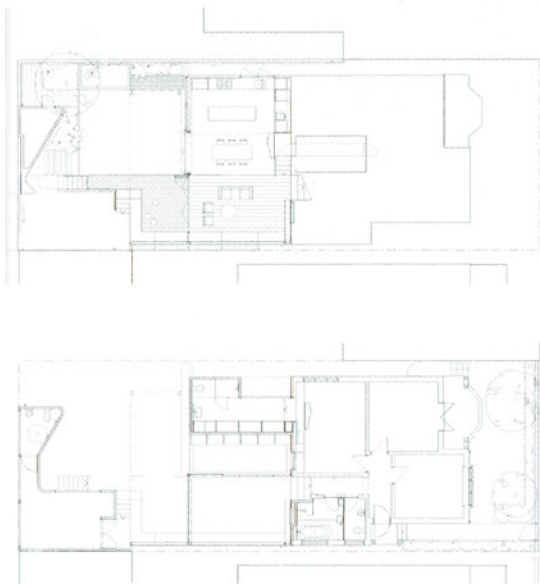
Belmont Street House
Opposite/Rabbits
on elevated deck with
steps to studio/





Belmont Street House
Top/Ground floor plan/
Bottom/Upper floor plan/

Belmont Street House
Opposite/Dining room,
stairs and kitchen/



From the pragmatics of commercial practices in Sydney to an independent studio targeting the growth of a coastal region, David Boyle is making a shift that Australians call 'the sea change'. Following the 19th-century trend to build in remote bush and outback locations, and the 20th-century's sprawl of dormitory suburbs around major cities, the current property market is driving retiring baby boomers and prosperous families along the coasts beyond major cities. Demographer Bernard Salt, a popular prophet of Australia's next social challenges, calls Australia's two centuries of residential development the 'bush to burbs to beaches' phenomenon.

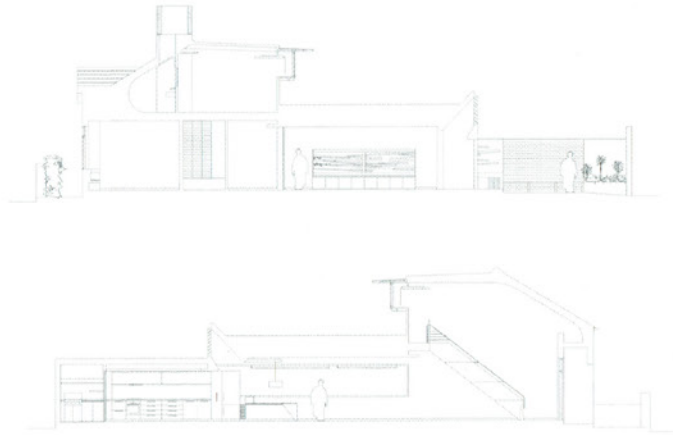
Next Wave focuses on the string of modest idiosyncratic Sydney renovations Boyle completed between 2002 (when he began an independent practice part-time after working for three larger practices in Sydney and Newcastle) and 2006 (when he moved to the central coast haven, Pretty Beach). Designed for young couples and families on tight budgets, these are not A-grade architectural spectacles, but they are creative enough to appeal to juries of prestigious colour, interior and local architecture awards, as well as to magazine editors.

Boyle's strength as an architect is playfulness. He knows how to lighten the mood of an interior and make interesting roof and façade features to arouse observers in the street. And he has an artist's eye for colour, sketching, optical illusions and sculptural gestures – visitors experience his houses as narratives of alternating surprises and small pleasures.

Responding to space restrictions inside his clients' usually small cottages, Boyle creates intimacy with window seats, maximizes floor areas with special-purpose and multi-purpose built-in furniture and storage, and allows choices of privacy or communality via imaginative doors – sliding, folding, pivoting, stacking, often with panels of different colours to create lively art. For a narrow house in Bondi Junction, he expanded the atmosphere of the living area by cutting a large opening in a side wall to allow a garden to be created in the one metre of laneway next to it – and installed a bench seat to allow occupants to enjoy this unexpected slice of urban nature.



Bondi Junction Alterations
Bondi, New South Wales/
Above left/East (rear) façade/
Above right/Bathroom/
Opposite/Dining room table/



Bondi Junction Alterations
Above/Cross-sections/



DAVID BOYLE/
BOND JUNCTION

For budget reasons, these houses are homages to plywood. Boyle enjoys celebrating the special qualities of this quotidian material by playing games with its laminated edges and highlighting the grains of the hoop pine veneers. He also uses inexpensive laminates and glass mosaic tiles in bathrooms – often finding ways to make these materials decoratively interesting, as with the multi-coloured striped wall of the upstairs bathroom at Bondi Junction. In all these renovations, Boyle has inserted imaginative stripe treatments (both horizontal and vertical).

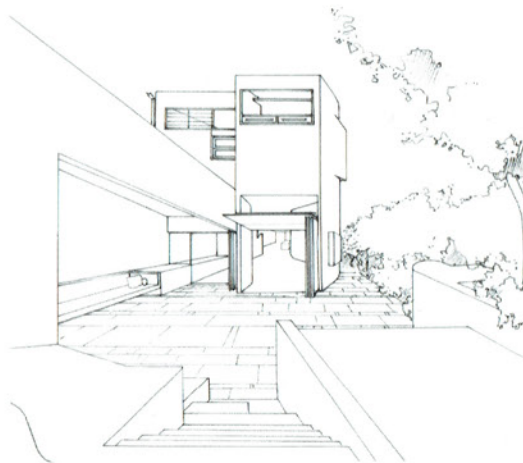
Although educated at the University of Newcastle (where he won the architecture medal and two best-in-state prizes on graduation in 1994), he has been indoctrinated with Sydney's modernist ideology of tectonics – the importance of crafting a splendid box punctuated by openings carefully positioned to respond appropriately to sun and wind for the health and comfort of occupants. But, like Marsh Cashman Koolloos and other emerging architects in this city, he now seems to think there might be more to life than craft: he appears to be injecting a little more creativity, fluidity and irregularity into his interiors. A geometric turn is revealed in the graceful curves of a shower recess and built-in desk at Bondi Junction and a camel-hump roofline at the Belmont Street residence – but it is a struggle for this generation to break the psychological shackles of their elders' rectilinearity.

One singularity of Boyle's practice is his habit of installing naive decorative treatments inspired by the personalities and lives of his clients. At the Albury house, the treatments include a patterned section of external façade and a painted frieze above the living room windows. At Belmont Street, a decorative concrete plaque hangs on a wall of the courtyard.

One mural has been inspired by aerial photographs of rural New South Wales, another refers to a client family picnicking in nearby Centennial Park and a third by the owners' pet rabbits. As with his colour palettes, he alternates cold and hot hues – favouring greens, yellows, oranges and reds.

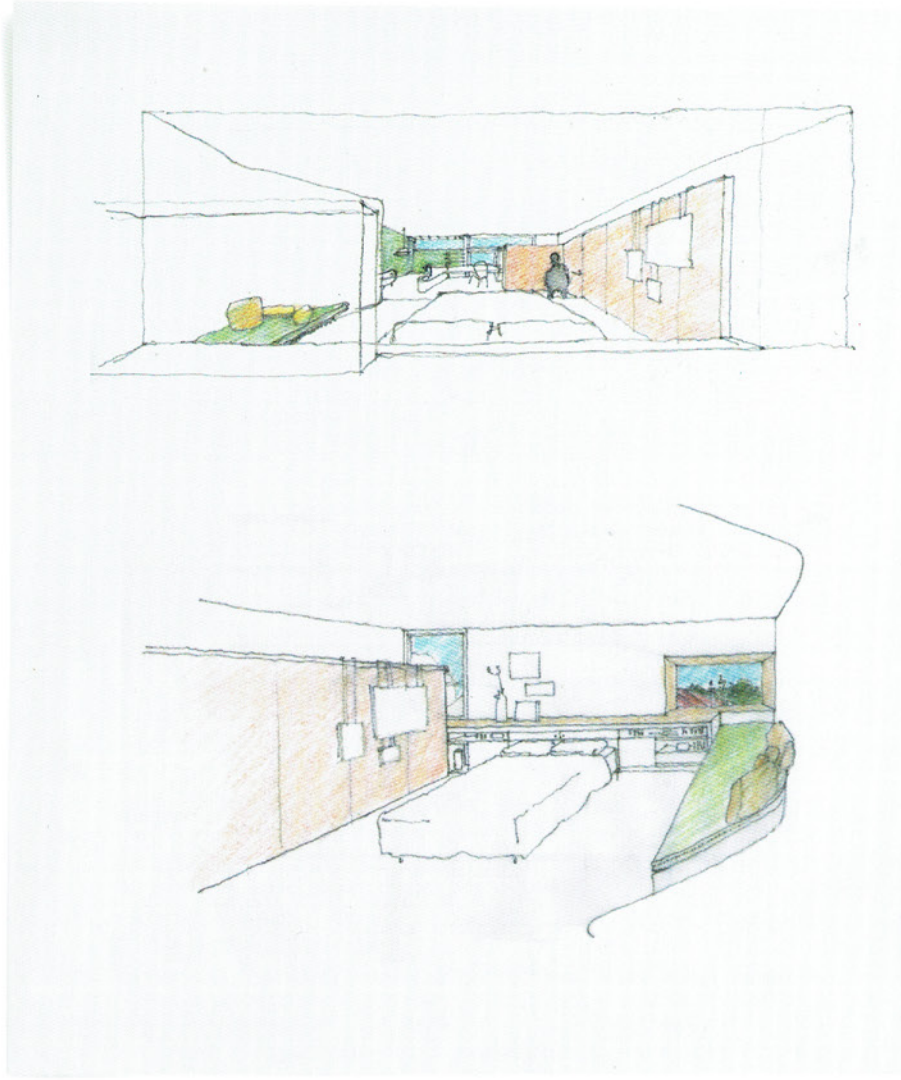
Especially in his new location at Pretty Beach on the central coast north of Sydney (one of many magnets for the current property boom in upmarket beach houses), Boyle appears poised to grow his practice in a manner that allows him to comfortably balance a relaxed family life.

Or maybe not. Last New Year's Day, hundreds of holidaymakers were evacuated from their houses, threatened by two bushfires billowing black smoke on the horizon, to spend hours baking on the beach under a boiling sun, awaiting the possible arrival of emergency transport boats. That was one kind of horror – but there are other natural disasters facing this coastal architect and his clients. If global warming doomsayers prove correct, sea levels will rise at least a metre around Australia and idyllic flat-land villages like Pretty Beach will be flooded. Already there are extraordinary photographs in newspapers of large icebergs drifting north from Antarctica and melting off the coast of neighbouring New Zealand.



Riddell residence (unbuilt)
Top/Sketch of master
bedroom looking south/
Bottom/Sketch of master
bedroom looking north/

Riddell residence (unbuilt)
Opposite/South (rear) elevation/



DAVID BOYLE/
UNBUILT