

# kavellaris

Text **Jaclyn Spokojny**  
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satirizes the  
context



'We wanted the house to be more than just a façade. More than just a message or a graphic stuck to a building,' explains Billy Kavellaris of Kavellaris Urban Design. He continues by saying that 'our building is not an urban canvas paying tribute to Venturi's decorated shed. Here the

façade can be experienced internally and is also a multifunctional device that constantly transforms the built form from solid to void, from private to public, from opaque to translucent.' Located in a suburb of Melbourne, the house has a very interesting context, and the architect's ability to

interpret and satirize its surroundings – a mix of Victorian terraced houses and double-fronted Edwardian weatherboard homes – helped him to create something that his clients and their neighbours can not only laugh at but thoroughly enjoy.

The wonderfully superficial, overt message conveyed by the house during the day is an undeniable statement. The design can also be read, however, as a sustainable translation of the terraced house, whose classic yet flawed programme has been updated to improve

connections between the active habitable space inside and the private open space outside. A vast amount of daylight enters the interior through expansive decorated glazed panels, some of which are operable walls that provide natural ventilation while enabling the house to open up to the

street. Even at night the house does not cease to entertain; illuminated after dark, the diaphanous residence lights up the street.

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