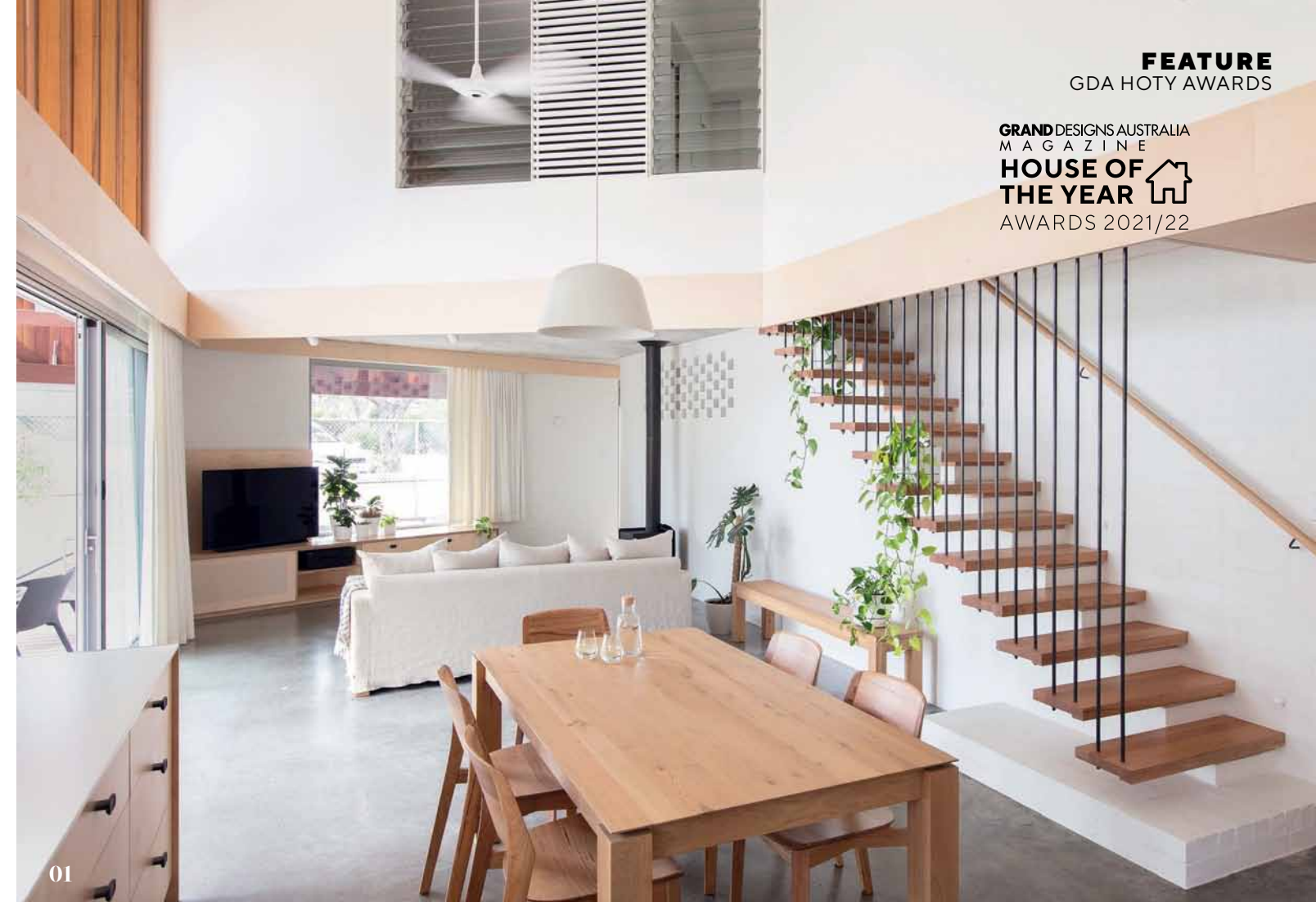




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FEATURE  
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HOUSE OF THE YEAR  
AWARDS 2021/22



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## 01 MACDONALD RD HOUSE

Two empty nesters sought to downsize to a highly energy-efficient home that was comfortable all year round, would allow them to age in place, accommodate visiting family and obtain privacy, yet still be connected to the neighbourhood centre across the road. They wanted an “iconic home” — not ostentatious, but memorable.

The new home by Philip Stejskal Architecture, in Applecross, a riverside suburb of Perth, consists of a generous one-bedroom apartment at ground level, to address ageing in place, and two guest bedrooms plus bathroom in the roof space, akin to an attic. “This allowed us to keep the building essentially single-storey to respect low buildings either side,” explains architect Philip Stejskal. “The house is situated on a roundabout, so we created a central ridgeline to address the corner and then wrapped two sides of the building with a double-height verandah.” This structure works to shade the home and also affords privacy from cafes across the road. Winter sun is allowed to penetrate deep into the plan, warming exposed concrete doors and internal brick walls, which provide ample thermal mass.

The upstairs has been constructed as reverse brick-veneer, again situating thermal mass internally, and this has been insulated with a cavity and insulated timber-framed wall externally. The standing seam cladding facade in spotted gum allows for ventilation and creates a unique design feature.

The resulting form of the building is simple yet striking as it turns the corner and reinterprets a staple of Australian homestead design — the verandah. In this way, the home has satisfied the clients’ desire for something iconic. Photography by Bo Wong. [architectureps.com](http://architectureps.com)



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