



CEDAR HOUSE

Cedar House, a fine example of the Sydney School vernacular, is an exercise in gentle intervention, carried out by the architectural design and construction firm Cadence & Co.

Working closely with the owners, who had spent two decades making it their home, the team guided a renewal process focused on cohesion and continuity.

A combination of sensitive restoration and subtle interventions provided a tailored solution to their evolving lifestyle. By honoring the architectural language, craftsmanship, and quiet charm, the result is one of refinement rather than reinvention.

Characteristic of the colloquially termed “bush modern” aesthetic, materials such as concrete, local sandstone, and timber are a considered response to both the native landscape and the climate. This natural palette has informed the interior finishes—including bronze metalwork, native hardwood, and honed marble—which provide warmth and enrich the inherent organic qualities.

Throughout, traditional lime render unifies the spaces, capturing the play of light while providing a softness in contrast to the rusticated stone and timber elements. The result is a calm, neutral canvas that allows the owners to inject color and personality through their furniture, art, and objects.

Fundamental to the Sydney School ethos is the deep connection between architecture and nature—as is evident in the glazed curtain wall linking the open-plan living, dining, and kitchen areas with an elevated terrace. Stone flooring flows seamlessly throughout, while generous cedar-lined eaves control light and shade, framing the expansive views. Both elements act to blur the boundary between inside and out.

External canopies, echoing the roof construction, define outdoor living spaces that cantilever into the landscape. Providing both shelter and shade, and enveloped by nature, they allow residents to gather, cook, and entertain—embodying the principles pioneered by the movement, which have come to represent the quintessential Australian lifestyle.

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