

TOP 50 ROOMS

AGAINST THE GRAIN

11 This inner-city Melbourne kitchen by Architects EAT is a striking example of how material selection can bring a space to life. Oak panels line the space, fitted as both ceiling and floor, while Corten steel tiles, used as a splashback, anchor the room. "It's a compact space without pretension that is both practical and beautiful," says architect Albert Mo. **Why it works** Double sliding doors connect to a north-facing courtyard. Motorised louvres and double-glazing ensure a comfortable temperature year-round. "While the budget was modest, we managed to specify off-the-shelf items and use them in a creative way," says Albert. **Owners' verdict** "The kitchen is open and bright, and more importantly, functional. It's beautiful to see the family interaction as a result of the design!"



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LOFTY HEIGHTS

12 "The courtyard, which is central to the design of this sustainable house in Sydney's eastern suburbs, is a sheltered outdoor space that is the living centre of the home," says architect Caroline Pidcock. **Why it works** This courtyard invites winter sun into the home (even the south-facing rooms, via adjustable roof and wall elements), yet is shielded from harsh light by timber screening, a green wall and clever planting. The space has a natural warmth that encourages occupation, whatever the time of year and it is visually connected to the home via the adjacent glass-walled staircase. **Owners' verdict** "Lying out there on the day bed on a summer afternoon, with a great book, and shaded by the Vergola roof, makes it really hard to do much more." >



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Photograph by James Coombe (this page), Prue Ruscoe (opposite). Styling by Vivien Walsh (opposite).

