



Left The use of various kinds of recycled timber, old doors, and raw plywood, carefully curated vintage fittings and furniture, along with the garage's original exposed hardwood beams and bagged brick walls, contribute to the rustic warmth of the space.

childhood home. At the end of her mother's lush garden in the suburb of Carlton North was a double garage. Kennedy recognized the potential to create her very own little oasis within its walls. The idea made perfect sense, given her experience and interest in recycled materials and self-build.

During her travels, she had spent some time at a commune in New Zealand, where she was introduced to the handmade houses movement of the 1970s. She also found a role model in her uncle, who built his own sauna and a spa, and who over the years had shared his interests with her in handmade building and creative approaches to small spaces.

Another source of inspiration was her visit to Japan. "I had always been interested in Japanese design and architecture, but after living with friends in Tokyo I had a whole new understanding of space and knew I could create a home with light and texture in a small space," she says. Though not an architect herself, Kennedy already had a good understanding of the fundamentals. In her job at the University of Melbourne, she works on major infrastructure projects, including the adaptive reuse and design of buildings and spaces. To help her realize her plan, she turned to her good friend Sarah Trotter, an interior architect and designer, and founder of Melbourne-based Hearth Studio.

Kennedy took her basic designs to Trotter, who proceeded to develop a full concept, with considerations of light, space, and storage. "I also wanted it to