

# Dynamic Home for a Large Family

Project  
Charles House

Designer  
Austin Maynard Architects

Location  
Melbourne, Australia

Charles House, with its contrasting shapes, angles, textures, and materials, is a distinct piece of residential architecture. The multigenerational home was designed for longevity for a family of five, plus grandparents, that they could live in for at least 25 years. The brief was to create a practical and low-maintenance house and garden with five sections, filled with natural light, multiple garden spaces, and ponds, bridges, and water features. “Multigenerational housing is a double-edged sword,” explain the architects. “It is wonderful ... a diverse family home is often a healthy family home. However, [it] also reflects the nature of our economy and the consequences of housing unaffordability.” The home therefore aims to facilitate a support network for each family member, from childhood to later in life. With its interlinking volumes of varying proportions, the home playfully eschews any predictability in form, with each block clad in different slate patterns.



↑ Sustainability  
With its bulk insulation, solar array, and water collection, this home is one of the firm’s most sustainable. Windows feature external blinds and awnings that help minimize solar gain in the warmer months.

