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[Location]
Bright, Victoria, Australia
[Completion date]
2007

SWANEY DRAPER KILN HOUSE

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Converted Kilns Make for Cool Living

[01]
The house is made of repurposed tobacco kilns bridged by a long strip of service spaces.

[02]
A deck serves as an outdoor 'room' that will be overgrown with grape vines in time.

[03]
Skylights and louvers in the kilns maximise natural shading, cooling and ventilation.

The Kiln House, in Bright, Victoria, in Australia consists of a linked series of new and existing rural forms. The project explored ways in which the architects could draw together indoor and outdoor space in a rural context. The client wanted to design a retreat house that would make use of redundant tobacco kilns located in a number of sheds on the property. The kilns were moved to a site overlooking a vineyard. To convert the kilns to a domestic use, Swaney Draper clustered them, connecting them via a linear strip of service spaces that abstract the traditional veranda

and the lean-to. Each kiln is transformed into a domestic interior comprising lofty tower-like spaces that serve as contemplative vistas from which to view the nearby mountain and rows of vines. Between each kiln the architects installed a deck – an outdoor room that will become overgrown with vines given enough time. The reuse of the existing kilns and the creation of new forms using simple repetitive construction techniques and standard, inexpensive materials resulted in a laudably low-budget but relatively sustainable construction. The house is fitted with windows at the top of the kilns

and louvers lower down, allowing for maximum natural cooling and ventilation. An exposed concrete slab in the new areas provides thermal mass while water is supplied through a series of rainwater collection tanks.

[01]





[02]

[03]

