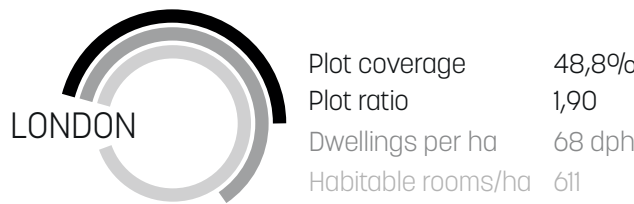


# Terrace Houses in England



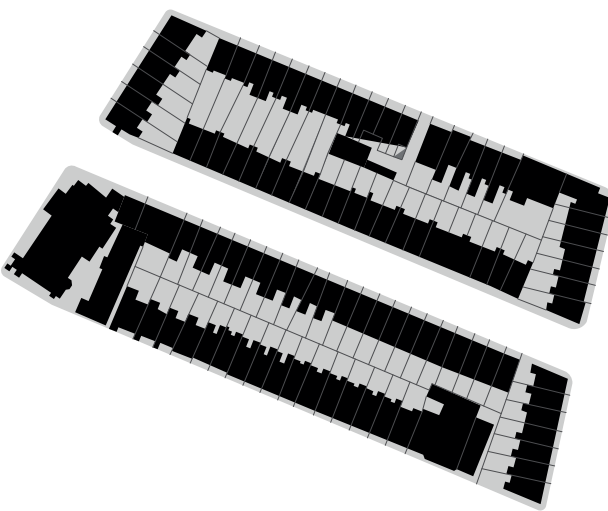
The English terrace house can be defined as a row of attached houses designed as a unit with a flush facade, three-four-five storeys and a basement level.

**URBAN CONFIGURATION**

Each row is mirrored along the rear line of the plot boundary. With a total block width of less than 40 metres, there was just enough room for the use of the rear parts of the plot as gardens. The land behind the gardens, in late georgian and early victorian times, was considered a service area, unsuitable for recreational use by the middle-class owners.

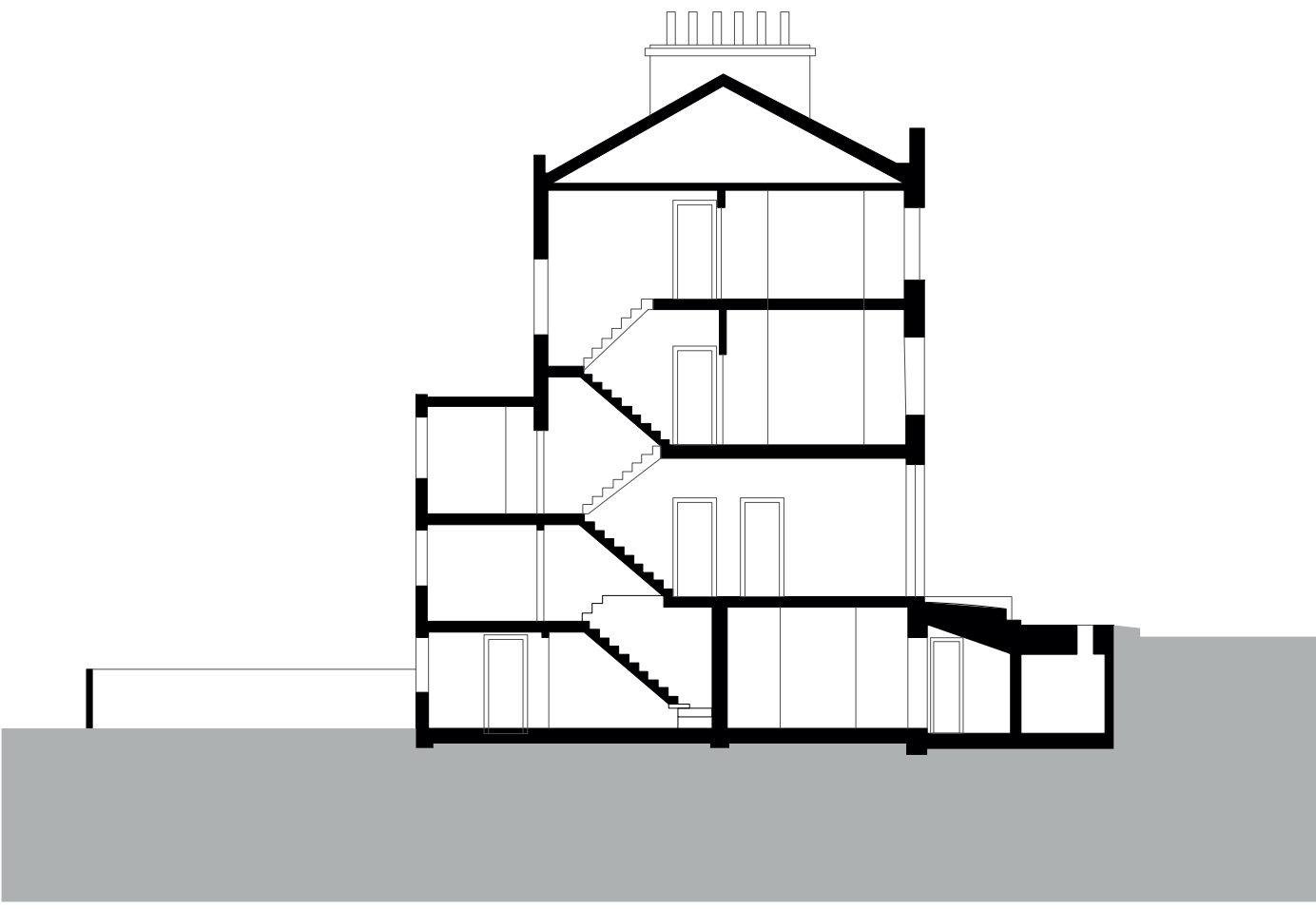
**ARCHITECTURE**

The interior layout of the terrace house has two rooms per floor and a peripheral staircase. Depending on social status, houses could be slightly wider or taller. The early terraces usually had a rectangular shape with straight front and back facades. Its main feature is the elevation of the street level. The earth dug up by the building excavation was used for the construction of the street which had three advantages: a minimal amount of land movement, the easy construction of a basement with a front light shaft (with a staircase and a separate service entrance) for storing coal and an additional above ground level garden side. Due to the elevation of the street and the ground floor, the basement was almost level with garden but on one side profiting from good light conditions. In terms of style, there is a large variety of formal expressions such as bow windows, blank brick facades, parapets with stone or brick cornices but inside timber remains the main building material.



## Three storeys up

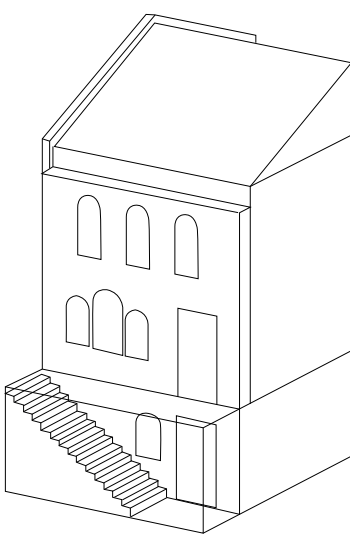
Element



### Front light shaft

Storing coal and second service entrance

## Front light shaft



Element

# Pawson House

London  
John Pawson

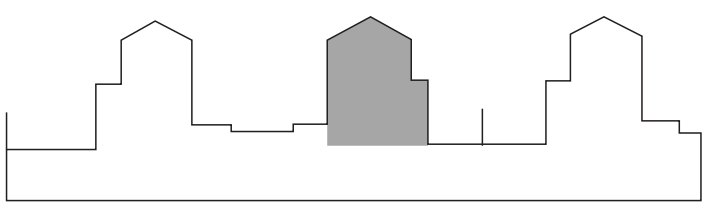


Planning regulations prohibited alterations to the front of this traditional nineteenth century row house in a conservation area in west London. Working within these restrictions, the design scoops out the interior in its entirety, leaving the protected facade untouched. Floor layouts are radically redrawn to give the maximum amount of unencumbered space, while cuts made to the envelope allow natural light into the full depth of the plan. At the top of the house a glazed slot running the length of the ceiling allows light to spill down a triple-height staircase. Outside the conventional street elevation gives only a tantalising glimpse of the new life which has been flipped into the frame of the old.

### Back to back garden

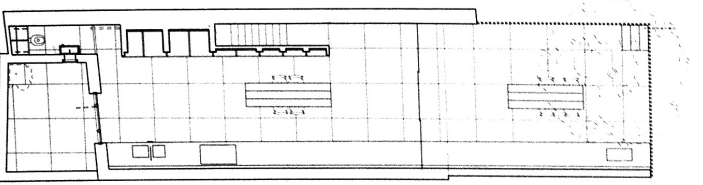
The victorian back-to-back that proliferated across industrial Britain represents a scaled down version of the Georgian terrace. There is no outside space behind the house. The back wall is shared directly with the neighbour.

## Back to back garden

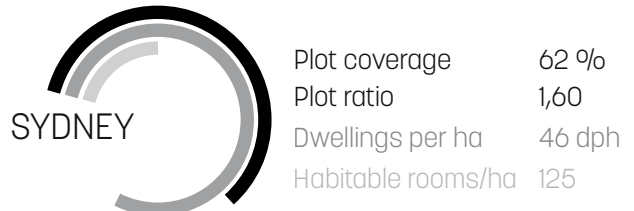


Element

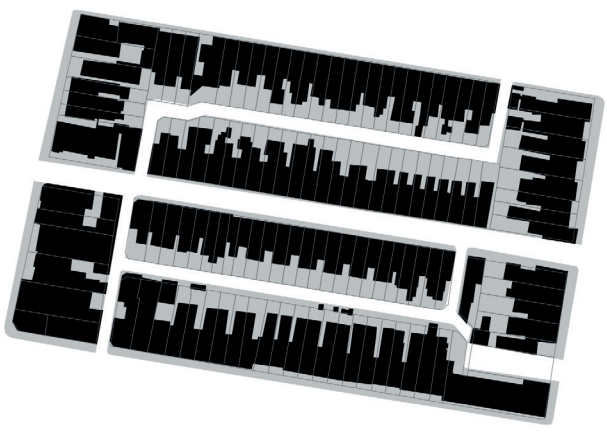
"The key design decision was to include a new staircase, allowing for a much freer treatment of the plan on each level. A straight flight, accessed from the rear, rises the whole way up the house. Underneath, another flight goes down to the kitchen, on the garden level."



# Terrace Houses in Australia



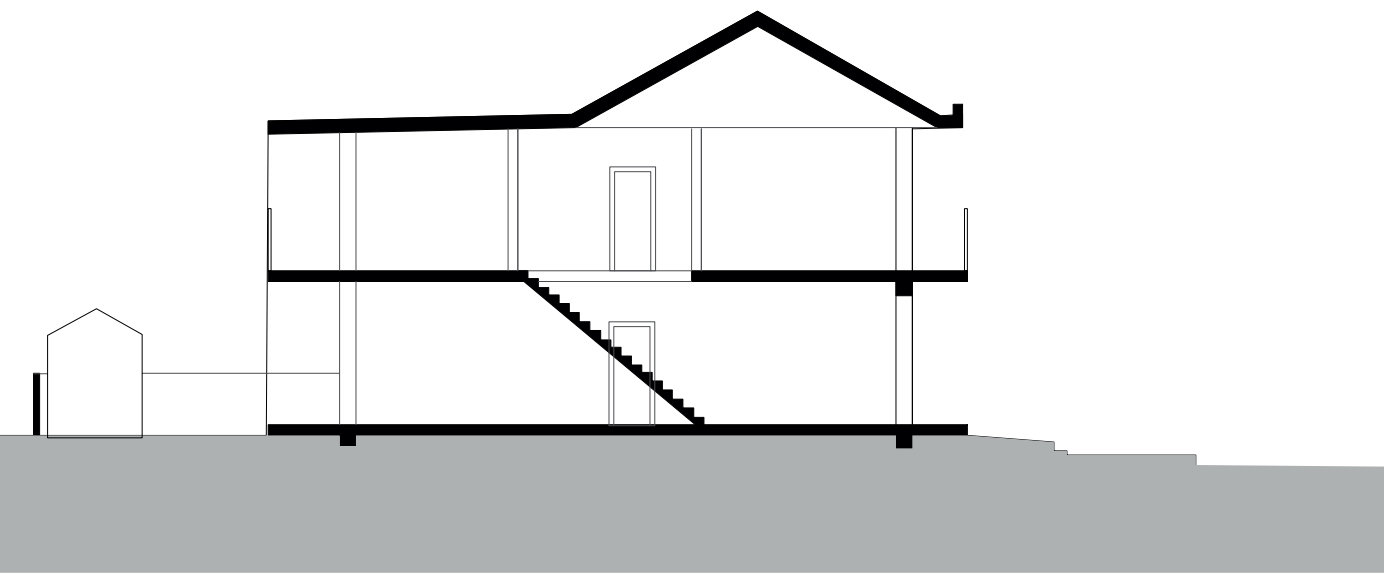
Single-double-triple storeys and a basement level dominant front section occupying the full width of the narrow site facing the street. The front section is two rooms deep with a side passage to give access to both these rooms. To the side of the back extension is an open space called a cut-back. In two-storeys houses, the upstairs room were bedrooms. The building regulations dictated external feature of the terrace house: setback from the street, protruding wing walls to the party walls facing the street and party walls that separated the roof of one individual terrace from that of another (as a fire protection); size of windows opening, the banning of cellar spaces for habitation; parapet walls which encouraged the development of decorated fronts. Many terrace houses were constructed in brick and only the front and parapet were stuccoed in cement. In Sydney some early terraces were constructed in sandstone.



## Cast iron ornamentation

Element

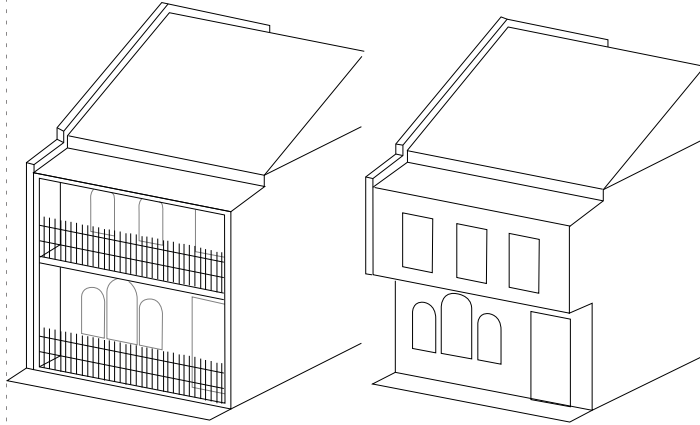
"In one swift clean stroke the bland-flat faced, cramped and vertical London Town Georgian architecture was imposed on warm sunny Sydney Town"



### Brick party wall

Each house is separated from its neighbour by a party wall on the boundary of the building allotment which is generally 9 inches (27cm) or doubled thick and it is a fire protection wall and a division between the houses.

## Brick party wall

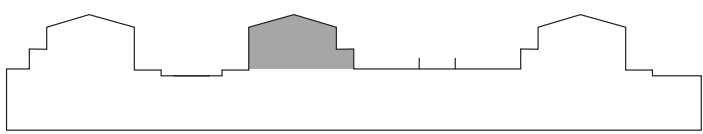


Element

### Service lane

Rear laneways are used for rubbish collection, parking, rear vehicular access, communal functions like street gatherings and community gardens. Lanes in conjunction with even narrower informal alleys, provide quiet transport routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

## Service lane



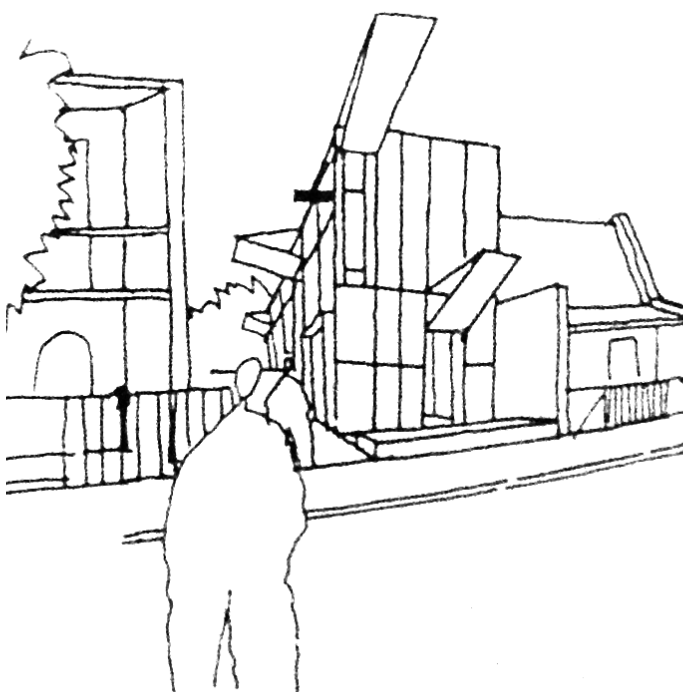
Element

# Westwood House

Sydney  
Sean Godsell



"After a series of built and unbuilt rural and coastal houses this project, in a medium density inner suburb of Sydney, has allowed us to re-visit the complexities of the single family (urban) dwelling. It is also the first house which I have designed in a city other than Melbourne. Our client is a couple who relocated from England a few years ago and who are unapologetic fans of the English Architect John Pawson."



"[...]the house which is 17m x 4.5m split over four levels. Two of the levels are cut into the site to form a basement and a trussed steel box is suspended over this level to form the main accommodation of the building. The entire building is wrapped in an operable 'solar skin' - a combined UV filter and solar collector which protects the facade while at the same time filtering sunlight and absorbing sunlight for use as electricity. This enhancement of the skin as a power source is a characteristic of our most recent projects and highlights the potential of the facade as a truly organic building element."

