

Design patterns for home



We've worked extensively with community members exploring where and how they live helps and hinders their lives. Through this work, we identified a number of 'design patterns'; physical design features that enable the critical functions of home. We've supplemented the set with patterns from examples featured in this book, and included them here for your use. The patterns are intended to be easily adapted and recombined in different contexts.

Walls that move



Moveable walls allow spaces to be reconfigured to meet changing needs.

See the award-winning Benn house.

Public private spaces



Spaces that blur the public and private, such as front yards and porches, create opportunities for connection as well as creating a buffer for privacy.

In inner city Sydney, Sally put an old couch out the front of her unit to watch the parrots at dusk and chat to people as they head home from the station. She also has a Free Library next to her letterbox, which creates lots of incidental conversation and exchange.

Shared gardens



Shared gardens enable incidental connections, bring together neighbours in a neutral and shared public space and have sustainability and food benefits as well.

Charles Sturt Council in Adelaide allows residents to add the verge outside their home to a 'no-mow' list and convert it into a garden.

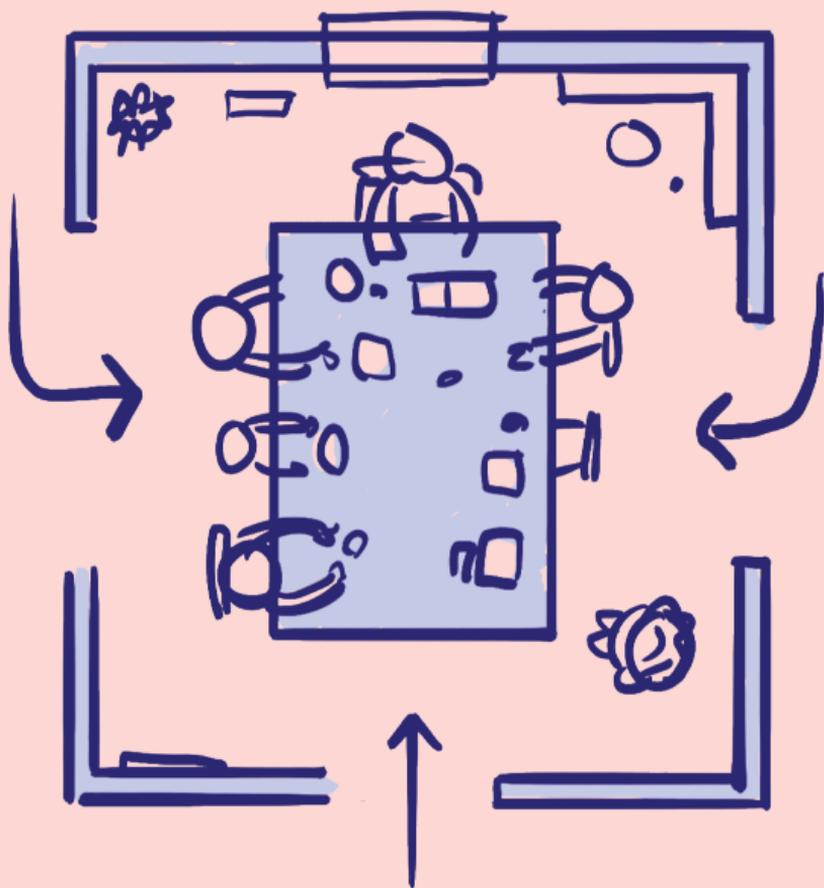
Bump spaces



Bump spaces create opportunities for people to informally 'bump' into others, generating connection and sense of community.

Imagine a rooftop, community green space or communal laundry.

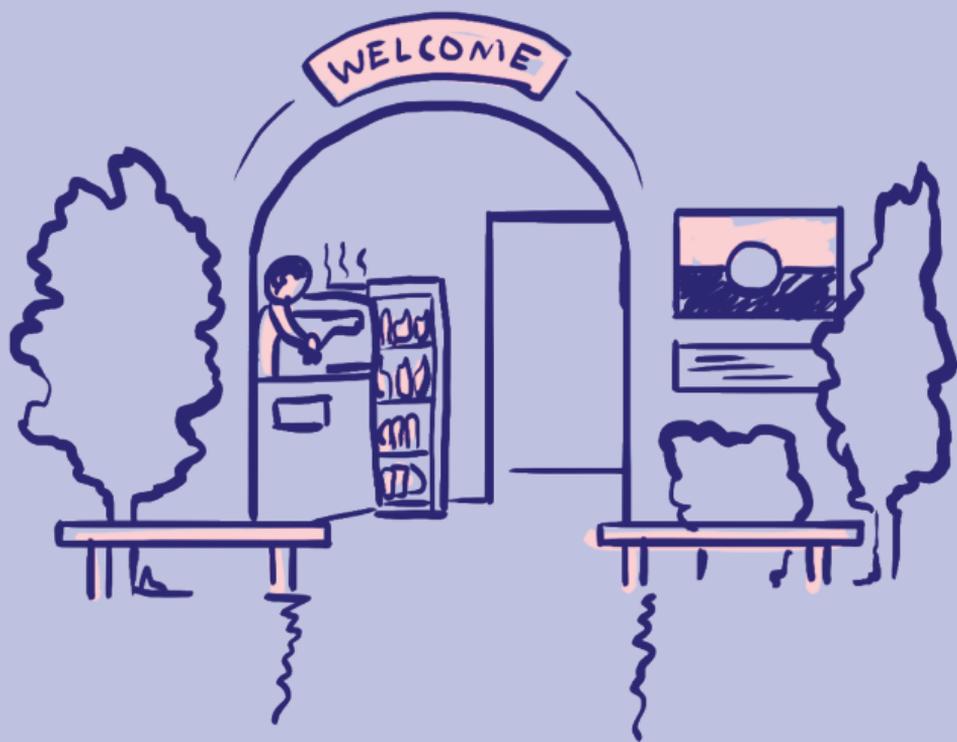
Common house



Community spaces such as shared kitchens, halls and houses create spaces to gather, connect, and learn.

Homesmore will have a common house for people to cook, socialise and have guests stay.

Acknowledgement entrances



Greeting-oriented entrances featuring cultural acknowledgements to the traditional owners foster connection and safety, particularly when accompanied by spaces for conversation.

The entrance to the Nightingale 1 apartment building has bench seating, a micro green park with seating, an adjoining cafe and a permanent acknowledgment of Aboriginal country on display.

Streetfront living



Putting living or kitchen areas at the front of a house increases the chance of incidental connection and places a 'public' space facing the street.

At his home in Adelaide, Brugh built living areas at the front of his new home to ensure that he was easily able to connect with neighbours and invite people into the public part of his home more easily.

Living centres



Having the living and dining spaces as the centre of the home creates opportunity for connection.

A central 'hearth' for living and dining is common to all Green House aged care homes. The bedrooms are adjacent to the hearth, which puts connection at the literal heart of each home.

Do your own thing room



Additional rooms without a pre-assigned function (like a 'bedroom' or 'living room') give residents the possibility to use their home to enhance aspects of their life by providing a space for hobbies, pursuits, cultural activities or business.

Community Living Project supports their NDIS clients to run micro-enterprises, which often rely on flexible space in the home.