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Glass Loggia House wins two prestigious HOUSES Magazine awards for design excellence

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Allen Jack+Cottier, Belinda Koopman and Vladimir Sitta of Terragram, have been honoured among Australia's best house, garden and apartment designers at the inaugural HOUSES magazine awards in Melbourne on Friday evening, for their work on Glass Loggia House in Glebe, NSW.

Their transformation of the dark rear living spaces and run down garden of a grand two storey High Victorian style residence in Sydney's inner west won the Outside category, and also a High Commendation for House Alteration and Addition under 200 m².

The judges noted "The approach of both the landscape architect and architect respects the remnants of the past, adding another layer to history. Through a suite of new spaces the house and garden is now more engaged with the people who live there... The walls, rooms, corridors, platforms, and curtains create a palpable ambiguity about what is inside and outside, old and new."

The house was originally a private zoo, so when work started in 2003 Vladimir Sitta retained and reused building fabric remnants to construct a "Garden of Ghosts" with a polished concrete pool 'fenced' by a fish skeleton vitrine and plant filled moat.

Jim Koopman, Director – Architecture, Allen Jack+Cottier, said " We conceived a double volume glass loggia sheltered on the west by an existing cypress stand to create a useable outdoor area in a way that responds to the grand scale of the existing building ,and was appropriate to the conservation area.

"The loggia and new rooms are designed to exploit the ambiguities between what is inside and what is outside with a dramatic external steel mesh curtain shading the whole north-west façade, which operates to transform the loggia and garden spaces for different family functions."

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