

## LOFTY HEIGHTS

# 12

"The courtyard, which is central to the design of this sustainable house in Sydney's eastern suburbs, is a sheltered outdoor space that is the living centre of the home," says architect Caroline Pidcock.

**Why it works** This courtyard invites winter sun into the home (even the south-facing rooms, via adjustable roof and wall elements), yet is shielded from harsh light by timber screening, a green wall and clever planting. The space has a natural warmth that encourages occupation, whatever the time of year and it is visually connected to the home via the adjacent glass-walled staircase.

**Owners' verdict** "Lying out there on the day bed on a summer afternoon, with a great book, and shaded by the Vergola roof, makes it really hard to do much more."



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