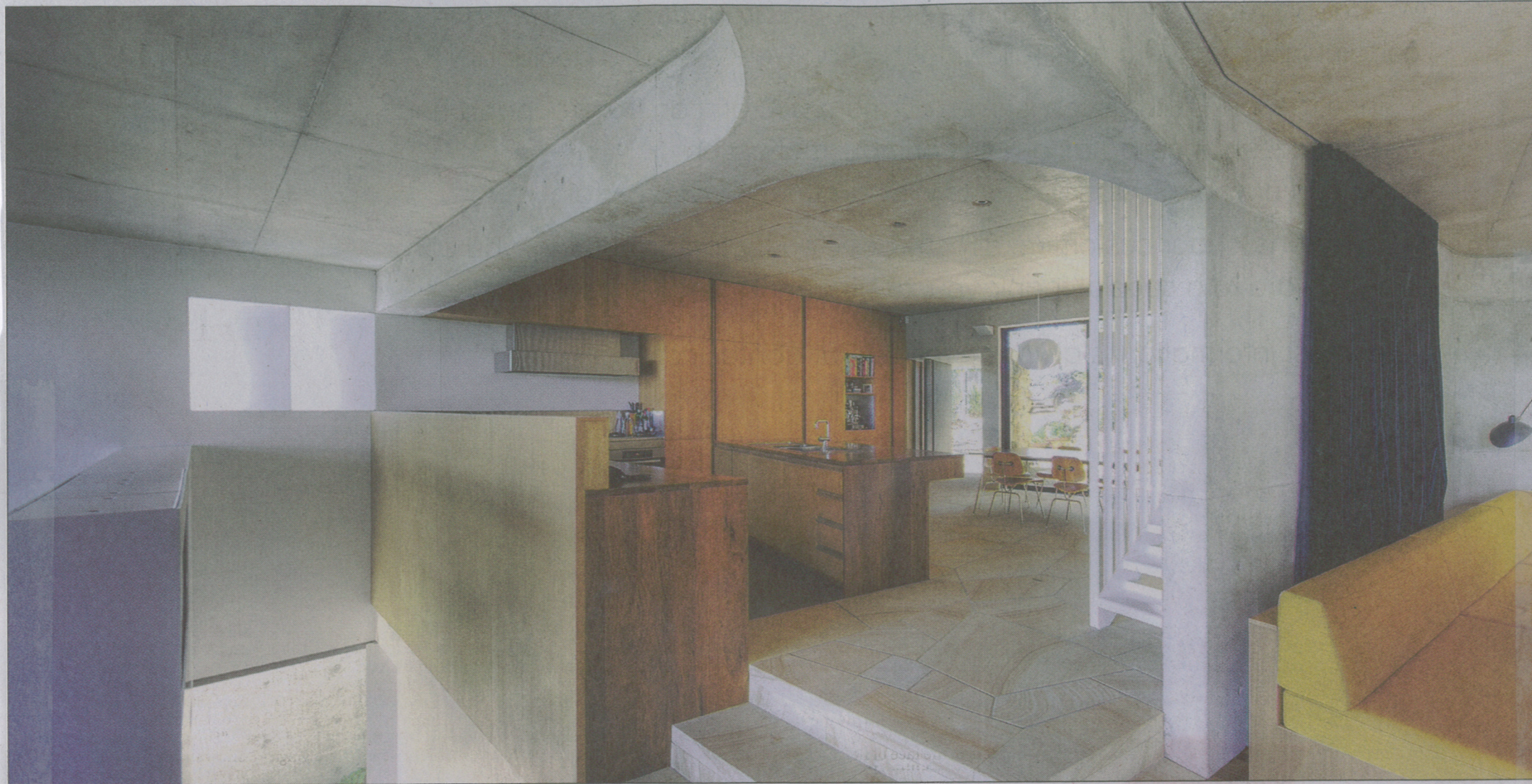


Sentimental design earns posthumous honour for Murcutt

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
04 November 2011

SMALL HOUSE, SURRY HILLS
WINS AWARD



"Effortless and timeless contribution" ... views of the Castlecrag House, above and right, which has won the Robin Boyd award. Photos: Brett Boardman



Another winner ... the Small House in Surry Hills.
Photo: Trevor Mein

Erik Jensen

THE Sydney architect Nick Murcutt has been honoured with the prestigious Robin Boyd award for residential architecture – eight months after his death from lung cancer.

The redevelopment of a quiet home in Castlecrag by Neeson Murcutt Architects – the firm he ran with his wife, Rachel – was given the prize at a ceremony in Hobart last night.

The prestigious award has been won twice before by Nick's father, Glenn Murcutt.

Judges from the Australian Institute of Architects described the building as a "surprise and delight" – an "effortless and timeless contribution" to domesticity, in a building that had been in the same Sydney family for three generations.

"It was a beautiful building in the spirit of what was there and the lives that were spent there in the past," the national jury chairman, Karl Fender, said.

"It was a beautiful capturing of some remnants of the older house but amazingly dove-tailed into a new house."

The firm described as "senti-



iPad
Gallery – see more of the award-winning designs

mental" the decision to recycle original parts of the house in a plan "based on a pinwheel with spaces responding to the three remarkable qualities of the site – a large sandstone outcrop, an angophora forest and a view to Middle Harbour".

Nick's father, Glenn, won the national enduring architecture award for Magney House at Bingie Point. "It's again just a beautiful house on what could have been a difficult site," Mr Fender said. "It nestles on the slope of a hill. The inclination would have been to place the house on top of the hill but he slid it down the hill because he's very sensitive to wind and view – to these sublime elements."

The Neeson Murcutt building is the second Castlecrag house to win the Robyn Boyd award. The Griffin House, designed by Alex Popov Architects, took the honour in 1990.

Glenn Murcutt previously won



the prize in 1981 for his building Two Houses at Mt Irvine. He won again in 1985 for a building called The House on the NSW south coast.

Other major winners this year – 12 of the 34 in NSW – included the Domenic Alvaro-designed Small House in Surry Hills,

which won the national award for small project architecture. The Frederick Romberg award for residential architecture multiple housing was given to the Candalepas Associates project Waterloo Street, Surry Hills. The Brain and Mind Research Institute in Camperdown won the

national commendation for public architecture.

"The jury was really impressed by the young architects and their incredible imagination and their innovation and the simplicity and sustainability they build inherently into their designs," Mr Fender said.