

Stuart Piercy, architect at Piercy & Company, gives you the lowdown on windows on your boundary

#### What are the rules?

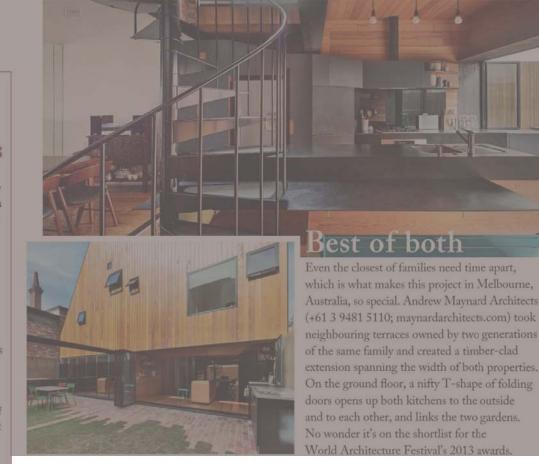
The policy on overlooking varies between planning departments, but most are concerned with habitable rooms looking into habitable rooms, so living rooms looking into bedrooms 18m between habitable rooms is a good place to start, but it can be considered on a case-by-case basis if there are circumstances that prevent a gap of this size. If you are looking landing or a bathroom, significantly less than 18m is allowed, but the planning officer will consider the effect on your neighbours' light and

### How can I get light into a new-build on a narrow plot?

'Light wells and courtyards are good options. Getting light in from private, light-filled spaces. One trick I have used is to run a staircase You will need to fit a domestic gets round fire regulations which

#### Is it possible to get round the problem of overlooking by using unusual glazing?

The options are usually a combination of obscured glazing, and oriel windows that project from the wall and offer oblique views from the side but do not overlook on the market, such as translucent concrete and glass containing a from opaque to clear, but these tend to be very expensive."



## DIGGING DEEP

If you're looking to extend on a slope, going up isn't your only option. Architect Christopher Polly has more than doubled the size of this brick bungalow in Sydney by excavating the slope to insert a lower-ground floor below the original building. Above, at ground level, he added a bathroom, bedroom and study at the rear of the original



# DIARY

Hear Kevin McCloud in conversation with lighting designer Bruce Munro at the National Trust's Waddesdon Manor on 27 October. Tickets £35 each. (01296 653 226; waddesdon.org.uk)



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