BEST AUSTRALIAN INTERIORS

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Heaven Sent

Architecture and interior design studio Multiplicity hold the belief that the demolition of a building is a wasteful shame, which is why they were commissioned to turn the imposing bluestone shell of this church into a cosy family home.





Maintaining the building's intrinsic qualities were at the forefront of the interior design process, hence, the conversion took place completely within the original walls. The clients' admiration of the front and rear stained glass windows meant that they were kept in sight from every point in the home. Usage of recycled and imperfect materials further enhances the timeless appeal of the church.

Two freestanding, seven meter high pods – containing bedrooms and bathrooms – were installed beneath the buildings exposed rafters. One is caste in carved plaster, reflecting the detail of existing stone window mullions. The other is encased in fluorescent green acrylic on black MDF, which reflects the limited natural light entering the church. These seemingly weightless structures make no contact with the perimeter walls nor do they intrude on their surroundings. While not diminishing the supremacy of the interior, the pods do offer a softening of the austerity of the original building.

A master bedroom at mezzanine level tops the main living area, which is warmed by a rusted steel fireplace. Positioned below the rear stained glass window and fitted with a spacious concrete and stainless steel floating bench – reminiscent of an altar – the kitchen, along with the dining table take full advantage of the structured high ceilings. Victorian Ash cupboards stretch up over the kitchen space, elegantly aligning with the ceiling rafters and concealing kitchen necessities and general storage.

Aside from replacing the original timber door – which became the dining table – the exterior of the church was largely untouched. A striking glass and steel entrance door was similarly copied on the east and west walls, the addition utilising the changing light throughout the day as well as removing some of the sombre reverence of the church.

Giving new life to the original fabric of the building, Multiplicity satisfied not only the homeowners and interior design critics but also the local community.

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Photography by Emma Cross



Contemporary Conversion

Exuding global sophistication, this interior by Brendan Wong Design showcases elegant, contemporary style at its best.







Originally designed by Stafford & Moor in 1941 for use as the 'Whites' Taxi Depot, the apartment was converted for residential use in 1999, retaining the brick façade and unique, faceted internal column structure. After recently acquiring the apartment, the clients wanted to completely update the look whilst taking cues from the original industrial use of the building. However, the layout of the building – two separate split level apartments – meant there would have to be some major replanning in order to amalgamate the areas as one. Originally five bedrooms, the unified apartment now offers three bedrooms, a study, a library and a media room. An overall sense of space and light was incorporated into the resulting design as well as a visual connection to the exterior.

A dynamic dining space is elevated from the main living area, allowing guests to see over the furniture and admire the view of the outdoors. The living area itself features a double height volume roof, with floor to ceiling glass windows that have the ability to fully retract in order to maximise the view, as well as to allow more natural light into the home. In addition, this makes for a seamless integration of the inside and out, connecting the balcony with the living area and expanding the amount of floor space available for entertaining.

Functional aesthetic details have been included in the kitchen, such as a glamorous island bench that appears to be floating in mid air. With the sink and cooking areas set away from this feature bench, it appears more as a bespoke furniture piece. A series of woven pendant lights hang above to provide ambient illumination and define the kitchen as a separate entity from the main living room.

Within the master bedroom – the private sanctuary of the apartment – double height windows are again present to grace the area, flooding it with natural light and warmth in the winter. Designed as a cohesive suite, a three quarter height wall separates bedroom from bathroom. Due to its prominent positioning and design, it becomes the focal point of the room and is appropriately utilised as a form of art itself, finished in custom, hand-painted silk wallpaper. Bespoke cushions and angora blankets adorn the bed, while a natural wicker armchair with a bronze lamp includes a hand forged bird sculpture to echo the wallpaper birdlife.

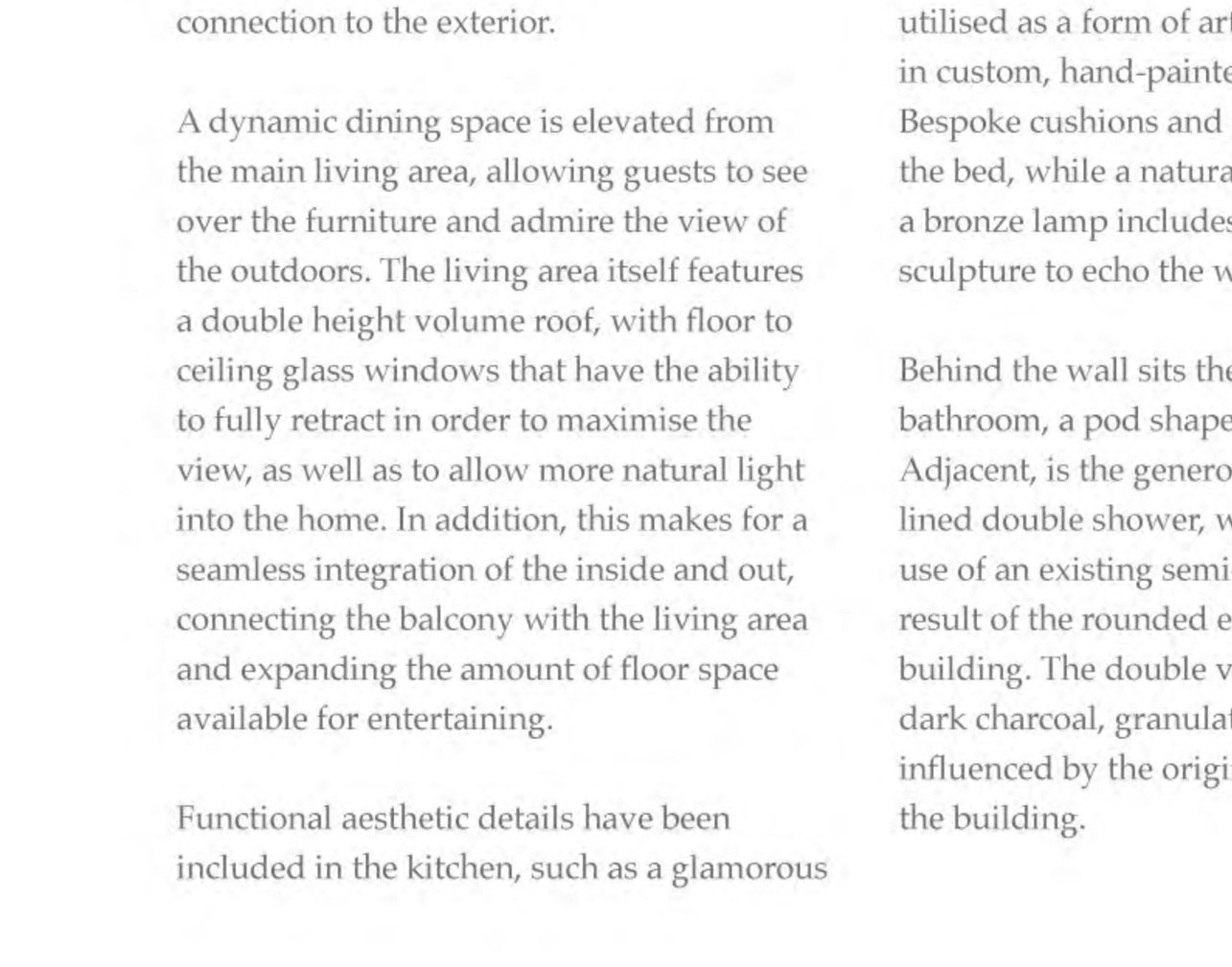
Behind the wall sits the centrepiece of the bathroom, a pod shaped, freestanding bath. Adjacent, is the generously sized, mosaic-lined double shower, which makes clever use of an existing semi-circular alcove – a result of the rounded end façade of the building. The double vanity is framed in a dark charcoal, granulated paint, which was influenced by the original industrial use of the building.

Underfoot, oak timber floors are laid out in all living areas and stained a custom walnut and ebony colour, while the bedrooms and media room were laid in pure wool carpets, complete with under-floor heating. The bathrooms feature Spanish limestone. Furnishings were selected to resemble a global outlook, with pieces either coming from or denotative of places and cultures around the world. The largest piece is the long, low rung sofa that sits in the living room, complemented by a pair of armchairs with a dark rattan ring motif. Finally, the central coffee table features an interesting bent plywood butterfly base, a form that becomes more sculptural when viewed from the mezzanine above.

This once purely industrial building has been given a bright, new and contemporary outlook. Where once stood a modest taxi depot now resides an impressive modern apartment.

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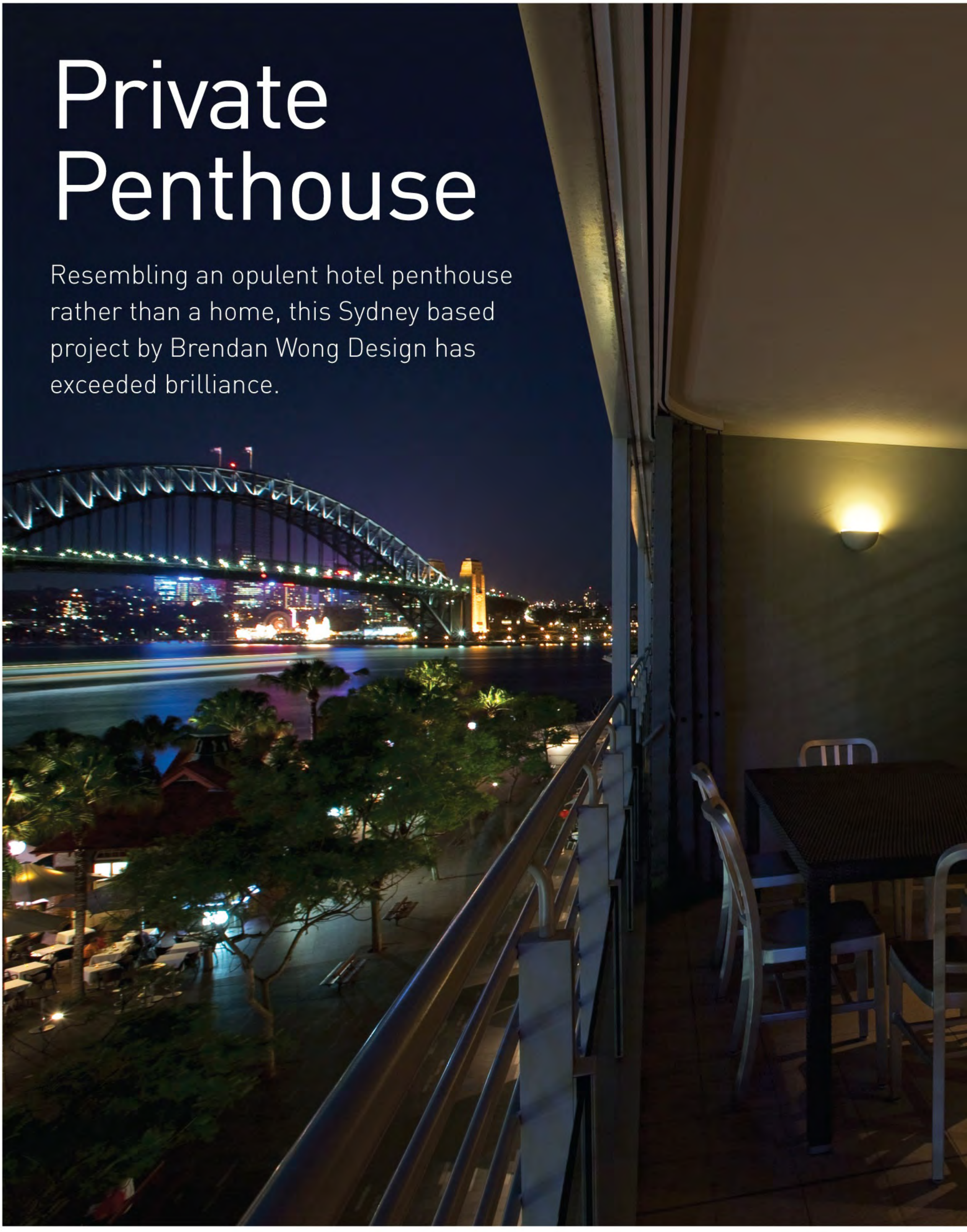
Photography by Simon Wood





Private Penthouse

Resembling an opulent hotel penthouse rather than a home, this Sydney based project by Brendan Wong Design has exceeded brilliance.













The unique location of the apartment - in a building developed in 1998 - allows magnificent sweeping views of Circular Quay through to the Harbour Bridge, Opera House and Botanical Gardens from the balcony.

The apartment was designed so that it reveals itself slowly to visitors. On arrival, glimpses of the city are apparent, but only upon entry into the living room are the spectacular views of the harbour and bridge beyond revealed. Similarly, the detailing of interior finishes and furnishings is somewhat apparent, but on closer inspection the true intricacies are considered and admired.

Texture is the most dominant element in the design, with silk upholstered walls, woven linen and Brunschwig & Fils wallpaper that provides a changing backdrop to each room.

The layout of the apartment has been well planned with the kitchen, bathrooms and passages all located within the centre. This allows the living rooms and bedrooms to take advantage of the long vistas available. Mirrors have been cleverly implemented to allow the main living room to appear larger than it actually is, widening to match its depth.

The living room is the clear focal point of the design. Here, an eclectic array of furniture combines to create an exciting and opulent space. Pure silk Tibetan rugs and feature light fixtures add richness and grace, while a French decoupage three-fold screen, circa 1790, sits in front of the mirrored wall for interest. The lounges have been intentionally varied – a fully upholstered mohair sofa sits adjacent to another timber-framed sofa in a woven geometric textile. To contrast, a contemporary sculptural armchair sits beside two matching antique French armchairs. This captivating disparity of origins in furniture adds to the overall character of the home and offers a refreshing approach to modern interior design.

Finally, the bedrooms were designed to express individual aesthetic, while still retaining a cohesive appearance within the rest of the apartment. A variety of bedding configurations are used throughout, serving as a functional response to the almost hotel-like use of the apartment by the owner. Furniture includes pieces by Tyrone Dearing, Sydney and Julian Chichester, London.

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Photography by Simon Wood

Contrasting Vibrance

This intriguing residence, designed by Bianca Jones ID, has the convenience of a suburban location with the feel of living on an expansive acreage.







While making maximum use of the view of the reserve towards the rear of the property, the home is oriented to block out the neighbouring properties.

The theme of white and cream runs throughout the living area, with bursts of colour achieved through arrangements of flowers, carefully chosen cushions, modern rugs and pictures of clear, fresh vistas. Orange, tangerine and grey hues bring vibrancy to the composition, adding to the refreshing feel of the room. Warm wooden flooring combines with the cream and white palette to offset the modern finishes of black leather seats and a matte, minimalist fireplace.

The kitchen area is finished in a clean, pearlescent white. It features a light marbled counter, with stools present to invite company and involvement into the cooking experience. The open plan nature of the living area lends a great feeling of spaciousness. Sliding glass doors take up the entire side of the space in order to both maximise on the reserve view and to let in a great amount of natural light. The placement of the dining table is such that it allows for the greatest appreciation of this view of the reserve. An exterior patio reaches outward, optimising the outdoor focus of this home.

The bedroom is carpeted and exudes contemporary appeal. Symmetry and use of texture is a feature of this space, with the white of the walls and bedspread contrasting nicely with the dark headboard and side-tables. Geometric panels of wood grain texture warm the room. The bedside lamps are interesting pieces, featuring a twisting organic design that ties in with the light colours present in the room. Carefully chosen grey silk throws are implemented to compliment the organic feel. The bedroom is symmetrical and features an ensuite bathroom and access to the living areas on either side.

The bathroom is light and spacious, featuring a unique curving faucet atop the bathtub, blending modern silhouettes with antique appeal. A large mirror combined with natural light enhances the perception of available space. The countertop offers his and hers sinks and convenient storage space.

This home combined livability with openness and functionality. With its many intricacies and carefully selected furnishings, it is an ideal location for both gatherings and family living.

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Photography by Chris Groenhout



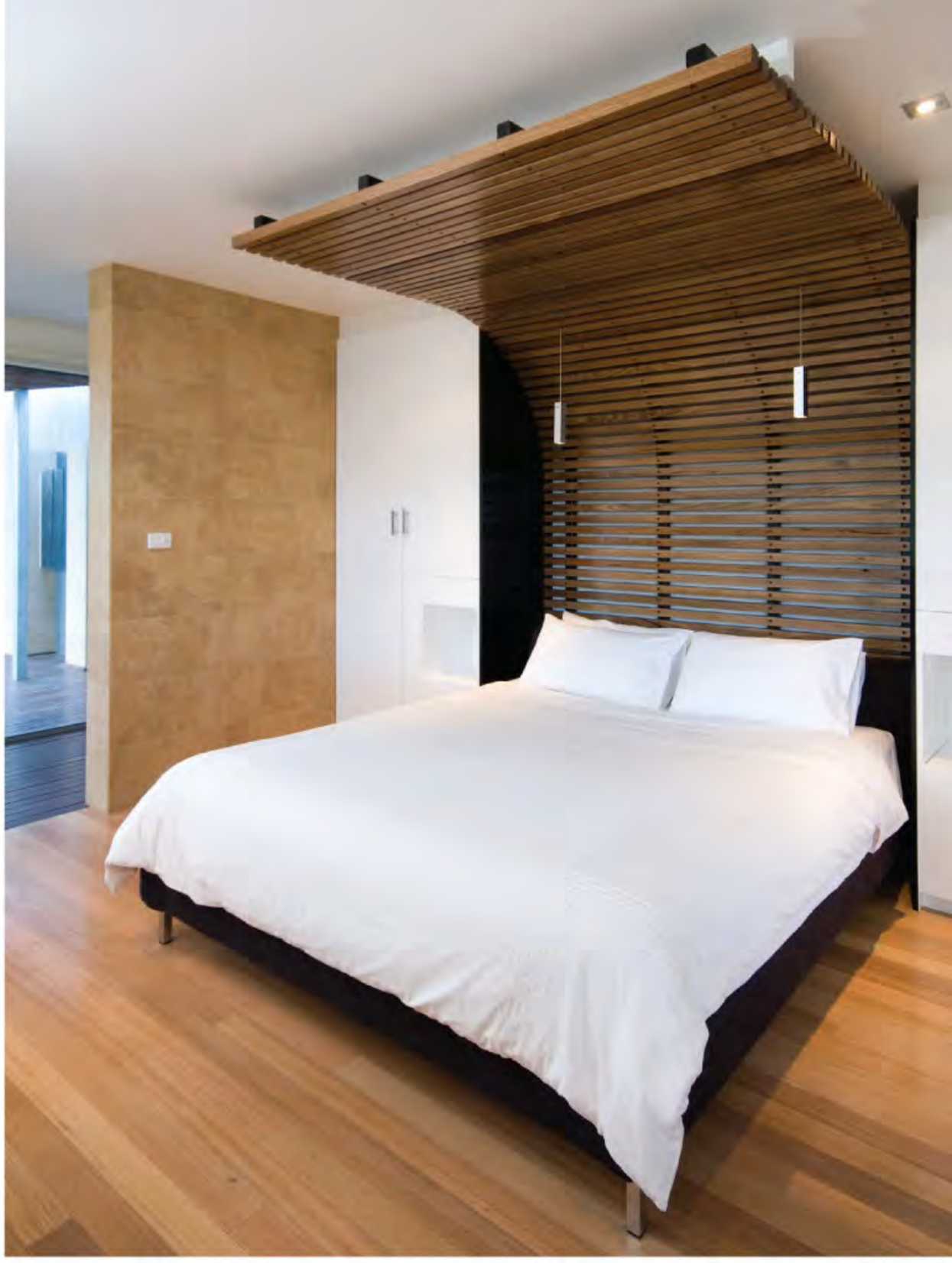
Balanced Interior

This Bianca Jones interior project sports a fascinating combination of warm, natural fixtures intermixed with clean-cut modern finishes.









Upon entering the home, one is struck by the relaxed and polished atmosphere. Warm natural hues work together with darker, more sophisticated finishes to create a minimalistic feel. The open plan nature of the design creates a sense of space but also of connectivity.

Warm, lightly stained wooden flooring works with the plentiful glazing to play with space and light. The living area features a modern fireplace, giving the room an interesting focal point. Views from large unobstructed windows overlook the greenery of the stunning rural surroundings.

Off-white, creamy walls compliment white reclining chairs and light marble tabletops in the living room to maintain the presence of lightness. The shining chrome fireplace and dark base combine with other modern finishes and textures such as leather to uphold the richness of the textural experience. The living room opens up onto a patio on which deck chairs offer the perfect position to sit back and take in the surroundings.

Elements such as a shaggy rug continue the textural feel of the room and reflect the warmth of the hearth. The kitchen space merges stainless steel counter tops together with a feature wall splashback of a black and white forest. The kitchen combines functionality with understated appeal. It is neat and attractive, becoming an area of interest in itself. The idea presented is that of a fully functioning kitchen that sports tidy storage and elegant discretion. The entire kitchen area can be closed off if required so that when it is not in use it has as minimal impact as possible.

The modern-styled bathroom again balances the themes of warmth and sophistication. Creamy tiles offset the other dark, matte tiles present. Mirrors and glazing keep the space open and bright.

Within this home, everything is carefully crafted and well positioned to make an exceptional use of space. The project maximises the sense of convenience while simultaneously minimising fuss. This is a perfect retreat for a couple - intimate and stylish.

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Bigger Within

Voluminous in its interior, the feeling of vast space this project contains is apparent as soon as you enter through the generous pivot door, finished in striking orange gloss.











The entry way exposes a two-storey void, which is enclosed by a glass balustrade fixed with stainless steel patch fittings.

The home itself is in fact a relatively compact three-bedroom design, however the feeling of space is almost palpable. A bold, black painted wall severely contrasts with the neighbouring white walls and has a huge impact when you walk through from the entry. The ground floor is one large open space that extends onto an outdoor alfresco area. Designed to look like solid blocks with a centre section floating between them, the kitchen bench spans a massive four metres in length. Continuing from the streamlined kitchen in logical progression is the recessed bar, designed with a commercial edge to its appearance due to the stainless steel shelf, glass racking and wine bottle display.

Hard-edged furniture is kept minimal, in line with the look throughout. All the furniture pieces follow the monochromatic colour scheme. A luxurious shag pile, off-white floor rug, softens the main living space and a restaurant-style banquette seating fills the dining area, accompanied by a large concrete dining table that comfortably seats eight.

The first floor is a little warmer and more feminine with the combination of limed washed timber flooring and warmer white tones. The black and charcoal colour scheme presented below does not feature on the first floor. Instead the creation of a more quiet, subdued ambience in the bedrooms and bathrooms is displayed.

Bluestone slabs covering the lower floor flow out to the outdoor area, making the two spaces read as one. This dark groundwork provides a strong counterpart for the lighter Tasmanian Oak flooring used throughout the upper level. Textured, light-coloured tiles in the bathrooms offset the heaviness of the bluestone floor along with the shag pile carpet.

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Savoir-faire

Overlooking the beautiful Port Philip Bay in Victoria's southern region, this amply proportioned property focuses on the use of geometric elements, space and light. Symmetry and minimalist décor build on the grandeur of the property.







The home is a feat of architectural design, inviting exploration through its intriguing spaces, all of which make optimum use of the view over the bay. The main lounge area has a palpable artisan flavour in its design features. A tri-tone rug combines panels in two natural hues and a bold black carnation print. This modern tapestry ties in with the orange and black scatter cushions and minimalist feel of the house. A fireplace is inset flush with the wall and forms the key focus of this room. A glass-top centre table allows the flooring maximum exposure.

The open plan nature of the design is easily felt as one walks from the living area through to the kitchen space and out onto the patio. The kitchen includes a central counter where stools are set up to encourage a communal approach to cooking. Easy access is provided to the patio via the floor-to-ceiling sliding doors.

The bedroom is spacious, with white walls and cream carpets working with the glazing to let in light. The bed is appropriately oriented to face the view out over the bay. The room features a black leather recliner and headboard as well as black wood geometric bedside-tables to contrast with the white finishes and bring in a modern edge and texture.

This expansive property is perfectly designed for large social gatherings and entertaining in style.

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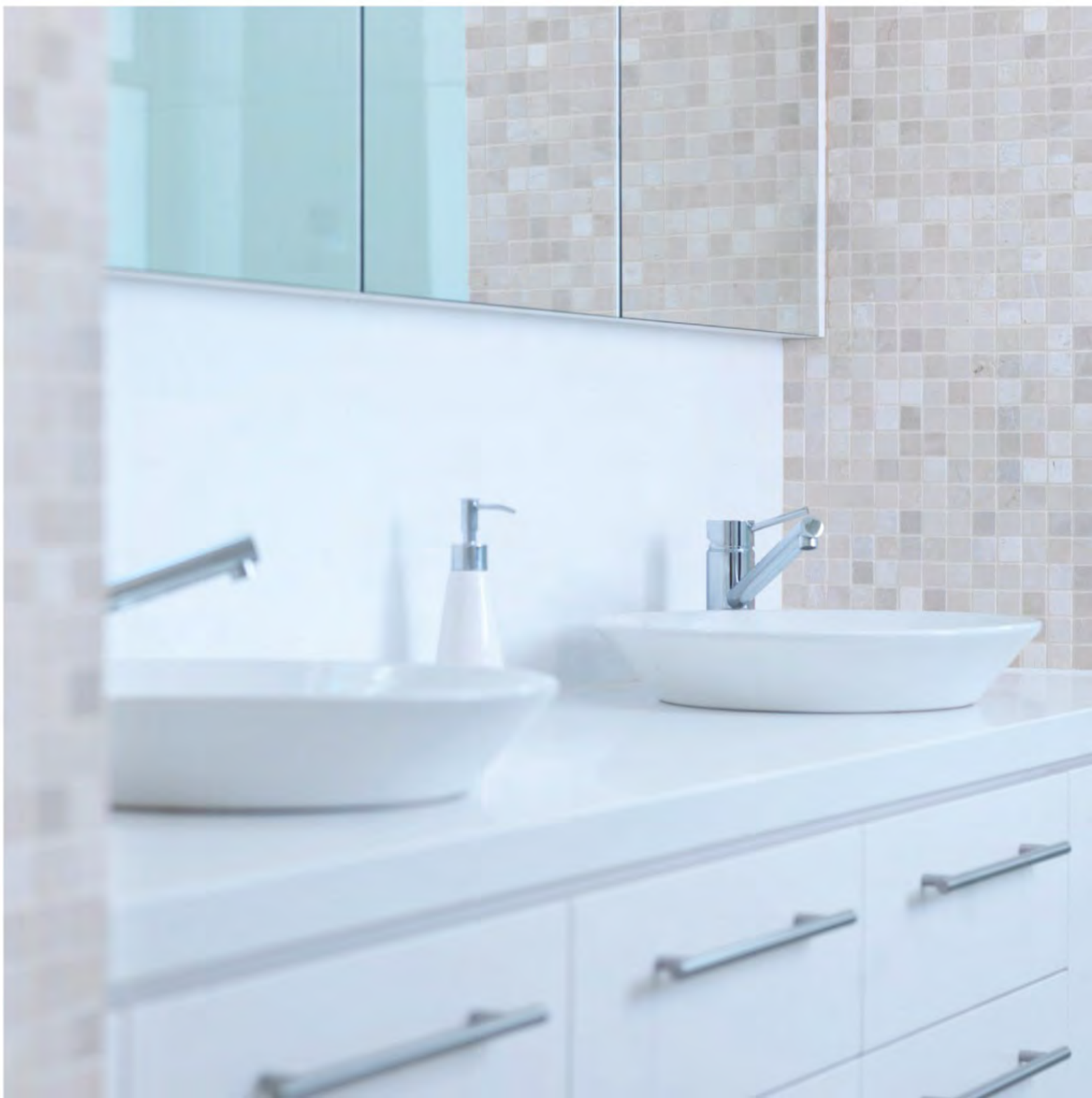
Elegant Modern

One of the most exciting projects to date by Karanda Interiors, this residence is more of a stately manor with all the trimmings – including a lift, pool, gymnasium and theatre, topped off with a universally accessible automated home system.











From the moment of entry, visitors are confronted by the visual delight of understated opulence. In the main family room, Brush Box timber flooring is used throughout in a satin finish, contrasting beautifully with the lighter coloured walls.

Elegantly appointed and masterfully planned, this home never fails to disappoint. Whites, greys, silver and pinks were the colours made dominant throughout as per request from the client.

Sophisticated, upholstered dining chairs surround a generous, chocolate-coloured table that basks in natural light from the floor to ceiling bi-folds that surround it, opening out to the expansive rear yard. The rich colour of the dining table is echoed in the side tables, which flank a luxurious L-shaped lounge in the adjoining area. This assembly of forms and colours squares off the entire space. The integrated indoor/outdoor living areas are a sanctuary for children and adults alike. This home is truly an entertainer's delight.

On the exterior, bedroom windows were covered with Verosol Timber Shutters for their light control and thermal properties, and were painted to match the internal wall colours. Back inside, the family and living areas were treated with Verosol motorised twin roller blinds, using solar control block out fabrics. The gymnasium and theatre areas also utilise this same system. It is this automation that makes the design something special, providing ease of use and hassle-free living.

While it was quite a task to create such a refined and magnificent home on an undulating block, the rewards have clearly been reaped, with the interior's splendour shining through.

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Photography by Decorate.com.au

Turquoise Paradise

Being a young couple with children, the clients wanted a fresh and fashionable interior that was also practical and family friendly. This required some innovative thinking on the part of Karanda Interiors.


Miele
Miele
Miele









In order to meet the client brief to maximise the views to the water's edge, the existing dwelling was gutted and the floor plan reinvented. Large, white polished porcelain tiles are now spread across bright and airy living spaces whose expansive windows fully exploit the home's privileged position. For maximum view with minimal glare when the sun beams in, Verosol motorised roller blinds in a semi transparent fabric coat the glazing in this area.

Turquoise is the predominant colour throughout the home. Complimented by chocolate brown, this theme flows from room to room through the use of exquisite textured fabrics.

In the sitting areas, throw pillows on the chocolate and beige coloured couches tie in with bold upholstered chairs. One room features an unusual, linear ottoman that points towards a gas fireplace imbedded in the wall.

A circular table mirrors the shape of the generous skylight above and is surrounded by custom-made chairs. Bright turquoise seating defines the main dining table and makes the setting a feature against the white tiles and surrounding cabinetry.

A lengthy breakfast bar, highlighted with unusually designed stools covered in a bright, graphic pattern runs along a window. So, rather than face the kitchen, the entire family can sit atop the comfortable chairs to enjoy their cereal and the ocean views.

Luxurious bedrooms feature rich silks and upholstered headboards. Reflective surfaces in the furniture, frames and lamps mirror the iridescence of the fabrics used. Here, block out curtains allow for necessary privacy. Bathrooms are simple and generous, with every element covered from television to dual basins.

The turquoise theme carried through this home is executed to perfection in each and every room. The resulting effort is a seamless beachside home with stunning interior design.

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Photography by Decorate.com.au

Sharp Contrast

'The Lindrum' by Metricon, exhibiting all that is enviable about modern living, is a design that combines practicality with beauty in such a way as to give no reason to leave home!



First Level



Ground Level



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From the moment you walk through the magnificent entrance, it becomes obvious that this impressive home is like no other.

Reflective surfaces, mainly mirrors, polished porcelain flooring and chrome finishes set a tone of style and class whilst flooding the rooms with extra space and light. The other dominant theme of timber veneer is used to offset the brightness of the walls, floor and counter tops. Textured wallpaper adds tactile interest and brings attractive detailing into contrast with the simple, clean lines of the home.

Elegant white textiles combine with dark timber furniture in the main living area, a visual mixture that is mirrored in the black and white rug sprawled over the porcelain floor, which reflects luminous bursts from the down lights above. Bi-folds open this area up to a semi-enclosed outdoor lounging space for those warm and relaxed evenings. Lighting within the bright blue pool reflects colour throughout the radiant living areas.

Children have their own leisure room, whose extension out to an oversized, second storey balcony adds yet another living zone.

The inter-related indoor/outdoor living areas cater for varying weather conditions and ensures that natural light flows in from every direction. Simple pelmets sit atop windows finished with venetians or shutters that can, when necessary, keep the light out in a fashion that does not detract from the surrounding minimalism.

A chef's dream is fulfilled in the expansive, contemporary kitchen. Ample storage space is provided with the butler's pantry layout, also making for a partially hidden preparation area to maintain the appearance of the kitchen whilst entertaining guests. Loads of streamlined workspaces and plenty of room to integrate appliances ensure the home cook is well equipped for those big events.

All the generous bedrooms contained within this home make the occupants feel as though they are retiring in a five star hotel suite. Easily accessible, chic ensuites, with frameless glass showers and stone composite and veneer vanities, adjoin the bedrooms, giving each family member and guest their own space and privacy.

The bedrooms are so well equipped in fact, that one could be forgiven for thinking they are all master suites. Rich chocolate veneer enhances the bed head walls, shelving and robe doors that, along with well placed accent pillows and throw rugs, insert warmth against the cool white of the adorning walls and linen. In the master bedroom, an enormous built-in robe is found behind the bed head wall, which includes shelving, drawers and plenty of space for storage.

Boasting an exceptional interior design that is mindful of cohesiveness within the requirement for grandeur and opulence, the striking appearance of this home is enjoyable all over. The Lindrum is open to view at Mayfield Drive, Keysborough in Victoria between 11:00am and 5:00pm throughout the week, offering a chance to appreciate its luxurious interior first-hand.

Metricon Homes
Telephone: +61 3 9798 5033
(The Lindrum @ Keysborough)
www.metricon.com.au

Photography supplied by Metricon

Suburban Villa

Grand and regal adequately describes
the first class fixtures and fittings of
'The Imperial' by Metricon.

First Level



Ground Level



© Copyright remains with Metricon



Open arches grant residents with uninterrupted passage between living, dining and kitchen spaces, allowing each room its own identity without impinging on fluidity. With extensive living areas and five bedrooms, this home is purpose built for a large family. The design has been cleverly mapped out with a separate children's zone and adjoining open leisure area, as well as an opulent master suite in luxury resort style.

Upon entry, high ceilings and a rock face wall capture and engage the eye. Composite stone, polished porcelain tiles and rich timber veneers are the essential surfaces used throughout. Wallpapers adorn many walls, drawing you in to touch and feel the textures and patterns.

The Balinese villa theme enlists warm, contemporary colours and textures to decorate the walls and floors. The main flooring is polished porcelain in neutral off-white to contrast against the warmth of timber veneer and timber furniture and suits the high traffic of a large family. Neutral tones of off-white, taupe, charcoal and chocolates compliment each other both in hard and soft surfaces.

From a furnishing perspective, pieces are kept simple and within the neutral colour palette, but feature some embellishments to tie in the Balinese Villa influence. Timber and stone statues encourage a sense of tranquillity and serenity throughout both the indoor and outdoor spaces. Pelmets are used to finish off windows and the stained timber bi-fold doors integrate the family and dining rooms with a magnificent outdoor area. Complete with gas fireplace, it is a perfect space for relaxing and gazing over the inviting pool.

A kitchen fit for a world-class chef has what counts as every cook's favourite feature - an island bench. Double-sided storage cabinets, a breakfast bar with stone bench top and fully integrated stainless steel appliances sit outside the impressive butler's pantry, complete with coffee machine. This area offers direct access to a generous cellar for wine enthusiasts.

The opulent master suite features timber French doors opening to a private balcony, a full wall of built-in media cabinetry, a walk-through robe and textured wallpaper. The master ensuite is like that of a flashy hotel, with twin semi-recessed basins, a double shower with textured slate tiles, and stone bench tops. Four additional bedrooms all enjoy spacious ensuites and walk-in robes.

As a testament to its refined quality, The Imperial received the HIA Display Home of the Year award for 2010. Open to view everyday from 11am-5pm at 12 Belmore Road, Balwyn in Victoria, The Imperial sets a high standard of modern living.

Metricon Homes
Telephone: +61 3 9819 7940
(The Imperial @ Balwyn)
www.metricon.com.au

Photography supplied by Metricon

Bright and Calming

This comfortable, contemporary and classic family extension compliments a casual lifestyle. The existing rooms were renovated to reflect a clean and easy style, with a polish and sophistication of finishes, furniture and textures.











It was important that the living areas be varied and beautiful, which led to the design of the front sitting room whose bright white furnishings and fixtures are enhanced by tonal variations throughout the space.

The kitchen and laundry areas are the heart of this home, so their design needed to be particularly special. Thus the living, dining and cooking spaces now provide for an entirely new interactive zone. Four low-hanging pendant lights illuminate a generous breakfast bar. The workspaces are kept clean and simple by relocating clutter inside streamlined cupboards. Blonde timber adds texture and a subtle warm change to white – which the clients love – that spreads through the house. Tucked behind the large kitchen is an equally generous laundry, complete with hanging racks and plenty of storage space.

Contemporary quality lighting and furniture was used throughout while some old pieces such as the dining table were retained for sentimental and functional value. Featuring a blonde timber surface and white legs that perfectly align with the colour scheme of the kitchen, the table now teams with modern dining chairs with sculpted shell-like seats. Two spherical pendant lights define the dining area and highlight the table.

Linked to this beautiful and functional space is a lounge area. In order to create a change of flow to what would otherwise be a very large, open space, the lounge furniture is located in an area slightly lower than the rest of the family room floor. This step down makes the room feel all the more cosy. Warm chocolate brown chairs give the room further depth as they sit facing a sleek new fireplace.

Open planning and thoughtful details allow these internal spaces to sit in unison or independently from each other while opening to the exterior floating deck area, tennis court, pool and pool house. These outdoor elements are now easily accessible and can be enjoyed year round through extensive glazing and bi-fold doors.

A subtle, yet rich palette of existing and new stones, recycled and reconstituted timbers, organic fabrics and leathers create an environment which is timeless and beautiful. Unlike most modern renovations where the warmth of the original house is lost amongst wide-open spaces and minimal furnishings, this home now exhibits a clean interior that is also inviting and homely.

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Photography by Simon Vaughan
Evolved Images

Perfect Combination

Floating above the Adelaide skyline, this stunningly decorated apartment with illuminated white joinery and fashionable furniture reflects the international style and sophistication of its owners.











Views of both the city and the hills are the centre of attention in this home, hence the design of the interior needed to be such that it did not detract from the outlook, but was also in itself a cause for appreciation.

The rooms flow into one another effortlessly, despite each having its own distinctive qualities. In appreciation of this set-up, the interior design team at Enoki installed furnishes and finishes that were continuous in colour and genre. The whole apartment receives a great deal of natural light and wrap around views, both of which set off the interior environments.

Custom designed pieces, such as the entertainment unit and beds, ensure that the interior spaces are functional and multi-purpose to meet the exact degree specified by the clients. High-end, quality finishes in the lighting and furniture gives the design its beauty, while Enoki's careful planning ensures its livability also.

The owners wanted their home to reflect their enjoyment of design objects. This was made obvious through Enoki's choice of classic fixtures, like the Eames molded plywood coffee table, Saarinen side tables and the Arne Jacobson white leather armchair. Care was taken to ensure a comforting atmosphere, such as within the guest bedroom, where Florence Broadhurst's 'The Cranes' wallpaper stretches across the feature wall behind the bed in order to help soften the space.

Feature lighting was an important aspect of every area within the home, but it is particularly enjoyable above and below the built-in shelving, where it can be used to highlight books and smaller objects. The joinery features both polished and matte lacquer finishes, which sit comfortably with the existing timber paneling, floor coverings and the collection of contemporary classic furniture pieces.

Balconies provide for outdoor enjoyment of the lovely views afforded to this apartment's privileged location. Comfortable seating placed in these exterior areas makes them the perfect place to relax and unwind whilst admiring the exquisite mural beyond the edge of the balcony.

This interior combines a perfect location, the client's desires and an exemplary design together to form one stunning home to dwell within.

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Photography by Simon Vaughan
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Multi-Faceted

Hidden behind a petite heritage façade rests this beautiful modern home, within which the small rooms of the previous interior were transformed into comfortable and cosy living spaces, harmoniously linked to an equally area-efficient rear yard.











A slender corridor leads into a cathedral-styled environment, which floods with natural light during the day. The small footprint of this house is deceptive. Simple, compact design, incorporating joinery and mobile aspects, allowed for spaces and surfaces to be utilised to their full extent without a feeling of clutter.

Durable, natural materials that complemented each other were used throughout the home, such as recycled timbers and natural concrete. A neutral palette plays against some darker, more atmospheric finishes, such as Dutch tulipwood and Stopsol grey glass. The dining table and chairs maintain a heritage style within the otherwise modernised kitchen space, which is defined by a moveable island bench. Highlights of this area are the teardrop lights above, which cast lattice patterns of light and shadow across the walls and floor.

The main living space also enjoys an outwardly aspect, seamlessly connecting to a small deck, pool and lawn – extending the internal area beyond the glazed façade. The master bedroom floats within the living space's glass void and was designed so that the occupants feel as though they're in a tree house, floating above the house and garden below. The room is quite private, as are the other sleeping zones that sit within the existing heritage cottage. A freestanding bed head ensures full exposé of the windows.

Connecting the heritage listed front façade to the new contemporary extension was a challenge, but not one that Enoki couldn't overcome in spectacular fashion. In fact, the extension is so subtle that it is virtually undetectable from the street. Instead, it unfolds as soon as you step inside. Many renovations claim to incorporate the essence of the original house, but few do it as considerately as this. As a matter of fact, existing features like chimneys and fireplaces appear as exactly that – features that accentuate the new finishes.

We all want to live more 'greenly', and this project takes the ever so important sustainability effort very seriously. The glass 'tree house' allows for natural ventilation and cooling, while large volumes of water storage, grey water reticulation, energy efficient tap ware and appliances, LED and compact fluorescent lighting, reconstituted and recycled timber finishes, natural oil finishes and low Voc paints all combine to ensure this home is as eco-friendly as possible. Everything has been considered in this stunning interior design.

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Inner Warmth

This beautiful inner eastern Melbourne home combines the original traditional façade whilst boasting newly extended open contemporary living spaces throughout.



With a pleasing indoor-outdoor aspect, all family living areas offer full views out onto the lovely outdoor terrace area, which continues onto the mod grassed tennis courts, by the inclusion of floor to ceiling windows that run almost the entire rear length of the home.

To create a clean, contemporary yet inviting ambience, ida used gentle taupe tones and natural mediums to allow the newly furnished interiors and expansive views of the outdoor entertaining areas to shine. Furniture was custom made to suit the room sizes and family requirements, such as the aged solid American Oak dining and coffee tables. The coffee table measures at 1.9m x 1.5m, has concealed drawers and shelf for magazine storage and the timber centre panel has hydraulic gas lifts for ease of use which conceals a large compartment for storage of throws, board games and more.

The homeowner designed and had made the rustic cellar door, which stands opposite a magnificent curling staircase. Throughout the ground level, European Oak floorboards were finished in a unique polish that combines Black Japan and French Oak stains. The darkened stain on the floors draws in the wide spaces and provides a relaxed atmosphere.

The family room rug was custom designed and made from a combination of wool and silk, which is both warm underfoot and rich in colour to provide the space with a practical and inviting feel. Imported antique Asian screens with carvings depicting the four seasons feature on the back family room wall. The carved oriental fretwork mirrors the pattern on the floor rug.

The sofas in the family room and theatre room were upholstered in smart, understated textiles that will withstand everyday use. Their solid tone provides a smart background to display an array of custom decorative cushions made from luscious silks, patterned velvets, woven designs and a splash of colour using brilliant red and chartreuse.
Form and function is blended well throughout the living spaces, such as the front sitting room, where the setting is orientated to enjoy warmth from the gas log fireplace. Above, a concealed projector screen can be operated when the family congregates to watch movies.

Like most family homes, the kitchen is the hub of the household. To retain the clean and simple lines, there is a concealed butler's pantry, that hides the every day used items, and a concealed family workstation, desk area. The workstation area provides a practical place to manage everyday affairs and all of the children's social and school calendars and when the occasion arises, can easily be concealed behind floor to ceiling door panels that are stored within an end cabinet.

In keeping with the contemporary aspect of the home, the master ensuite's use of warm stone surfaces and natural light is both appealing and functional. The floors are clad in a deep taupe limestone that runs seamlessly into the double shower. An interesting detail is the spa bath's step, which is fitted with iron bark decking. The skylight draws in additional light and the joinery is finished in both 2 pac and timber veneer.

Plantation shutters are used for all of the upstairs and front rooms to provide privacy in the evenings and allow natural light to flood the rooms by day. The expansive downstairs glass windows overlooking the back terrace and tennis courts are furnished with dual motorized roller blinds to reduce glare during warmer months and again provide the family with warmth and privacy in the evenings.

With traditional charm and refreshing contemporary interiors, this well designed home meets the everyday needs of a busy family.

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Photography by Matthew Mallett



Inner Rejuvenation

This heritage listed house needed new internal spaces for its busy family inhabitants. Designed some 50 years ago, the homeowners wished to be sympathetic of the original intention of the house.











While peeling back layers and adding new spaces, care was taken to not lose that original magic. What resulted was a comfortable, warm and liveable home that captured the personality of the owners whilst maintaining the integrity of the first house.

Such as with many homes of that era, the interior spaces were small. Hence major reworking was required so that the home would function for the modern family. The kitchen was moved from the rear to the front of the house, to acknowledge the view of Port Phillip Bay. Given the original window grid that was kept, the size of the kitchen was fixed leaving too little space for a casual dining table. As a solution to this, a large island bench makes for a casual kitchen table whilst also taking in the view. A change in material from the stone bench top to American Oak timber veneer created the 'table' element, combined with a soft low hanging incandescent light fitting.

Large glass doors open the surprisingly large living area - now splashed with bright red accents - to the deck where summer salty breezes can be enjoyed as can lounging by the pool. Given that the dining room no longer enjoyed views due to another development, it was moved into the old kitchen space. Here the room's contemporary, light timber table and contrasting black seating now floods with abundant light. The main living area's rejuvenated fireplace adds a cosy feel to those intimate dinner parties with friends, given that the dining area now connects openly with this space.

The overall design of the interior spaces has been pared back to minimal requirements and minimal detailing in keeping with the spirit of the original house. A limited palette of finishes has been repeated throughout the project so that the original forms and features of the house are revealed. These include limed vertical timber walls, porcelain tiles, spotted gum floorboards and reconstituted stone with a natural matte finish.

Furnishings throughout were selected for their sympathy to the era of the house, but with a contemporary twist. All the timber pieces are Australian designed and made, as are many of the textiles used. Items such as the Arne Jacobson Series 7 dining chairs, the casual cane chairs in the lounge and the George Nelson lights in the kitchen and dining room were chosen because they were designed in the 50's.

The result of this renovation is a comfortable, warm and liveable home that meets both the needs of the family and keeps the character of the original house alive.

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Photography by Derek Swalwell

Décor Development

This well-designed, solidly built house is situated amongst others of a similar style, which led to a desire to maintain the home's character.




GRAND OBSESSIONS
A THEATRE OF THE PAST
Anthony Knight
Emma Matthews









The home enjoyed full height doors, high ceilings and well-proportioned rooms that benefited from winter sun. Other original features include an entrance courtyard with slate crazy paving, an inner courtyard with windows from the living room and entrance hall, a 1969 Mutual swimming pool and a beautiful piece of smoky glass architectural hardware on the front door. All these features were incorporated into the renovation and established an ethos for the interior design program.

The interior decoration of this project is an example of contemporary design that is family friendly and warm. The owners were keen to support emerging local designers and artists, hence they chose Australian designed pieces that were lasting in both design and practicality. The selections that were made suit the character of the house and are practical for comfortable daily life.

Though simple furnishings were created, display of the owners many books and family mementos was made possible with in-built shelves. Similarly, clutter has been minimised in the dining area and in the bedrooms with hidden storage mechanisms.

Furniture selections were sympathetic of the 60's, though a 'retro' look was avoided by sourcing new pieces to put with design classics. American Oak unifies the look throughout, its natural finish contrasting with the dark grey joinery, black leather sofas and Arne Jacobsen dining chairs. Splashes of colour appear in cushions, artwork and the owner's collection of architectural books and nick- knacks.

The joinery was essential to the functioning of the house, making sure there was space for everything from books to stereos, games to telephone chargers and dirty clothes to desks. Most surfaces are thus kept clutter free.

Adjustable 'E' screens on the inside of the windows minimise the thermal load in summer and keep the house cool when extended. Louvre blinds provide privacy from the street as well as unifying the windows in the new upstairs addition with the existing windows downstairs.

Evident from their selection of the 1960's house, the owners possessed a clear design aesthetic that is truly reflected in this home. From the parquetry floors to the Scandinavian inspired furniture, both inside and outside spaces are an example of contemporary but comfortable design.

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Photography by Sharon Cairns and Jules Tehan

Family Friendly

The family of this architecturally appealing house, complete with two young boys and a dog, required a robust and lifestyle-oriented interior – suitable also for elegantly entertaining friends and colleagues – that reflected their strong sense of style.













The most important consideration of this design was that the interiors were long lasting in both design and practicality, and that they were considerate of the architect's intentions.

The loft style upstairs creates a great deal of space through the main living areas, further enhanced by the extensive use of white as the primary wall colour. This presented a 'blank canvas' if you will, the simple but strong form of the house making a perfect backdrop for furnishings and finishes.

Given the strong architecture of the house, simple pieces of furniture were selected to be respectful of that. Most of the furniture used in the home is sourced from Australian designers with some pieces commissioned to fit in particular spaces. The colours and materials used are enduring and mostly natural with occasional flashes of red as an accent colour used in the main living room and the kitchen. A deep walnut timber stain was matched for all the furniture throughout the house. The overall look is clean, user friendly and warm.

The mainly natural materials used throughout tie into the desired neutral and earthy palette. Bluestone tiles, recycled spotted gum floorboards and wool carpet floors supply the depth needed to complement the white walls. The living and dining spaces enjoy an extra natural element - a large amount of sunlight as well as a view out to the illuminated pool.

Brightly coloured accent pillows connect the leather couch with the freestanding chairs upholstered in the same fabric. Here in the television room, the coloured pieces punctuate what would otherwise be a monochromatic space. In keeping with the uniformity of the house, these accent pieces appear elsewhere also.

Artist Eleanor Millard created the striking triptych for the dining area on commission, the colours of which are used in the soft furnishings and the kitchen splashback.

In keeping with the modern minimalist style of the interior, lots of storage space was provided to prevent unnecessary clutter.

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Photography by Sharon Cairns

Internal Enhancement

From this home's humble federation-styled exterior comes the wonderful regeneration of its interior with a modern twist. This twist respectfully pays homage to the home's rich history and leaves subtle hints of its former life.




QUINQUINA
BOURIN
DONNE LA FORCE
FORCE L'APPETIT
BOURIN
QUINQUINA





Aiming to enhance the period features of the existing home, the clients requested a sympathetic style somewhere between traditional and modern. With two distinct sections - the original and the new – the home needed visual continuity and integration to make it unified as a family home.

Despite its history and the typical style of period homes, the clients requested that all joinery be without too much detail. Simplicity and elegance was the aim. In addition, as a family home, the furniture and fixing needed to be of commercial quality. In the kitchen, a large stainless steel work bench ensures there will never be any staining or accidents, while a generously sized island countertop provides easy access from all angles for family members at dinner time.

While the home has no 'formal' living room, a large rumpus room is located on the second level. Despite this, the most habitable room for family time is the casual living area. The open plan living design of the kitchen/ dining and living areas allows for light to flood the space and provide fresh, natural light to the most habitable parts of the home. Dark furniture blends well with the beautiful recycled spotted gum timber floors and contrasts with the walls perfectly allowing it to really pop against the feature rug.

Throughout the home, light coloured plantation shutters have been used. These are great for use in period style homes and suit both traditional and contemporary looks.

Flashes of colour throughout the home bring vibrancy and excitement to the rooms. Most prominently used in the living room, armchairs are covered in a bright, striped fabric complementary to the cushions used on the darker couches and on the commissioned Eleanor Millard painting which sits above the sofas and creates a sense of continuity.

In the front section of the home, the original Baltic pine timber floors have been refurbished, while a neutral, warm grey wall colour with a crisp, white trim covers the walls. The roof - painted in white - gives the older part of the home a more airy feel and maximises space by appearing lighter. Much the same, the master bedroom features ornate plaster ceilings, reviving one of the many original aspects of the home. A bay window with led-light inserts at the top and plantation shutters below adds an old style charm in a modern room, while modern furnishings help to balance the style.

In the master ensuite, wall lights and underslung basins provide for a practical and timeless place. Overall, warm tones, minimalist design and lots of natural light all contribute toward the collaboration of an elegant, modern traditional home that is family friendly.

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Photography by Jules Tehan



New Yorker Influence

When gazing at the Park Avenue project, one could be forgiven for thinking these apartments float above New York City's exclusive street of the same name.











However, while their interiors' unsurpassed elegance and attention to detail is reminiscent of Manhattan's Upper East Side, these deluxe, full-floor, private lobby homes enjoy a privileged position in sunny Queensland.

180 degree views of the expansive Brisbane River - from the Story Bridge to New Farm - are fully exploited and connected to the indoors and out through the formation of seamless living areas and large glass windows.

The apartments have a unique style and functionality that can be attributed to the careful choice of finishes and floor plan, with furniture inspired cabinetry creating adaptable spaces. Right throughout the homes lustrous paints, metallic 2pac and tiles are overlaid with natural stone and stained timbers. This gives the simple palette – inspired by Coco Chanel and detailed to appeal to the mature, sophisticated market – and contemporary twist.

Contrast timber panelling treats feature areas on the walls and ceiling. This detailing is a simple decorative element that enhances the rooms without dictating the final layer of decoration. Also, in the case of the living-cum-dining room, the timber panelling offers a subtle, visual delineation of the areas.

With the large amount of glass incorporated to maximize the views, the apartments are subject to receiving a lot of natural and reflected light through the large windows. Sheer curtains are thus used to block out some glare as well as soften the space's appearance, whilst still allowing the river scenery to transmit in.

Though an important part of the apartments, the kitchen is detailed so not to appear as the main focal element in each. Reflective mirror and marble combined with timber gives the room an understated elegance while making it feel connected with the living room.

Travertine floor tiles were used in the main living areas of the apartment, and were carried through to the external balconies to ensure continuity with the exterior. Marble tiles define the wet areas and add a layer of sophistication to the bathrooms. Slight motifs decorate the carpets laid in the bedrooms and study areas, increasing the dimensions of the room from underfoot.

While the homes appear modern, traditional and classic references are used throughout so as to leave them open for the various decorating styles attributed to the character's of their owners. Forty Park Avenue hence combines timeless style with the form and function of the present.

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Photography by Steve Ryan
Rix Ryan Photography

Varieties of Form

Situated on a nearby river, this residence, rich in texture and form, is a home showing an exuberant and eclectic style.











With the neighbouring river close by, access to the garden and water is an important theme tied in with the choice of colours in the home. The interior is furbished to bring back the feeling of Hollywood houses in the 70's. This vibrant house is able to support both large social gatherings and to preserve the privacy of bedrooms designed to accentuate the individual style of the occupant, while still retaining threads of continuity throughout.

The bases for the rooms in the house are neutral. White walls and wooden finishes allow for the inclusion of brighter, eye-catching pieces that give a character to each room.

Whether it is the clever placement of an interesting statue, a textural element or a colourful piece, each room has a feel and a focus all its own.

On entering the home, it is immediately evident that the style is going to yield many interesting elements. An antique chest cabinet in rich warm-red wood is the base for a sculpture back-dropped by a latticed panel.

The stairway curves up and allows you to pass a striking piece of artwork that has been well placed to draw on natural light.

On entering, there is easy access into the living areas. These areas immediately have characters that express their potential uses. A relaxed sitting area looks out onto the garden letting in light from sliding doors that lead out and wrap around the corner of the room. The open plan allows for easy access to the kitchen and bar-counter area. The kitchen spreads along the wall and is headed by a cleverly designed study cabinet section.

The connecting factor between most of the rooms is the design of the dark cabinets. One bedroom embraces bold designs and bright red to enhance the cabinets. A dresser sets the tone for the room tying in the romantic reds and an antique picture. The cabinets allow for great storage in an attractive way that entices the occupant into easy living. Both bedrooms show signs of this design focused on being able to support the lifestyle of the person living there.

The other bedroom is lighter and employs the use of blues, greens and neutral tones. It allows the display of books and achievements on shelves mounted above the desk area.

The use of bright colours and collected oddities and statement pieces guarantee a life lived without boredom. The furniture is a combination of modern and antique finds which add to the eclectic feel as well as giving a nod to and twist on Hollywood glamour. This is a home designed to be lived in, without hesitation or fuss. The richness of the surroundings cries out to be appreciated.

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Photography by Jared Fowler

Indoor Exclusivity

The busy professionals who own this apartment wanted to create a weekend retreat where they could escape from the city; a second home that felt like a luxury hotel by the beach.


HIP HOTELS





As the apartment is compact it was important to create spaces that were practical and comfortable. This was done through the use of built-in cabinetry, which increased storage and created a point of interest in the rooms.

Two small bedrooms that sat side by side were opened up into one with access to an ensuite and study space. A second bedroom was relocated behind the living spaces, affording guests with privacy.

The contrast of dark and light colours drives the moody feeling of the apartment. A striking palette accentuates the light filled spaces, with black laminate edging and timber used to highlight details in the cabinetry and connect the different spaces in the apartment. The colour scheme is complemented by furniture and fabric contrasting neutral colours of off-whites and greys versus black and charcoal, most noticeably executed by the selection of the stunning striped couch.

Being on a higher level, the kitchen enjoys views over the living room and off the balcony. Though on separate levels and divided by a decorative tiled wall, the kitchen and living area are connected by a series of linear shelves at unusual heights displaying the client's treasured possessions. This assisted in creating continuity between the levels while still allowing the spaces to function independently. The tailored black line they create stitches spaces together through the levels, enhancing the visual journey and framing the off-white joinery.

A woven black and white vinyl floor was chosen for its glamorous look as well as its hardwearing properties, which are important in a beach residence. This flooring also connects the different levels of the apartment and along with the well placed furniture, makes the apartment feel more spacious.

A monochromatic palette and the reorientation of spaces so as to maximize light and visual connection with the beachside setting, reflects the sophisticated lifestyle of the clients within an atypical beachside aesthetic.

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Photography by Steve Ryan
Rix Ryan Photography





Aspirational Elegance

Melbourne's prestigious east side is home to many fine homes, but few as elegant as this French Provincial, an inspired example of heritage architecture and consummate workmanship.






Miele





The drama and romance of this home's classic style reminds us of a time gone by, when mansions were built to make a grand statement.

This exemplary residence features all the modern staples of fine living that are expected in today's top-end homes. The gracious entry foyer, with its timber parquetry, opens onto the formal lounge and dining areas, which in turn lead on to the stairway and informal areas.

Walking through the entry lobby with its full-height ceiling and into the hallway gallery, it is evident that this home is Melbournian opulence incarnate. It is the fine detail that makes this dwelling special; the cast iron detail on the front door and the intricate mouldings in the staircase balustrade. This is a home for those who appreciate the finer things in life.

A most stunning kitchen ends the hallway gallery, with the solid timber and fine marble present working well together to achieve an understated effect. There is ample storage space and plenty of room in which to cook and entertain. The stylish island bench seems more like a piece of furniture than a fitting.

Atop the timber staircase – gracefully capped with an off white runner – lie the bedrooms, a casual living space and an opulent master suite, featuring a private balcony and an ensuite akin to those found within the finest hotels around the world.

At the rear of the home, a fully self-contained apartment – designed to mirror the main house's elegance and attention to detail – sits across a formal garden and in-ground pool.

Redefining the fusion of classical and modern design, this interior is a prime example of the unsurpassed lavishness that Vogue Domain Living achieves.

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Photography provided by Vogue Domain Living



Sleek Aesthetic

Designed by In2 and captivating from every angle, this beautiful home has enjoyed awards from the Building Design Association of Victoria for Best Kitchen and Best Bathroom.















Although enjoying awards from the Building Design Association of Victoria for Best Kitchen and Best Bathroom, the home's interior grandeur is not limited to these spaces. A sense of visual and practical harmony has been blended with a very modern approach to design.

The kitchen – with its alternating black and white surfaces – calls to mind the concept of a piece of art rather than purely a functions space. The living and entertainment areas are the same. An intriguing light fixture gives the dining table an unsurpassed stylistic quality that gives guests the feeling they are dining at a world class contemporary restaurant. A cow skin rug topped with two unusually shaped and patterned ottomans in the living room form another focal point of the space.

Opening out through frameless glass bi-fold doors, the main living areas enjoy an uninhibited relationship with the outdoor entertaining area and pool.

In the bathroom, marble tiles define a generous spa-cum-bathtub to one side of the room, and suspended sinks beneath a wall of mirrors to the other.

This spacious family home is a sample of the attention to detail and creativity the In2 team deliver in all their designs. An excellent example of a contemporary, yet timeless style of dwelling, the home cleverly provides focus on the use of specifically chosen designer decorative elements as it defines itself as a home for the discerning design lover.

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Photography by Dean Schmideg

Flowing Spaces

An impressive entrance via lift to this large second storey, split-level apartment is only the first of many aspects of this design that will amaze you.













Planning the home around open spaces, Marylou Sobel Interior Design worked towards a contemporary, minimalist design, in order to utilise the large and vividly coloured oil paintings provided - and loved - by the client as the main source of colour. Elements of colour were also continued in subtle places, such as the cushions on the couches, in order to create a visual flow through the home.

With respect to open-plan living, the home has very few walls in the main area. Instead, key pieces of furniture, custom-made for the project, have been placed in critical positions so that the floor plan can be divided unobtrusively into separate sections, while still allowing ease of movement between spaces. The main zone now consists of both formal and informal living areas, as well as a dining space, each adorned with rugs to differentiate between them.

Varying textures and tones have been incorporated to achieve a layering effect, which builds on the natural, earthy palette used throughout, allowing the brightness of the oil paintings to take prominence in design.

The apartment evokes a slightly European design, especially considering the floor tiles used and the large, curved wall at the entrance of the apartment. Despite this, furnishings and details such as the large African sculptures make for a striking addition of contrast.

Granite was used throughout the living areas, kitchen and bathrooms to help attain a low maintenance requirement for the design, while woollen carpet was used in bedrooms to create a softness that can't be achieved with timber or stone floors.

Linen roller blinds were used in the living and dining areas to keep direct sunlight away without negating natural light. Motorisation of these blinds allows the owners to completely retract and hide them when needed, maximising the magnificent view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The reflective natural look of the bright, neutrally coloured walls helps to illuminate the room and allow light to fill the space more easily.

The mixture of elements present in this design makes it truly an interior worthy of attention. It holds a uniquely open and flowing atmosphere, perfect for the client's needs.

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Photography by Simon Kenny

Classique Class

Appearing as authentic as the French villa it was crafted to resemble, this home by Marylou Sobel Interior Design employed contemporary principles and materials to bring together a glorious feel of grandeur and splendour.













Upon entry, one could assume the house had been transplanted from France. With themed cabinetry, decorative wallpaper, gold ornamental mirrors and cornices, even the minutest aspects have not been overlooked. The attention to the finest details is what allows this home to flourish on its own merit, with the carefully chosen extras - such as the antique light fittings and window furnishings – ensuring it achieves its maximum potential. The authenticity attained is exceptional and may be attributed to good planning and careful selection.

Truly inspiring, the main living area takes on a formal aspect, in keeping with the rest of the home. It is connected to the generously sized patio by expansive glass and timber bi-fold doors. Upon opening up these beautiful doors, the indoors and outdoors are combined, forming one seamless entertainment space.

The kitchen effortlessly and seamlessly integrates the latest in appliance technology into the classically themed environment. Earthy colours have been chosen, such as the tumbled marble flooring, to resemble the rustic and dated look of the cabinetry, which feature similarly styled knobs and handles, while the Carrara marble bench tops set a refined tone, a standard that is spread throughout the rest of the home.

A dominant theme throughout is the inclusion of ornamental light fittings. Small chandeliers and traditional French fixtures adorn many of the walls, providing additional ambient lighting on top of standard down lights - the main light source. This took care of the practical side of things, without compromising the authentic appearance the designers were taking.

While the main living section of the house features a double height volume roof, the bathroom has a recessed roof, with a beautiful chandelier hanging from the centre. Louvered window furnishings provide the right amount of light and privacy for such a room, while the curious patterning of the feature wall mural, painted by an Australian artist, tells a story of its own.

The bedrooms are kept simple, with matching French-inspired bed heads and linen. In the master bedroom, a chaise lounge sits diagonally across, while heavy linen drapes are used to control natural lighting.

A range of beautiful antiques and artworks collected by the owner over 25 years were also incorporated into the design, adding a personal touch to a comfortable family home.

This house is a beautiful interpretation of French interior design. It shows the successful amalgamation of classic design with new building trends and really pays homage to the historical aspects within, resulting in a wonderfully timeless home.

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Photography by Simon Kenny

Layered Composition

A unique take on interior restoration sees this property retain its earthy, natural underlay whilst incorporating a new and exciting contemporary veneer.


SONY





The first aspect of this house to draw attention is the retention of the original bluestone walls. The new modern interior appears to float lightly against the solidity of the stone, which runs through most rooms, bringing an earthy feel to a contemporary design.

Polished concrete floors complement the stone walls and give the spaces an industrial feel, further complimented by the minimalist kitchen. Here, a variety of materials – timber veneer, stainless steel and stone – combine to add character to the open room. The low profile window stretching across behind the sink and cook top, peers out to a creeper-covered wall absorbing some necessary colour into the room also.

Much needed warmth in the living area is provided by a dark grey carpet inlay in front of the television, and a timber landing with in-built lighting at the base of a spectacular staircase that seems to defy gravity.

A unique gas log fireplace sits comfortably beneath the in-set wide screen and between two glass sheets so as to appear disconnected from the stone shelf on which it sits. The windows are covered with both sheer and heavy fabric, which allow light in while also absorbing the noise from the hard surfaces.

Bluestone pavers and spotted gum timber decking tie the inside with the outside through large stacker sliders. The undercover outdoor entertainment area houses a wood fire pizza oven, just another feature of this home that distinguishes it from the rest. Whether it is summer or winter, the sleek swimming pool and Jacuzzi have all temperatures covered.

Many homes try to blend old with new but fail in making the transition subtle and incorporated. Not this house. The old bluestone walls meld with the sharp, clean lines of the new interiors and fittings in such a way that the original home is paid tribute to by becoming the main design feature.

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Photography by UA Creative



Incognito

A heritage streetscape is complemented by the quaint, revived façade of this home. Little would a passer-by know that it fronts a spacious and contemporary interior, designed with all the best intentions for satisfying the modern desire for seamless lifestyle areas.







The L-shaped layout of the living areas places a stylish modern kitchen as the centre point. While featuring clean and simple cabinetry, cutting edge appliances and black bar stools to contrast with the bright white colour, a stunning stone bench top is the real visual treat in this area. Extending over the breakfast bar to the floor, the white and grey marble reflects the luminosity of a low hanging light fixture above, providing not only an attractive element to the kitchen but also a practical one.

The spacious dining area can be opened up via bi-fold doors to a spotted gum timber decking that surrounds the swimming pool. Similarly, French doors expose the casual lounge area to the pool, proving that the inviting blue waters are the focal point of this house. The indoors and out have been thoughtfully connected in the home's floor plan, door placement and also in the extensive use of glazing which welcomes in the light.

Siltstone paving spills out from more bi-folds off the living area onto a luscious green lawn. Here, a supremely fitted-out barbecue bench complete with sink links to an outdoor table setting, affording the homeowners with a perfect place to enjoy family barbecues on those warm summer nights.

A formal sitting room enjoys rich deeply coloured walls and high reaching dark timber book shelving while the newest parts of the home feature a simple and understated colour palette. The fairness of the walls, cabinetry and American Oak floors is set off against some well planned finishes like the floor to ceiling rendered black columns incorporating both colour and texture into the living room. Red cushions, bright floral arrangements and wall art also warm up the cool neutral tones.

Perhaps the most striking accent is found in the most unexpected place – an internal courtyard. Here, lush green bamboo surrounds a tall bamboo feature painted bright red and placed in front of a green free-standing feature wall. Such an arrangement could only be surrounded by floor to ceiling windows, thus making the window frames like those of a piece of art.

It is clear that the splendour of this house is not compromised by its single level. In fact this is a design feature with all the main living areas enjoying fusion with the outdoor environment.

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Photography by UA Creative



Diversity

The idea behind the ‘Prahran House’ is, simply put, about contrast. Existing period details in the house were highlighted and juxtaposed with contemporary art, furniture and other period pieces, resulting in a wonderfully eclectic mix that is a feast for the eyes.













Both contemporary and industrial light fittings were used for an added hint of drama, and original vintage light fixtures were reused for that extra touch of authenticity to the period house. The importance of colour in the overall design of the house is strikingly evident as well. A fuschia pink front door stands out against a backdrop of maritime grey and white detailing. A bright, hot fuchsia pink rug sits in the middle of the living area, with black and white furniture pieces dotting the sea of intense pink; a vivid green studded vinyl floor offsetting stark white timber ceilings and black and stainless steel cabinetwork. The master bedroom comes with velvety blue walls and a matching carpet, while the guest room's peaceful mauve walls provide a neutral setting for its rich, blue satin curtains.

The colours, though seemingly placed at random, were carefully selected to give emphasis to the original Victorian architectural details of the house. Think steel, black timber and glossy laminates deeply contrasted with white and yellow industrial pendant lights. Or limed white timber floorboards with a grey finish. Or original modernist furnishings set against darker finishes, clashing in the best possible way.

The juxtaposition between the existing period house, the 1970s extension and the new colourations evoke an eclectic mix of time periods and cultures. Working with the approach of mixing period details with a contemporary use of colour and decoration, the designers have succeeded in creating a space that is both strange and familiar. Each door seems to lead into a different world, all under the same roof, which makes living an even bigger adventure than it already is.

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Photography by Jaime Diaz Berrio

Distinctive Design

It is apparent merely upon approaching this house that its owners have discerning taste, an assumption that is established further upon entry to this hip home.











The façade is a conspicuous one amongst the more traditional streetscape of post-war clinker brick homes, indicating that 'dare to be different attitude' proliferating heritage areas like Strathmore, Victoria.

Extensive glazing ensures a desirable response to the city views across Napier Park to which the house sits adjacent. The park contains one of the largest stands of River Red Gum in the state, and the house reflects their natural beauty both inside and out. The grey and white tones of the bushland are expressed through zinc and antique white render as well as reclaimed Blackbutt columns.

A rich palette of natural timbers and stone finishes flows from the outside in, these elements being an essential part of achieving a home with such understated elegance. The mature aged couple that built this home wanted one with a contemporary aesthetic, finished to the highest standard. Striking furniture pieces in dark colours tie in with dark joinery which, when contrasted with light walls and floor tiles, create a simple yet stylistic base to be set off with burnt oranges and ocean blues.

As the heads of a large family, the clients wanted a living area that could respond to crowded family gatherings. A completely seamless ground plane can be achieved when the living areas amalgamate with the external spaces, creating large flowing areas for adults and children to congregate. When not buzzing with family and friends, the outdoor areas evoke a sense of tranquillity and calm through water features, lush foliage and plenty of comfortable seating.

The upper level acts as the couple's apartment, housing a master bedroom, his and hers ensuites, robes and a personal retreat. This allows for a degree of intimacy when just the two of them are home. A lift affords the couple the luxury of entering the basement garage and travelling straight to their suite after a night out.

An apparent theme throughout the house and garden are Asian influenced punctuations, from the maple trees in the front to the statues in the back. Along with statement pieces of furniture, lighting, sculptures and wall art, these accents define the home as a designer's delight.

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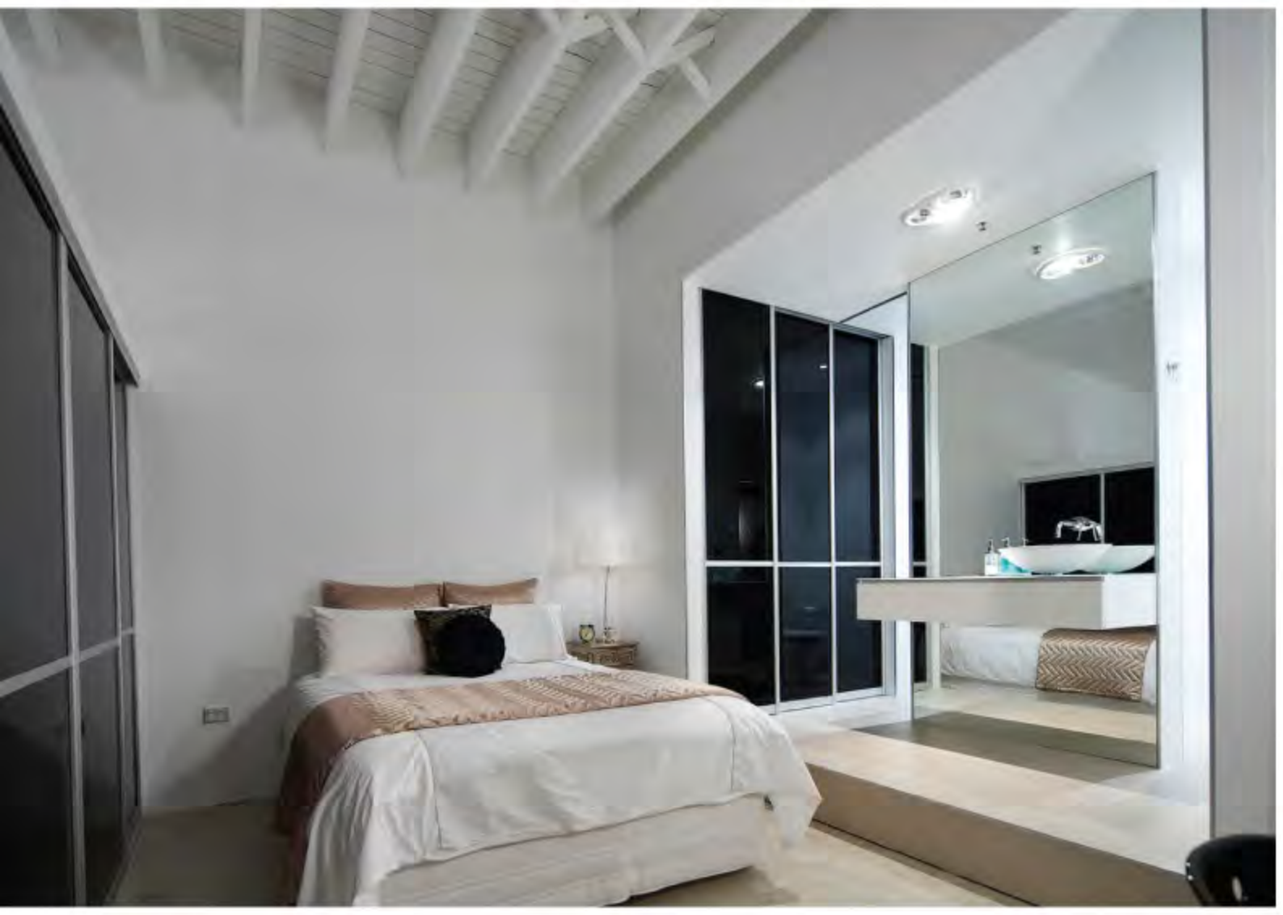
Photography by Peter Clarke and Emma Cross

Haut Monde

Quietly tucked away in Perth's Central Business District, this Durham House apartment boasts of a raw and contemporary feel in a compact and fully utilised 51 square metres.









Designed by Kerry Chong Design, the apartment was given a complete facelift to the point in which its interior was entirely gutted out. Left with just the old timber joist ceiling, brick walls and concrete floor, the designers then faced the challenge of maintaining a sense of openness and sophistication within the limited space.

What resulted was an uncluttered apartment that is simple and deceptively spacious. Utilising differing materials, forms and changes in floor levels to divide the space, the design of the apartment was also drawn out to accommodate the detailed concealment of many fixtures and fittings, thereby opening the space up even more.

Exceptionally designed with a palette of raw concrete, black and white gloss and stainless steel, the monochromatic colours of the apartment are nicely offset with platinum-coloured furniture and the original exposed timber ceiling. These recurring juxtapositions between the raw and smooth, old and new, and dark and light form a consistent theme that runs throughout the apartment.

The bedroom and bathroom are completely open to one another; the only hints of change lie in the elevated platform on which a full-length mirror and a floating vanity unit stand, providing much-needed privacy for the shower and toilet recesses cleverly hidden behind. The bedroom's generous built-in robe also features reflective black sliding doors, a detail that is repeated in every space.

Fitted with stainless steel work surfaces and reflective black and white cabinetwork, the kitchen even has its appliances carefully mapped out and integrated to reduce clutter and further promote a seemingly bigger space. It then seamlessly leads into an airy living area that is deceptively larger because of its glossy finishes, and a quaint Juliette balcony overlooking the rear side of the street.

Mindful of the apartment's spatial limitations, the designer has created a space bursting to fit with the adjectives one would associate with the young and trendy – interesting, unique, funky, eclectic, etc. However, they have also sought to provide a sanctuary of calm, an old-fashioned escape from the city, in the city. Yet another juxtaposition beautifully executed in this space of contrasts.

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Photography by Kerry Chong, Robert Firth and Sal Abubakar

Core Strength

This heritage listed warehouse was transformed into a residential loft with simple yet dramatic ideas turning a tired apartment into a two bedroom, two bathroom masterpiece.





Challenged by the limited size of the existing space, the spatial design created a loft residence with a sense of openness. Natural light was introduced with the addition of glazing punctuations, while retaining privacy through frosted glass. Functionality was maximised with cabinetry.

Most of the interior elements were designed with the notion of insertion and flexibility. A central core was framed out of timber and cabinetry to achieve the morphic storage hub, serving as housing for a study desk, LCD television and pantry. As well as providing a dividing mechanism, which creates a sense of intimacy, it is also a theatrical backdrop, concealing a hidden staircase to the mezzanine level housing the bedrooms and ensuite.

The raw bricks of the existing shell were painted white, while the central core unit was expressed in a deep, glossy charcoal allowing the distinction between the existing space and the new insertion to be amplified. Existing timber trusses were restored to expose their raw state and are accentuated with lighting that highlights the geometric drama they create within the overall space.

The renovation was an easy one as prefabricated cabinetry elements were simply erected onsite. Given the minimum use of wet trades in transforming the warehouse to a loft, the clients were able to move out and back in within a matter of months.

Specific heritage and adaptation limitations were at the forefront during the design process. The concept of insertion meant that nothing was done to compromise the existing building fabric. With the design remaining sensitive to the existing space, allowance was made for the expression of all the building's existing features.

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Photography by Robert Frith, Acorn Photo





Escalation of Form

Robert Mills Architects has created a spectacular union of purity and elegance. With clean lines, crisp whites and contrasting blacks, contemporary Australian design is showcased at its best.







Predominantly cubic, the home presents a modern, formal approach to family living. With large floor to ceiling glass walls located throughout, it enables an abundance of light to enter the home and highlight some of the focal points within. White walls enhance this effect, while American Oak joinery and Dark Slate floors create a stable balance in colour and a clean, calm space to dwell in.

A huge 25 metre lap pool spans the length of the home, visible through the glass walls and creating a natural evaporative cooling solution to the living areas. Luxurious touches are also abundant, with 3.5 metre ceilings to provide the feeling of a more spacious environment, and a monochromatic palette to provide a backdrop for the client's extensive art collection.

The simple yet elegant design allows for the true beauty of both the interior and outdoors to combine and be realised as one. However, it is the meticulous detailing that RMA includes in every project that truly awards them the WOW factor. A striking spiral staircase is presented as a central beauty to the home, linking the ground floor to the top floor and form with function. In addition, the fluid design affords a thoughtful contrast to the cubic composition of the project as a whole and almost acts as a sculpture to greet guests as they enter the room.

A complementary range of furniture and accessories were carefully selected in conjunction with the overarching colour palette and style of the design, adding a subtle softness through choice of materials and textures.

The home also integrates many environmentally-friendly features including a smart lighting system and motorised oversize exterior louvers, which provide even more natural light and cross ventilation. These are a particularly spectacular feature, adding a unique element to an outstanding home.

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Photography by John Wheatley
UA Creative

* Photograph supplied by Trevor Mein Photography





Metropolis

In a narrow street in North Hobart, the industrial and residential landscape is combined in this property - the conversion of a 300 square meter warehouse into private residences.











A dividing wall facilitated sufficient space for two new dwellings; this and an adjoining one of slightly different size and configuration.

Much of the former industrial building's character is maintained. The original street frontage is fully intended to dramatically contrast with the unexpected interior, which retains the former character whilst meeting the demands for a contemporary residence.

Through-views from the street to the rear were crucial to maintaining the depth of space that was inherited from the existing building. Most internal walls run parallel to the through-view and establish a physical reverberation off the central wall. Closed rooms such as the upper level bathrooms and bedrooms run along – and conceal – the dividing wall between tenancies. In contrast, the opposite side is relatively intact with an open living space running the length of the warehouse.

New steel beams span the full length of the interior to establish a new upper floor, the underside of which reveals exposed floor beams with long stripes of continuous diffused fluorescent lighting. The upper floor is more refined with lime-stained timber finishes reflecting the increased natural light from the saw-tooth windows. The internal duality is furthered with the sense of elevation in the original space enhanced by sky-views from within soft white plasterboard-lined bedrooms. This contrasts with the industrial aesthetic of galvanised sheet metal and framework ply used throughout the open spaces.

Sections of expanded metal on the raked ceiling subtly disguise two new north-facing skylights and enable the perceived retention of natural lighting effect via the original south facing highlight windows. The directional slippage in the expanded sheet on the raked ceiling ensures low-level winter sun is permitted and cuts out the higher-angled summer sun. This directional quality of the sheet is used in screen walls to the upper level, managing privacy via imperceptible changes in the direction of the 'grain' of the expanded metal sheet.

Despite its rawness, a playful character is present. Rock climbing grips are utilized as door handles and the existing rear metal clad wall – which can slide open to reveal the large internal space to the secluded rear yard – is seemingly 'can-opened' to form new windows with fold-out blinkers on the exterior like an advent calendar.

This adaptation of an existing building was cost effective and offers a model for the sustainable development of similar commercial premises nearby within an increasingly popular residential area. Materials are often 'unfinished' and thus devoid of potentially harmful finishing applications and there is also extensive use of environmentally sustainable products such as the plywood throughout for linings and framing.

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Photography by Jonathan Wherrett

Scaled to Suit

The challenge of this design project was to create a sense of intimacy and human scale within the confines of the large architectural envelope.









To create a hierarchy of space the floor level was raised - delineating the entry atrium. Different finishes break up the floor space as does the layered ceiling plan without delineating the interior and exterior as distinctly different spaces. Furniture and area rugs work within these delineated areas and further break up the large spaces.

Two joinery boxes flank each side of a passage that draws the eye through to the view. The function of these boxes is to conceal a guest WC and cellar. Each one is designed like a jewellery box, with dark timber on the outside and light veneer on the inside. Their design impact is one of intrigue as they cantilever over the edge of the platform and are visible from almost every aspect. The kitchen seamlessly engages with the entry 'boxes' housing fridges and storage on the kitchen elevation. A series of sculptural joinery elements and a concrete bench top stretching five metres form the minimalist kitchen.

The architecture was further adapted to include a linear light slot at the termination of the westerly corridor, creating a visual full stop and providing a perfect position for a large artwork.

A restrained yet warm palette of finishes maintains a minimalist language throughout. On a foundation of natural stone and recycled timber, polished concrete, stainless steel and timber veneer were introduced to achieve a harmonious palette. The furnishings add a further layer of texture with a measure of restraint, creating warmth and comfort whilst remaining minimal. Classic additions such as Hans Wegner's Wishbone chair further enhance the space.

The triple level staircase is a sculptural statement, finely detailed and executed - heightening the scale of the atrium light well and punctuated by an organic floating pendant light.

The 3.5 x 2.5 m entry pivot door was constructed out of solid smoked Oak and finished with a custom designed beaten and scored iron door pull, further accentuating the scale of this area.

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Photography by Kata Bayer





Coastal Unity

A sense of escape and relaxation materialises as soon as the front door is opened, if not before, with an immediate synergy with the ocean. This weekender for a young family was created with practicality, robustness, comfort and relaxation as the owner's brief.









Spilling over conventional boundaries, the interior features no jarring elements, making the transition between interior and exterior seamless. The introduction of weatherproof materials such as teal, stone, ceramics, concrete, sandblasted Oregon, new tech foam and weatherproof fabrics mean that all living areas are fully utilised and able to be left open to the outdoors for extended periods.

There is an apparent randomness in the selection of the 'found pieces' that adds to the relaxed ambience. Pieces like bleached coral and natural branches further incorporate the outdoor lifestyle into interior spaces, and hanging spaces for beach bags and sun hats identify the home for what it is – a beach house. The large modular sofa was broken into apparently random elements and scattered with pillows in soft, fun fabrics and colours, thereby reinforcing the relaxed and eccentric ambience.

The natural light was harvested and reflected in the vivid white walls. The outside spaces were treated with as much care as the interior. Eclectic selections were made to give an impression of a home that had evolved over time.

The material strategy of Hare + Klein was to use a varied palette of timber, stone, cotton, linen, zinc and concrete. The washed colours of the beach and sea gave the cue for the selection of the background. This was layered with an unexpected palette of colours expressed in the eclectic fabric selection.

A sandblasted Oregon was selected for the simple open vanities, with wicker baskets instead of conventional joinery providing abundant storage. The kitchen design incorporated a structural column in the design of the stainless steel overhead racks, defining the kitchen and living areas.

With soft, breezy materials and fabrics, and full exposure to a gorgeous outlook over the beach, this coastal retreat is where the rigidity of weekday life evaporates, allowing maximum enjoyment of the casual, relaxed atmosphere created by the perfect combination of elements.

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Photography by Simon Kenny -
Contents Agency



Indoor Artistry

The client asked for a family home that is warm, friendly and inviting with minimum clutter. The result was the creation of deceptively simple spaces.











The home was designed by Hare + Klein with the capacity for the living spaces to be open, cohesive and connected or divided into private intimate rooms. Doors disappear entirely into cavities, changing the spatial arrangements and revealing new rooms and aspects.

Materials were chosen for their simplicity and inherent beauty. Great attention was paid to the details, particularly the finely crafted joinery. Focal points were created with restraint for maximum effect.

A home theatre doubles as a living room, with the seating able to be moved into cinema type rows when required. The room is transformed by dividing off from the dining room and the garden courtyard.

Inside, the interior colour of the house is predominantly white – generally reflecting the natural light. The blade walls are finished in dark reflective stucco bringing strong contrast, which is tempered by the texture and soft colour of the veneer and richness of the dark stained floors.

Carefully selected polished concrete, volcanic stone, stainless steel and light timber veneer was chosen as the backdrop to a restrained palette of fabrics. Warm tones are used as accents in keeping with the client's brief to create a warm and friendly home.

The outside terrace is furnished as an extension of the family room and when the doors are opened up, this reads as one space. The family dining area was created by an extension of the kitchen island bench in a solid timber cantilevered tabletop.

Flexible LED reading lights are concealed within the custom designed headboard in the master bedroom. A TV pops up from the timber chest at the end of the bed. Soft textured natural fibres were chosen for the furnishings.

The guest WC is a finely detailed space with a play on the dark reflective walls and a slot of natural light, with shadows created by the decorative screen.

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Photography by Jenni Hare

Infused Youth

This project, located in typical Northeastern suburbia, is a renovation of a post-war cottage, nestled amongst replica Queenslanders and other rejuvenated homes of the era.







Seamless links between the existing cottage and a two-storey sleeping pavilion were achieved through the creation of a simplistic living tower element. This ties the two forms together in a way that is both warm and inviting whilst also acting as an integral natural cooling element.

Based on the principles of public and private spaces, the design now allows for the family to have spaces to congregate and retreat as needed. The project was driven by a tight budget meaning the finishes and materials were typical in nature but atypical in their application, thus creating interesting spaces and unexpected solutions.

The lower level uses colour fairly minimally and forms a simple palette. All spaces are painted in a general white that is mixed with Walnut in the old cottage, changing to Blackbutt and Spotted Gum in the new pavilion.

The upper storey plays with colour through its use of painted feature walls, laminated sliding panel doors and Blackbutt screens. This zone is designated as the area for children, so it is seen as being about play and light as opposed to the more timeless style on the level below.

Through the use of dark plush carpet, dark laminate cabinetwork and sheer curtains, the main bedroom provides a space for retreat and relaxation that overlooks the rear courtyard. The ensuite located off this space plays with tile mosaics on a raised bathing platform and full-height frosted slot windows further create that feeling of relaxation.

Often seen as fairly utilitarian and given little attention, the laundry in this home is played up with laminate feature splashbacks and painted feature walls creating fun and life where you least expect it.

Both internally and externally, the quality of the space is exemplified through the selection of natural and man-made materials used in unexpected applications. By introducing these materials and through simplistic planning, the solution has become one that is warm, inviting and exudes a level of robustness that is not always apparent in contemporary interior design.

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Photography by Scott Burrows







Historical Reinvention

This heritage single fronted residence, located in an inner-city suburb of Victoria, provided the skin for a substantial internal refurbishment.







While all of the rooms in the original house were elegantly re-created with clean modern features in rich dark tones, the metal and glazed 'pavilion' added to the rear is the most exciting part of the new home. This room was designed to suit the client's needs of an open, contemporary and interactive lifestyle space. The opportunity was taken to maximise the unique experience of being amongst the tranquillity of a well-established and greatly treasured landscape setting.

The residence is zoned into three main areas, the first of which is the existing building envelope that accommodates the private spaces of bedrooms and bathrooms. The new additional pavilion of approximately 55 square metres provides the space for the more public functions of living, dining and cooking to coexist. The third zone is an established open landscape area, giving the home a lush park-like setting. Set back from the side boundaries, the slender metal detailing and full-height glazing of the pavilion allows it to be fully engaged with the exterior.

A tapestry of filtered light and shade enters and animates the interiors through the well-established native tree canopies. Natural ventilation is promoted through the use of full-height glazed louver windows, and a large linear skylight allows light to bathe the cooking and dining zone. The use of natural bluestone and timber materials throughout further harmonizes the interior with the exterior.

The addition sensitively integrates the old house without altering the integrity of its historical nature. The dynamic tension between the existing fabric and the new building accentuates both architectural identities.

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Photography by Trevor Mein

Outside the Box

As if by magic, this cleverly redesigned Sydney apartment creates space where it doesn't exist and utilises every inch of it in a multipurpose fashion.









William Smart of Smart Design Studio's signature style of uninterrupted lines was a great asset when it came to designing the interior of this small, two bedroom apartment in Sydney's Elizabeth Bay. William and his team devised creative solutions to the lack of space, making each room multitask for its owners.

Since the second bedroom would often but not consistently be accommodated by visiting children, it needed to function in such a way that it was not unusable when the children weren't there. The room thus became a relaxation area during the day, with a half wall dividing it from the hallway and a polyurethane panel that swings across to close the area off at night. A queen size bed takes in the easterly views and conceals an equal sized trundle.

The same multifaceted approach was adopted for the design of the bathroom-come-laundry, where walls become doors enabling the bathroom and toilet to be separated from the laundry and a full-sized wine cabinet. A long corridor of solid timber battens conceals a wealth of storage options and creates simple yet textured lines that assist with the air of spaciousness.

A counter is now all that delineates the once separate kitchen from the kitchen/dining areas. The kitchen is streamlined; with induction cook top and integrated appliances in keeping with William's seamless, multipurpose, storage rich philosophy.

Two balconies expand the living areas outdoors. An expansive north facing one off the main living area takes in spectacular views of the Bay and a smaller one is accessible from the second bedroom. Along with other elements like a floor to ceiling mirror in the main bedroom, the eye is tricked into thinking the rooms are larger than they really are.

The work of Le Corbusier provided inspiration for the colour palette, which was echoed downstairs in the renovation of the apartment block's pagoda masterminded by William simultaneously with the upstairs renovation.

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Photography by Sharrin Rees

The High Life

Stripped and refitted with a luxurious combination of fine materials and engaging textures, this Sydney apartment's new found richness and strength enhances its architectural form.


BIG SHED











With clients that frequent fine hotels around the world, architect William Smart of Smart Design Studio designed this home such that it is first class in every way – reflecting the sophisticated tastes of its owners.

The kitchen was refitted first, with efficient storage planned for everything from appliances to napery. A block of cupboards finished in wenge veneer fixes the space and forms a backdrop for the living area. A Corian bench top spills over the sleek, L-shaped work area down to the floor. With the kitchen complete, the clients decided that the chic look needed to be carried through the rest of the home.

For a designer whose style is fluidity, the existing interior layout presented a challenge to the achievement of a seamless look. The building is shaped like a crescent, with rooms fanning toward the views, hence the walls are perpendicular and the hallway curved. This influenced both space planning and material selection, as choices were limited to those that lent themselves to being curved or cut into irregular shapes.

A feature of this apartment is the unexpected places one finds textured finishes, such as Jim Thomson 'Khmer' silk panelling in the hallway and 'Verona Porcelain' leather panelling by Contemporary Leathers in the master bedroom. Here, white linen and raspberry silk tops a luxurious bed and calfskin lines the cupboards. The suite is carried through to a bathroom where Calcutta marble covers the room in its entirety.

Shot orange silk on both sides of the study door and throw pillows made from vintage Japanese kimonos are but a few of the bold colour accents introduced by Victoria Judge of Smart Design Studio. She ensured that the owner's favourite furniture and collectables were given pride of place in the new home, such as an antique Japanese screen that now serves as wall art in the second bedroom. A pair of Chinese carved figures stands strong in the study with its custom-made leather desk.

'Happy' leather armchairs by Italian designer Antonio Citterio, and a tweed plaid ottoman square off an elegant sofa atop a custom made silk rug in the living room. Across the room, a chic sofa in grey weave by Rodolfo Dordoni provides the perfect place to relax, read and enjoy the view. Sculptural Minotti Phillips leather chairs surround a glass-topped Knoll Platner dining table that mirrors a Foscarini Allegro Vivace pendant light in the living room. White limestone underfoot reflects recessed down lights above, brightening shadows and casting light up onto the underside of objects creating a three dimensional effect. The use of so many different textures in one space creates a truly glamorous room.

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Photography by Sharrin Rees

Urban Retreat

A three-year project has come to fruition for Melbourne architect Stephen Jolson, with the completion of his studio and residence in Greville Street, Prahran.







Built within the mask of an existing factory shell, the Sunrise Confectioners two-storey residential interior is a contemporary urban oasis, responding effortlessly to the needs of young professionals and their family. It is reached by a backlit steel ribbon staircase, which becomes the transition between the derelict facade and the refined interior.

On the first floor, three large rectangular blocks inserted into the space contain and conceal the functional aspects for living and divide each zone; kitchen, living and dining as well as playroom, laundry and powder room. The kitchen has been fully integrated into the living space and is defined by a 6-meter monolithic block of polished stone. Its surface was selected to maximise reflection of surrounding flat surfaces as well as the history of the building. The extensive joinery – a signature of Jolson designs – is American Oak and discretely enfolds ample storage areas, ovens and fridge. Surfaces have been mitred to create simplistic forms. On the rear wall a black and white image depicting the sugar vats making hundreds and thousands has been enlarged to reflect the building's former life. This image slides to reveal the kitchen and additional storage/utility areas.

Black floorboards feature on the first level, Ripzon Kontrakt carpet from Sweden on the second. Interior boundary walls have been bagged to retain their texture. Other internal walls are painted Dulux China White, providing the perfect foil for the colour proffered in Stephen's collection of oversized photographs of past travels in North Africa and India.

The informal living and dining areas overlook a large north facing private garden with steel bonfire and water features. From here the original factory windows, now glass-free, frame city views. As well as enhancing aesthetic ambience, this lawned area creates a thermal buffer to the ground floor office, retaining warmth in winter and insulating against summer heat.

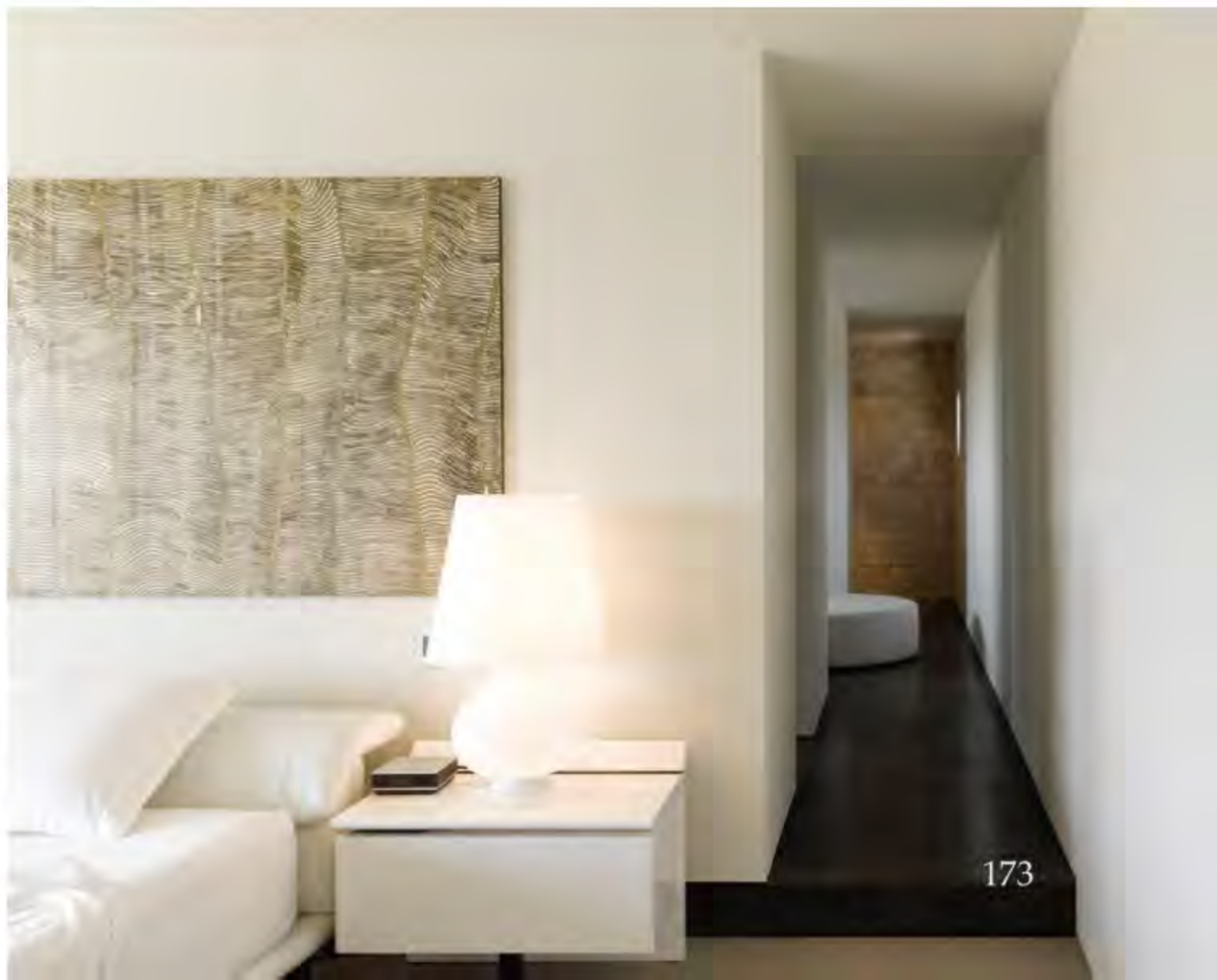
The second floor contains the sleeping accommodation and bathrooms –main bedroom with walk-in robe and ensuite, two children's bedrooms, one bathroom, storeroom and gym. Bathroom vanities are low with bold terrazzo basins, understated tapware and exacting joinery necessary for the demands of a busy family.

This sweet renovation is thought of by the designer not as a contemporary warehouse but rather the contemporary recycling of a building.

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Photography by Scott Newett





Interior Exuberance

Modelled entirely on the previous dwelling's footprint, this modern bespoke home is built with privacy, intimacy and style in mind.











Chris Connell Design have crafted the new home completely, with only a few elements retained from the previous design – the relief concrete mural and beautiful internal stained glass window with its richly coloured panels.

Exhibiting the home in a new contemporary context, it is set out with a family in mind. While the layout retains the intent of the original home, it places greater emphasis on qualities such as height, light and views out to the surrounding landscape.

The home is presented in a way which mimics that of a gallery - sparsely set furniture and crisp walls contrasted with timber create a spacious and solid balance, allowing light to fill the room with grace.

True to the gallery-like format of the home, light fittings, furniture, art and other objects were placed selectively throughout the rooms to add volume and character. However, it is the finer, more intricate details that are gradually discovered which unravel its beauty – the timber wrapped stair core, the black steel blades that define door thresholds, the front door and handle and the shadowgap detail that wraps around all corner junctions.

The material palette is deliberately restrained to accommodate the minimalistic approach, while polished concrete walls, stone tiles and black anodised frames are offset by the warmth and texture of spotted gum timber, custom rugs and rich fabrics.

The L shaped form of the home allows for privacy to be enjoyed in the bedroom wing for children, and living zones for all the family, and upstairs, mum and dad can also bask in their own private retreat, away from the noise and kids. This separation is made possible by the shape of the home, but also allows for a sense of intimacy within.

In addition, higher ceilings and large expanses of glass with expansive eaves exaggerate the feeling of space and height in the east side up to four meters.

All living zones have access to the swimming pool and/or tennis court, which also allows this home to be used for large gatherings and parties – perfect for entertaining.

It doesn't matter how you view it, this home is one of a kind from the ground up.

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Photography by Earl Carter

New Look Diversified

With a well planned project in mind, Carr Design went ahead and demolished an existing two-storey brick residence in the heart of St. Kilda in order to create a three-storey masterpiece that would reflect the eclectic character of the area and its vibrant, urban-meets-waterfront lifestyle.




SAMSUNG



Overlooking the picturesque Port Phillip Bay, this three storey home features a unique tonal grading system spanning each of the levels. From light at the bottom to dark on top and applied to the internal finishes, it allows each level to be defined by its distinct purpose.

All levels are accessible by a large spiral staircase which seemingly slices through the centre of the building as a strong sculptural element, carving out a detailed timber lined core. At each level, the timber lining folds out, enveloping the interior and adding to its unique character.

Clean lines are attributable to the attractiveness of the light filled interior, with stainless steel elements to complement the white gloss cabinetry. An expansive and minimalist approach has definitely given a notion of space and comfort, while the large set bathroom provides a luxurious touch to an impeccable home. Dominantly clad with large stone tiles from the floor to the wall, mirrors are hung on either side to give the illusion of space, while a triple panel window sits at the end of the room, providing a generous light source.

Living areas and bedrooms are located at the front of the property with views of the water and stunning horizon, in addition to the Melbourne Docks. This truly is a home with modern, urban appeal – timeless in its design, with a controlled use of colours, textures and patterns.

Carr Design Group
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www.carr.net.au

Photography by Derek Swalwell



Living for the City

Like a residence out of 5th Avenue, this Manhattan-styled loft situated within the old Herald & Weekly Times Building is an icon in itself.











Featuring understated style and bespoke design, it seems as though you've walked into an apartment on the exclusive 'upper-east side'.

Carr Interiors has done an impeccable job in remodelling this industrial beauty. With a prime position, overlooking Melbourne's Inner City, the location is everything – but the interior is more. Originally only thought to be of use for storage, they have beaten the odds creating a sumptuous loft. In true New York and Paris style, the client's wishes to incorporate their extensive art collection has been granted, with many pieces used as focal points in critical locations around the home.

Crisp, white walls are adorned with the pieces, while contrasting dark hardwood flooring and timber cabinetry is used throughout. Much the same, dark silk window furnishings dress the windows, but also serve a practical purpose in that they adequately block-out all light when desired.

Clever planning and innovative design has enabled the inclusion of a guest bedroom, bathroom, media room, library and an art store all on the mezzanine level of the loft. This enables the client to comfortably accommodate guests, while still leaving enough area for regular activities such as entertaining. Clever inclusions such as frameless glass balustrades have been used in certain places – for example under the mezzanine level, to allow room for a small study – which effectively makes use of every square inch of space, without overcrowding or cluttering.

Double height ceilings in the living areas add to the voluminous, spacious feeling of the studio, and the warm, dark tones of the timber allow you to feel at home, comfortable and at one with the space around you. The ambience of the room is enhanced through a sound understanding of texture and depth, balanced masterfully throughout to present an outstanding New-York styled loft in the heart of historic Melbourne.

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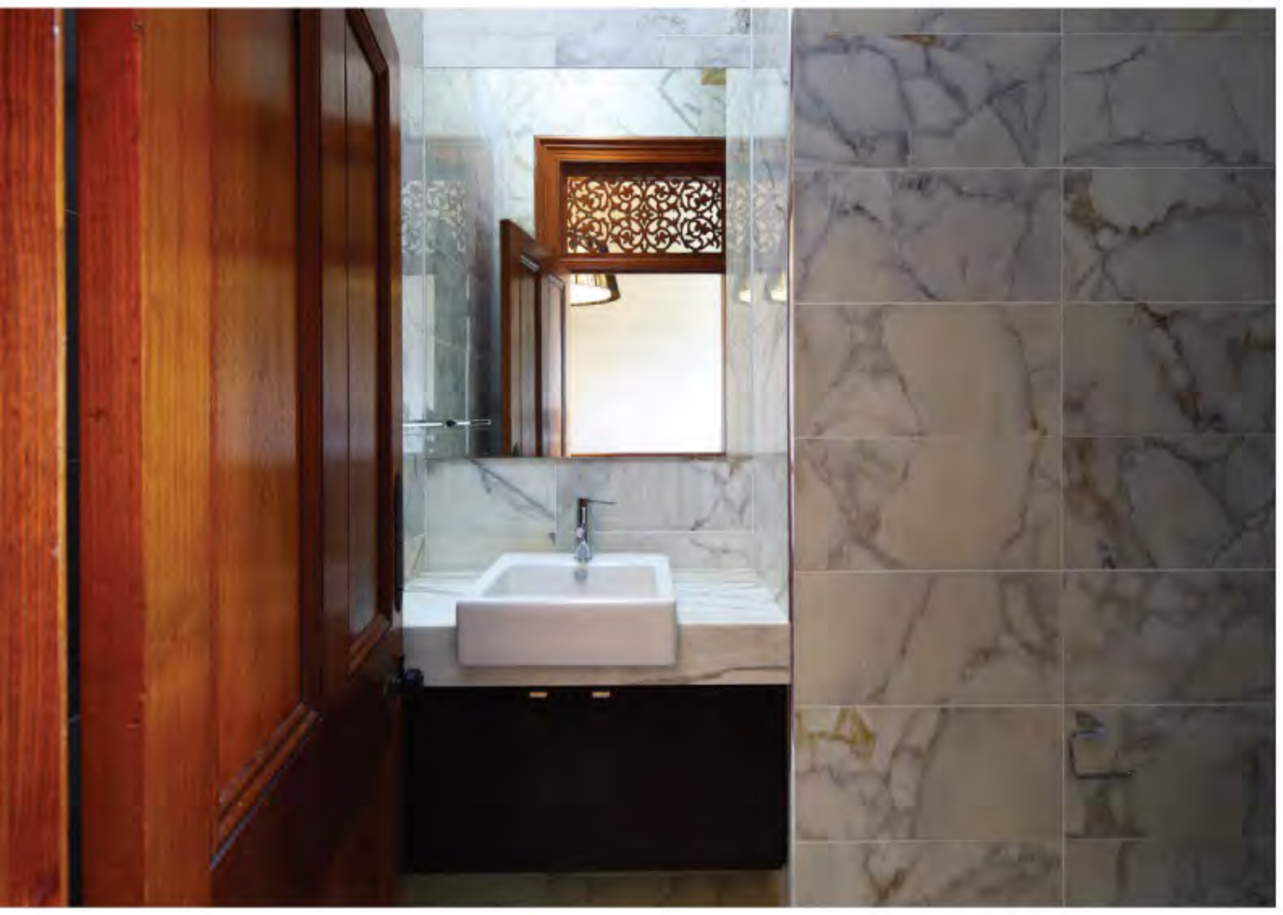
Photography by Earl Carter

Design Refreshed

The home at the centre of this project has been witness to many changes in architectural design.









Built in 1879, the house, like many others in the area, was altered from its original state in the 1950s by enclosing the verandahs and then applying a stucco façade to hide its original 1800s features. The current owner, who grew up in the neighbourhood, felt it was time to give the home yet another breath of fresh air.

After living in the unrenovated house, a development application was lodged for the renovation of the existing house to its original state and the addition of four townhouses to the rear of the site, which falls steeply by approximately 10m. The positioning of the townhouses was a complex task where driveways and access overlapped. A single driveway now connects all five dwellings. The four townhomes form a modern backdrop to the original house.

Adjustable aluminum blinds, reminiscent of those found on Queensland verandahs, provide privacy to the first floor of the townhouses that overlooks the rear of the original house. The townhomes are designed to follow the natural topography of the site, sitting neatly without overshadowing the original house or the surrounding context.

Interiors reflect the site conditions by way of split-levels. When designing townhouses that share party walls, there is an inherent difficulty in providing natural light to internal spaces. Incorporating a long glass skylight well located over the stairwell that links all the levels solved this. This successfully allows natural light into traditionally dark centrally located spaces.

A combination of natural finishes such as polished timber floors, stone and veneers create a warm and comfortable palette. It was also important to form a series of spaces linked by the open stringer stair so that various activities may occur over different levels.

Rear decks on each of the two living levels achieve views of the University to the south. Once you enter each townhome, you are drawn towards the view in the distance. The upper level accommodates the bedrooms, while the kitchen on the entry level is accessible from the garage.

The townhouses were also designed to take into consideration people who work from home and want work spaces separated from bedrooms, or for families that have teenagers who want their own space. Positioning the living on the mid level forms a natural separation for flexible living types.

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Photography by Scott Burrows

Residential Sanctum

This special project transformed a historic place of worship into a contemporary family dwelling.





The church's richly detailed exterior creates an intrigue that draws people into an equally spectacular interior. Obviously, the most powerful features of the interior are the elaborate cathedral ceiling and magnificent stained glass windows. These windows perform as works of art - decorating the light with colour as it filters in and forms beautiful mosaics of radiance on internal surfaces.

The goal was to intervene as little and as carefully as possible. This was important from a conservation standpoint as well as a cost one. The constraints of the main envelope were addressed by placing the kitchen and family room in an attached 'companion' building alongside the church. Plenty of glazing in this building allowed access to natural light that then spreads through the church itself.

Changes introduced to the site were designed to contribute at more than one functional level. For example, the companion building also provided an external upper level outdoor space.

Within the church building, the second level utilises glazed railings and walls that stop short of the ceiling which both maintain an open feel. More importantly, they prevent the new internal structure from overpowering the awe-inspiring cathedral ceilings.

Part of the beauty of this project is found in its social conscience. The Knox Church demonstrates one way that we as a society can be sustainable by maximising the resources we already have. In this case, recycling an existing structure did not inhibit delivery of an exciting contemporary building and interior. That adaptive reuse of standing structures maintains an important connection with familiar social and cultural continuity reference points within our communities.

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Photography by Sonia Mangiapane

Harmonious Aesthetic

From a yellow, penny round tile came the inspiration for this fresh and youthful Sydney home. The details of the house are simple, although a deliberate colour palette was taken from the client's extensive art collection.





Right throughout, Oak veneer, white and charcoal joinery is used. Combined with the pearlescent white walls, a simple canvas was created, upon which striking design features were placed. Of these bursts of character, the patterned wallpapers are the most adventurous. Many interior designers shy away from such additions for fear that they will limit subsequent furnishings, but not Doherty Lynch. Working with the owner's taste and desire for a stylised interior, the designers unashamedly splashed bold feature walls right through the house. The layers that these walls create are what make the home so inviting.

The unique aesthetic of the owners is reflected best in the black, pod-like, gas fireplace that floats above a low bench. The white backdrop made by the wall allows the fireplace, as well as carefully chosen black and yellow ornaments and cushions, to achieve full appreciation.

Delightful pendant lights, in a happy sunshine-yellow, beam down over a generous bench top in the kitchen. Black paisley wallpaper at the end of the kitchen gives the room some definition from the living area. It is these little additions that characterise this home as such a playful one.

Neutral whites, taupe and American oak veneer create a peaceful atmosphere in the master bedroom. Continuity through to the ensuite is achieved with the aforementioned wallpaper wall in tones that tie with the taupe carpet. Striking black frames for photos and artwork draw the eye into their content.

Shimmering, pearly white, penny round tiles adorn the bathroom walls, defining the bathtub and window. Their small size is such that they maintain a simple palette while simultaneously adding the texture needed to balance the eye-catching wallpaper panel, inlaid with a Japanese cherry blossom pattern.

The tallowwood flooring is perfect for a family home and makes it unpretentious and relaxed. The use of colour in the fittings and wallpaper fill the home with energy and life, stimulating the mind and producing a feeling of harmony and calm.

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Photography by Dieu Tan

Beachside Brilliance

An active family life was the inspiration for this bright, beachside residence. The generous, inviting family home is decorated such that it enhances the client's experience of their home, within which each space is used to full advantage.




PAUL JENNINGS UNCOLLECTED
PAUL JENNINGS UNCOLLECTED
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CALIFORNIA ART, DESIGN, AND CULTURE AT MIDCENTURY
BIRTH OF THE COOL
BIRTH OF THE COOL
50 60 70 ICONIC AUSTRALIAN HOUSES





Light filled rooms created by the architecture led Arent & Pyke to a refined palette with injections of colour. By finding solutions to the client's need for a comfortable and fun family environment – that would still be practical and durable – they created spaces that act as the hub for the family.

The former terrace house was opened up to create a long, large living space that stretched from the beachfront to the rear garden. The client was overwhelmed by the vastness of the new volume and the designer's job was to break down the room into different areas with their own purpose. Furniture layouts were planned so they broke down the volumes of space created by the architect. This gave the client a lovely area to sit and enjoy the view, a functional area for the kids to watch movies and play games, a comfortable spot to perch by the kitchen, and a dining room that flows seamlessly to the outdoor deck.

With three young boys in the family, the selection of materials was largely dictated by the need for it to be robust. Throughout the house, and particularly in the children's areas, prewashed or outdoor fabrics were used. The Eames Plastic Shell chairs were selected equally for their 'beachy' appeal and their wipe down surfaces. The coffee table and extension dining table are made from solid American Oak, which maintains its beauty as it wears.

In the living space, Arent & Pyke were able to respond to the client's appreciation for modern design by inserting some well-known classics like the Eames Lounge and Ottoman and George Nelson bubble lamps as well as vintage pieces like the Australian sideboard crafted by Richard Corridy.

For the boy's rooms, special spaces were designed that could inspire them. Custom bed linen in French canvas stripes injects bold colours into the rooms. The world map wallpaper, customised metal lettering and a tree made from vintage wallpapers complete with timber birdhouse night-light are unique elements that will be treasured and admired for years to come.

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www.arentpyke.com

Photography by Anson Smart





Treasure Trove

The interior of this 1920's Spanish mission apartment is a reflection of the client's spirit and personality. Arent & Pyke view interior decoration as an expression and embodiment of the client in their home, rather than merely a 'dressing' of the house.


LANVIN
Inspired Styles







This project represents a move away from a generic aesthetic to a more personal and multi-faceted approach.

For the client, selected objects evoke memories of travel and time spent abroad. Layering of these elements gives them a strong presence as a collective whole in the quaint home. A strong commitment to Australian contemporary art also informed the decorative elements of the scheme.

Grand living spaces are the hallmark of this 1920s Spanish mission building with glimpses of Sydney Harbour. The architectural elements of the apartment, such as the fireplace and architraves are very strong so it was important that the furnishing scheme was sympathetic and complementary. The palette for furnishings is deliberately neutral so that it, along with the elegant white walls, saw the client's objects and artwork become the main focus.

Pieces of furniture were selected for their appeal and beauty rather than to fill a gap. Because the client had a large collection of personal objects, the process was as much about curating and editing that collection as about introducing new elements that worked in the space.

The major furniture items like the sofa, armchair and coffee table are all pared back and stylised. So too in the bedroom, the bed itself is simple, and the feature fabrics and artwork are the elements that speak.

On the terrace, art is substituted for a view through the arching openings. An uncomplicated armchair with monochromatic cushions ties the outside space with the living room, allowing for maximum enjoyment of the whole area with minimum clutter and interference.

The existing original timber floor was kept throughout the apartment with sisal rugs added for warmth. Lighting used is simple and well planned to complement the contemporary nature of the chief elements of the apartment.

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Photography by Anson Smart





From Function to Formation

This former warehouse has been expertly reshaped by CH Architects with the trendy, 'intermixed styles' atmosphere of modern architectural renovations.





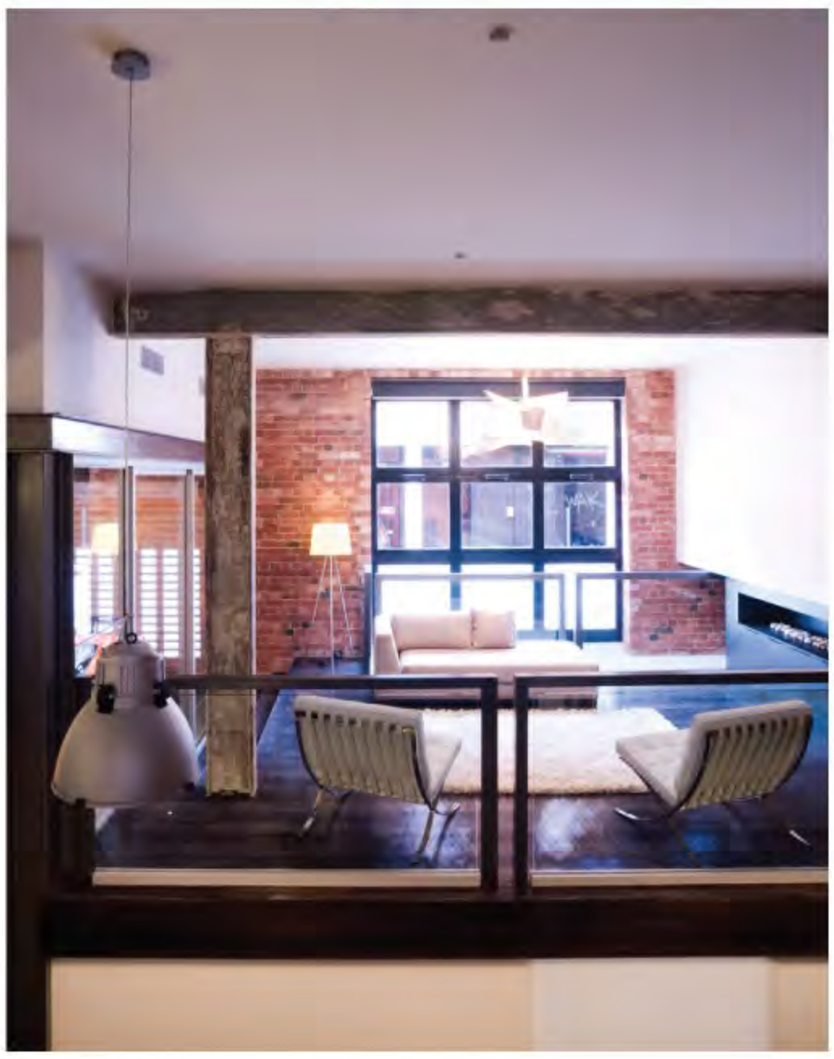
Lower Level

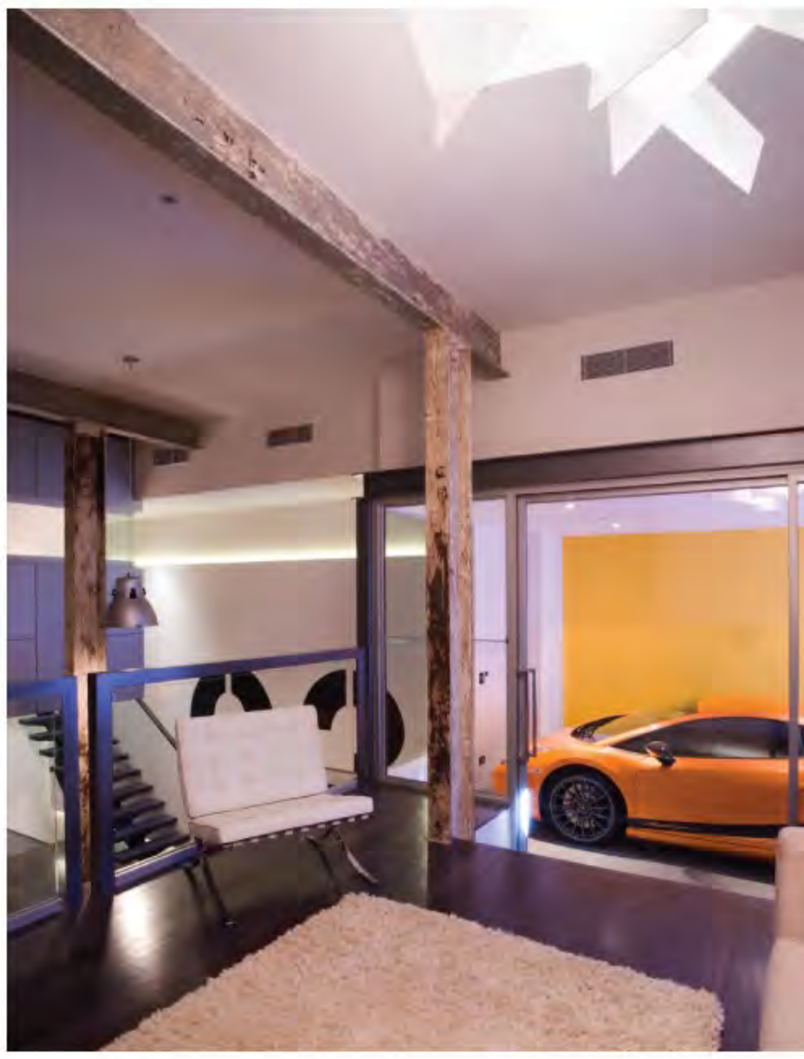


Upper Level



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Some interesting design features – including distressed steel columns and new charcoal coloured steel beams – were used in the transformation into a three-bedroom apartment with two open plan living zones, one at mezzanine level.

The kitchen is state of the art, complete with butler's kitchen and pantry hidden out of sight. The pantry has features such as a built-in coffee machine, fridge with icemaker and an oven with range hood. Details include a 4.5-meter long concrete kitchen bench that was poured on-site in front of a black glass splash back. Both of these are set off beautifully against the glossy white joinery.

Also hidden at the end of the staircase is a wine cellar with steel racks on show behind smokey glass. Though this is in the living space, it really counts as a kitchen accessory.

The other apartments in the building have standard entrances, but this property can also be accessed from the rear lane.
This unusual scenario provided for the incorporation of a unique feature, a glazed wall from the living room that looks upon the parking space. The car feels almost like a piece of furniture or artwork.

The stairs have a central steel stringer and the handrail relates to the rigged steel used elsewhere. Alucabond cladding, which is normally applied externally, was used to clad the silver box in the space providing a connection to the raw brick wall and the steel and concrete of the exterior.

Spray-painted on the wall of the original unit are the numbers 893, referring to the street address 8/93 Oxford Street. This huge wall graphic is backlit, and there is a cut out for the television to sit in the number 3.

Down lights and LED strip lights illuminate the rooms while a feature pendant lamp from Foscarnini highlights the mezzanine level living space. Black stained Oak floorboards give the home the warmth needed to offset the industrial size of the space.

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Photography by Rhiannon Slatter

Open Living at Its Peak

If you're going to make a sea change, why not do it in style?







Not only do these duplexes enjoy a fortunate address in the beachside suburb of Main Beach, Queensland, but also their distinctive design warrants them a competitive position in the booming development of contemporary multi-storeys in the area.

The development stands out amongst the existing urban environment through the use of dark brick and a zinc roof, which employs a saw-tooth style to maximise natural ventilation through convention. The atrium created by the continuous stair exemplifies this effect. Acquiring an almost industrial feel with the roof, the open layout of the interior furthers this approach.

Featuring prominently in the home are large black and yellow sliding doors. These were selected especially with the desire for space in mind, as they open up to multiple rooms. The rooms can hence be connected, promoting the feeling of space and increased flow. The concept of flow is exemplified throughout the house, most noticeable in elements such as the staircase which transitions from tiled to timber, uniting two levels mid way and reducing their delineation from one another.

Neutral tones of white and taupe in the main living area feel like they represent sand and shells, upon which accents in sea blues and other ocean elements lay. This theme is most considerate of the home's placement.

Large concertina doors open up to front and rear courtyards. The connectivity with these spaces allows amplified enjoyment of the pool to the rear and a water feature to the front. Furthermore, naturally cool breezes can sweep through the ground floor creating a relaxed and comfortable ambience during the inherent warm weather.

A single width access ramp descends to two double lock garages below, each providing access to the respective home via an internal stairwell. This layout enhances the aesthetics of the home's façade, which avoids domination from garage doors.

Numerous design approaches were adopted in the creation of dwellings that felt large and airy, within a tight lot. With light pouring in from overhead windows and breezes wafting through open doors, these seaside homes allow for full utilisation of the building itself as well as the surrounding natural elements.

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Photography by Scott Burrows





A Cut Above the Rest

The genesis of this residence was the client's long-standing desire to replicate the space of their much loved country house within their newly acquired adjoining apartments.





The two apartments were amalgamated to afford an expanse of space typically unavailable in the city. Within the limitations of the existing building, Blueprint instigated the planning rationale of shifting private spaces to the periphery to allow the open expanses the client desired.

The kitchen was located centrally to anchor the living areas and to allow familial interaction regardless of which space people found themselves in. In the event that separation is required, large sliding panels can be used to the desired level. This function was developed to be complimentary of a changing family dynamic over time.

In one living area, a massive, circular, 10-seater dining table sits behind an equally generous couch – making large gatherings of family and friends a breeze. A gorgeous baby grand piano is illuminated via pendant lighting and is a privileged addition to this space. Bold red upholstered seating runs along the windows from this area to a slightly more casual one to the other side of the kitchen.

Deliberate insertions of curved walls help open up the vistas as gradually as possible on arrival as well as allowing a degree of control over the entry experience. This also had the benefit of being sympathetic to some of the forms of the original apartment planning as well as the tower geometry.

Ceiling heights were adjusted to mark the status of a given space, which is also exaggerated by lighting. A gleaming light fixture twists and turns in silvery splendor above the dining table, casting numerous bursts of light across the timber surface below.

The master suite is pure luxury. Facing out to a large balcony with a private area to relax, the bed is headed by a backlit onyx shelf, which replaces the need for bedside tables. Taupe carpet, a warm feature wall and patterned, textured cushions make this room a cozy sanctuary. Studioplus* were responsible for the selection of soft furnishings throughout the home .

Finishes were chosen for their longevity and also for the warmth they could bring to the space. Extensive joinery was integrated into the design to maintain view lines and to integrate seamlessly into the planning where furniture would create clutter. The replication of details – curved walls, timber cladding, and backlit onyx – was employed to unify the greater apartment as well as to define nodal points.

Most rooms have access to the unparalleled views, allowing them to enjoy plenty of natural light and ventilation.

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Photography by Scott Burrows



Shoreside Idyllic

Located on Queensland's Gold Coast, the Seafarer Residence is an example of waterfront lifestyle at its best.







From the point of entry through the contemporary gatehouse structure, visitors approach the residence along a travertine pathway through a lush landscaped courtyard with ponds that trace part of the building's footprint. A three level glazed stairway space creates a powerful statement within the façade that is limited in width due to the site's rear expansion toward the waterfront. Strongly expressed lines and flowing forms strategically emphasize the building's mass. The balanced application of horizontal and vertical elements facilitates the use of framing to provide visual relief to the bulk of the building.

Upon rising to enter the house through a solid frame structure flanked by tranquil ponds, the true volume of the house is established. An arrangement of suspended walkways and voids present as key interior elements – connecting all four levels of the home and immediately dismissing any sense of disconnection between spaces which can easily occur in a home of this scale.

Adjoining and two steps below the entry thoroughfare, the two level high formal living areas of the house are positioned to take advantage of northerly views through an expanse of glazing. A bar is located adjacent to the formal areas and provides a secondary connection to the casual living spaces, which extend to access outdoor living spaces.
The gradual unveiling of these areas enable the edited framing of views. Avoidance of monolithic use of glazing across the length of the waterfront façade allowed for a balance to be struck between capturing views and providing an optimum amount of openings for the owner's comfort.

On the eastern side of the house bedrooms are arranged for family and guests.
The master suite is on the opposite side of the building capturing commanding northerly views.

The scale of the home has been broken down into liveable-sized rooms; a series of spaces that forge strong spatial connections to other areas of the house. Most are characterised by the shape and orientation of the site and the views it offers, providing a wide variety of spaces and sensations. A detailed ceiling featuring strip lighting changes between floor levels imbedding subtle changes in the fabric to provide definition of spaces and their intended function within the house.

The designer was presented with not only a prominent site but also a generous budget. Unlike the usual over indulgent, over-the-top results produced from such an opportunity, this family home is refined with a classy and modest take on luxury imbued in every facet of the project. This house reflects and responds to the clients' lives exactly – particularly highlighted in times of family functions – and exudes understated luxury in an idyllic waterfront location.

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Photography by Scott Burrows

Texture & Contrast

Chelsea Hing Design Consultants, in collaboration with Sophie Moore Pty Ltd, approached this design loosely around the concept of public and private spaces.




CHANEL
LIAIGRE







With 270 degree views, this beautiful penthouse situated in the heart of Melbourne has unlimited potential. Modelled on a sophisticated New York styled apartment, the home was to be decorated with the intent of being able to entertain a number of guests, while also being able to morph back into a liveable apartment for one by day. As such, furniture needed to be flexible enough for one or many.

The classic contemporary style of the home boasts a view that showcases many of Melbourne's most iconic sights. In trying to frame these from within the apartment, the aim was to keep them from overpowering the interior details. In addition, the internal planning of the apartment works well to provide spaces that are open yet disconnected enough for privacy.

One of the most prominent elements here is the extensive collection of Aboriginal art. The placement of these was carefully selected around the philosophy of view lines in the apartment, such as at the end of the hallway or framing doorways.

Innovation was used in nearly all aspects of the decoration, designing custom made furniture to be easily hidden or transformed, allowing space between rooms and objects to be made smaller or larger depending on the company present. The Flexform armchair pairs are made to split in two and small side tables are able to be rearranged on a whim. The dining table – an old classic from Cassina 'The Labarca' folds away into a console for extra space and whilst the library is a quiet room for watching television and reading, it too has been planned to expand and accommodate a group of people.

The colour palette used was restricted to sophisticated greys and champagnes with graphic black and whites to complement the client's substantial Aboriginal art collection. In complement, fabrics were layered in textures of classic linens, silks and velvets. Tiles were laid throughout the home, minus the bedrooms which are carpeted. Large rugs were also custom designed for the living area, library and master bedroom to add softness to an otherwise hard space.

A mix of translucent, sheer, white and dark coloured blinds were also used in appropriate areas to complement and contrast where needed, creating the perfect measure of light control, especially on the northern side.

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Photography by Nik Epifanidis

Designed In to Out

Being located in a place with such a pleasant climate meant that this home could take full advantage of outdoor spaces, which together with cleverly designed interiors, makes for a family home boasting exclusive beauty and functionality.







Upon entering this magnificent house the eye is drawn through six metre high glass windows, framed by recycled iron bark bridge posts. Views from the entrance over the pool and beyond to the Brisbane River set the outdoor area as the focal point of the home. To this end, the layout of the house is such that it wraps around the pool with views of the river maximised from every room.

There is very much an emphasis on continuity between the indoor and outdoor areas. This is created not only via bi-folding and sliding doors but also by the carrying through of limestone floor tiles and timber VJ ceilings. The pool takes on a unique identity with lava stone tiles from Indonesia reflecting varying colours of blue, green, gray and black, which imitate the colour theme used throughout the project. The outdoor furniture setting also mirrors the furniture inside.

Authenticity of the South East Asian theme that the clients requested was found in teak furniture custom made and imported from Indonesia. The timber furniture is echoed in the use of Merbau timber detailing used throughout the home. Together with the charcoal colour of the kitchen, these rich dark colours are complimented with natural white soft furnishings. Colour and texture is added to the home via bright artworks, sculptures and throw pillows.

The sleek kitchen screams individuality with two island bench tops, one featuring a cook top with hot plate and range hood. Charcoal 2pak cabinetry combines with stainless steel and grey marble bench tops and integrated appliances to form a chef's paradise. Flanking the kitchen is an usually long dining table with bench-like seating, facilitating a casual and intimate atmosphere. Between the gorgeous view beyond and the stunning interior behind, one might struggle to choose which side of the table they would want to sit on.

A private sanctuary is found in the master suite, which occupies its own level. Pendant lights serve as lamps for the bedside, a perfect place to enjoy a good book or the lovely view and gas fire. French oak timber floorboards are topped with an area rug for warmth.

Bathrooms are spectacular with floor to ceiling limestone tiles and mirrors that not only expand the space but conceal storage. Half eggshell-like bathtubs and basins make a real statement.

Rooms are accessible through large sliding doors which open up to spaces designed to unobtrusively flow from one to another. Since this notion of openness was adopted through the living areas, bulkhead ceilings with timber behind help to define the separate 'rooms' – kitchen, lounge and dining.

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