

FRONT TO BACK

The contemporary rear extension of this Melbourne home was designed to mirror the brickwork of its classic facade.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Ben Whittaker/Side Project Projects* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Timothy Kaye*



KITCHEN Exaggerated detailing and harsh lines in the rear extension act in contrast to the period features retained up front. Case in point: the new kitchen with its Calacatta marble island from Parthenon Marble, striking Lambert & Fils 'Atomium' pendant from Living Edge and Navurban Oakwood cabinetry. Cassa pull-out sink mixer, Mela. Miyazaki 'DC09' bar stool, Great Dane. Gas cooktop, Fisher & Paykel. Marble mortar, Tom Dixon. Dane ceramic vase, Country Road.



KITCHEN Island and pendant, as before. **DESK NOOK** Flos 'Taccia' table lamp, Euroluce. Muuto 'Fiber' chair, In Good Company. **LIVING** Arflex 'Strips' sofa, Space. Weave rug, Hali. Coco Flip 'Sequence' round table, Cult Design. Cassina 'Utrecht' armchair, Mobilia. Custom dining table, Daniel Poole. Cover chair, Muuto. Navurban Oakwood joinery by Paul Pace Cabinets. Artwork on wall by Brenda Meynell. *Dancing Shadow* sculpture by Bree Cribbin, Modern Times. Artwork on top shelf by Nunzio Miano. *Blackberries and Cream* artwork by Kristy McIntyre. Vitra 'Eames House Whale' sculpture, In Good Company.



For the renovation of this Tudor-style home, planning by-laws prevented design studio Tecture from adding an extension that would be visible from the street. The solution? Nestling the new first floor under the hipped and gabled roofline of the period facade.

The owners loved the original home's charisma and imposing presence, but a series of changes over time had made the interiors feel messy. "They wanted a dwelling that embodied a sense of sophistication on par with the grandeur of the existing facade, and to maintain the elegance of the front sitting rooms in the new renovation," says Ben Robertson, director of Tecture.

The only spaces retained on the ground floor were the front main bedroom, sitting room and dining room. They were all in good condition, but problematic in terms of size. "The only issue with these rooms was their scale and that they featured multiple openings, which made them impractical to furnish," says Ben. By closing off the front sitting room to restrict access to the main hallway, he was able to fashion an adults' zone at the front of the house. Another major dilemma was that the main bedroom didn't have an ensuite or walk-in wardrobe and was sharing a bathroom with a small narrow bedroom tucked under the stairs. In response, Ben adapted this space to create a new bedroom suite.

Elsewhere, a lean-to with very low ceilings built by a previous owner had to be demolished and rebuilt to make way for the first floor extension. This new plan meant the owners could get their wish for a butler's pantry and enough space for outdoor entertaining. ▶

MATERIALS & finishes

JOINERY Navurban Oakwood supplied by Paul Pace Cabinets.

BENCHTOPS Arabescato (hall) and Calacatta marble (kitchen), Parthenon Marble. Ice Green marble (powder room), Signorino.

FLOORING California timber, Made by Storey.

APPLIANCES Gas cooktop, Fisher & Paykel.

TAPWARE Cassa pull-out sink mixer, Mela (kitchen). Poco wall mixer, Gareth Ashton (main ensuite).

PAINT Dulux Vivid White (walls). Dulux Mount Buller (kitchen cabinetry).

LIGHTING Lambert & Fils 'Atomium' pendant, Living Edge (kitchen). Ralina sconce, Giffin Design (main ensuite). Polar wall light, Ross Gardam (powder room). Flos 'Taccia' table lamp, Euroluce (desk nook).

EXTERIOR FINISHES Hawthorn Red Brick, Brickworks. Bluestone paving, SAI Stone. Angled shrouds/windows in Black Satin Powdercoat by Alucobond from Ben Clad. ▶

SITTING ROOM Lola sofa, Jordan. Weave 'Alberto' cushion, The Modern. *Your Silence is Brutal* artwork by Kerrie Oliver. Viola Calacatta side table, Just Adele. Gubi 'Pacha' lounge chair, In Good Company. Rug, Jenny Jones Rugs. Existing cabinetry.



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however, Ben and his team had to be careful not to eat too much into the south-facing backyard.

For this new addition, Ben says they “wholeheartedly” took inspiration from the historic Tudor brick at the front. “We chose to match the materiality, but explore design elements in a contemporary manner. We mimicked the angle of the brick gable in brick pillars at the rear, but in plain form. And to heighten the visual, angled soffits in dark cladding meet the pillars, reminiscent of the tones on the front elevation.”

When it came to the refurbishment, there are clear divisions between the front and back areas of the house. “Joinery detailing is exaggerated in the new parts of the dwelling in height and scale, while joinery moments in the existing are scaled down and refined so that the period detailing takes the stage,” says Ben. Most obviously though, differences are highlighted in the furniture scheme. “In the walls of the existing dwelling, furniture is tonally bold and feminine against larger expanses of white painted walls with ornate features, while in the extension, the choices became darker in tone, more masculine and hard-lined to speak to the architecture.” The result is a home that balances the old and the new perfectly.

DESCRIBE YOUR BRIEF FOR THE RENOVATION? Preserving and enhancing the classical features of the facade and

rooms at the front of the home while bringing a clean, contemporary feel as you walk through.

WHAT WAS THE DESIGN SOLUTION? Getting the right balance between heritage and contemporary without compromising the period value of the home.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE THE MOST? The way in which the angled brick pillars have been integrated into the rear exterior of the home. It’s a nod to its history while complementing the look and feel of the back garden. As an architectural feature, they represent modern and heritage all in one.

HOW LONG DID THE RENOVATION TAKE? Around 12 to 13 months, which was pleasing given the scope of gutting or demolishing around two-thirds of the home and landscape design.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT? Planning by-laws meant that the additional structure couldn’t be visible from the street. Designing the first-floor addition so it could sit behind the hipped and gabled roofline satisfied this requirement. ▶

Design and building team Architects and interior designer Ben Robertson and Lauren Foy, Tecture; tecture.com.au. Builder Beyond Form; beyondformbuilding.com.au. Joiner Paul Pace Cabinets; 0409 531 542. Landscape architect Formation Landscapes; formationlandscapes.com.au.

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM *This page* Michel Ducaroy ‘Togo’ fireside chair, Ligne Roset. Arancini lamp, Moda Piera. Lana rug, Halcyon Lake Rugs & Carpets. Artwork by Kerrie Oliver.
HALLWAY *Opposite left* Custom plinth in Arabescato Marble.
POWDER ROOM *Opposite right* Polar wall light, Ross Gardam. Ice Green marble bench, Signorino. Artwork by Nunzio Miano.



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MAIN ENSUITE Ralina sconce, Giffin Design. Arabescato marble, Parthenon Marble. Poco wall mixer, Gareth Ashton. Loft round tray, Country Road. **MAIN BEDROOM** Oslo bedhead, Heatherly Design. Barbell sconce, Giffin Design. **REAR FACADE** *This image* The use of bricks at the rear was inspired by the period bricks of the original home. Hawthorn Red Brick, Brickworks. The contemporary interpretation also features angled soffits in dark cladding. **STREET ENTRANCE** *Opposite* The Tudor-style home has a stately street presence that the owners love. **H&G**



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