

AUSTRALIAN

Living beautifully with design doyenne *Melissa Penfold*

HOUSE & GARDEN

Fabulous
50

We reveal this year's
**HOTTEST
ROOMS**

A LIFE OF COLOUR
& PATTERN WITH
Anna Spiro

Not just another brick in the wall
Three HOMES that HERO bricks and mortar

Top forms

A genius extension with a richly detailed interior makes this Edwardian home in Melbourne truly special.

STORY *Georgia Madden* | STYLING *Swee Lim* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Derek Swatwell*

STYLE SETTER

Bricks offer endless creative potential when you're building or renovating. "Time and time again, brick remains a popular building material choice among consumers, architects and designers because of its design flexibility, strong structural capabilities and intricate detailing," says Brett Ward, general manager of international marketing at Brickworks Building Products. With hundreds of colours and textures to choose from, there truly is a brick to suit any building style, he says. "Brick has enduring style and timeless charm, and is adaptable to any house style. And Austral Bricks' products come with a 100 year warranty, so you can be sure that your home will look good forever."

KITCHEN/DINING The curved wall, made from Bowral Bricks in Murray Grey from Brickworks, conceals the butler's pantry. Ceiling clad in Victorian ash battens with click-on system, Sculptform. TossB 2400 pendant light (above kitchen island), Hub Furniture. Dekton Zenith benchtops. Johansen dining table, Kai #42 dining chairs, and Miyazaki barstools, all Great Dane. Artworks by Andrea Wilson (kitchen shelf) and Craig Handley (dining area), both from Studio Gallery. Furniture and art selection by Swee Design. Hamlet pavers in Ash, Brickworks. The sliding door behind the dining table leads to a poolside entertaining area. Landscape design by Mud Office.



KITCHEN/DINING Joinery by Marant Industries (throughout). Lapis splashback tiles, Bespoke Tile & Stone. Wall-side cabinetry finished in Dulux Supernatural (blue) and Dulux Lexicon Quarter. Dekton Zenith benchtops, Cosentino Australia. Icon mixer tap, Astra Walker. Asko induction cooktop, oven and fridge. Vinge table lamp, Great Dane. Ligne Roset 'Lithos' marble bookend, Domo. TossB 2400 pendant light (above kitchen island), Hub Furniture. Anchor Ceramics 'Potter' lights (above dining table), Design Nation. Johansen dining table, Kai #42 dining chairs, and Miyazaki barstools, Great Dane. **LIVING** Opposite Rison sofa, ND83 armchairs and Lean lamp, all Great Dane. Rug, Halcyon Lake Rugs & Carpets.



With beautiful original features, such as pressed-tin ceilings and intricate fretwork, it's easy to see why Andrew and Kara fell in love with this Edwardian beauty

in inner-Melbourne. What the couple were less enthusiastic about was its lack of space and connection to the backyard - essential criteria for a family with two active children, Sass, 10, Jesse, eight, and a kelpie-cross, Joe.

Extending was the obvious solution, and having worked with Albert Mo, director at Architects EAT on two previous projects, Andrew and Kara turned to him again to work his magic. The brief itself was fairly loose. "We wanted the house to feel homely, warm and characterful, and to retain the original features we had fallen in love with," says Andrew. "We also wanted to be able to open it up for entertaining."

"The house was old and tired, and probably hadn't been touched in 30 or 40 years," says Albert. "But it was made from solid brick and it was quite rich in period detail, such as chunky cornices and skirting boards, leadlights and fretwork - there was even a butler's bell."

Albert set about meticulously restoring the original part of the home and then turned his attention to providing the young family with the extra space they were seeking.

Initially, Andrew and Kara had their sights firmly set on a first-floor extension. But Albert came up with a solution that better suited the site's orientation and generous size: a single-storey extension that hugs the rear of the property, wrapping around it like a carpenter's square. The L-shaped wing now houses an open-plan kitchen/living/dining area that adjoins a new pool area, with the smaller 'handle' section of the carpenter's square containing a spacious main bedroom and ensuite.

When it came to the design details, Albert took his cues for the new from the old. A feature band of dark bricks around the original red-brick house inspired the dusty-purple brick floor (Brickworks Bowral Hamlet pavers in Ash, laid in alternate face and side rows) that takes centre stage in the new wing, while the concave timber-batten ceiling echoes the original curved fretwork on the front verandah.

"Kara and Andrew did take some convincing about the floor, but using brick in this way is thermally efficient -



"BRICKS DON'T REQUIRE ANY PAINT, SPECIAL COATING OR VARNISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR GOOD LOOKS OR FOR PROTECTION FROM GENERAL WEAR AND TEAR."

BRETT WARD, BRICKWORKS BUILDING PRODUCTS

the bricks feel warm underfoot in winter and cool in summer - and brings a touch of the outdoors in. It's good for acoustics too, particularly when combined with the timber ceiling, which is a real bonus in a family home," says Albert. "Kara and Andrew say they love living with it." A refined decorating scheme of earthy tones, natural materials and furniture in organic shapes, combined with large-scale windows, emphasises the connection with the outdoors.

For continuity, Albert used the same brick flooring in the bathrooms and the undulating ceiling in both the ensuite and main bedroom. He is particularly pleased with the way the ensuite turned out: as well as the beautifully textural brick and timber ceiling, the walls are finished in porcelain panels. "I wanted to do a bathroom without any tiles, and there's not a single tile there," says Albert.

In keeping with the honest and unconventional feel of the addition, the kitchen provided another opportunity to ►

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ALBERT MO, ARCHITECT

CARE-FREE AND EASY

One of the beautiful things about brick is that it is essentially maintenance-free. “Unlike less durable materials, bricks do not require any paint, special coating or varnish to maintain their good looks or for protection from general wear and tear,” says Brett Ward from Brickworks Building Products. “They are also completely weather-proof and won’t decay in freezing, hot or humid conditions – perfect for use all over Australia. Even 100 years down the track, you can expect your brick home to be just as strong, reliable and beautiful as the day it was built.”

LIVING A small courtyard behind the living room brings natural light deep into the house. Circle chair, ND83 armchairs, Lean floor lamp, Pond oak side table, and Kollon vase, all Great Dane. Desede DS612 coffee table, Domo. Rug, Halcyon Lake Rugs & Carpets. Horizon Portrait 850 gas fireplace, Jetmaster. Pendant lights, Design Nation. Artworks by (from left) Craig Handley, Amber Wallis and Miles Hall. Plants, Glasshaus. ▶

challenge expectations. “We wanted the island to feel like a piece of bespoke furniture rather than the solid islands you normally see,” says Albert. It sits on a thin steel frame, adding a lightness to its presence - an aesthetic that is repeated in open, suspended steel shelves opposite.

The high-gloss tiles on the splashback were one feature that took some convincing. “Andrew and Kara’s first reaction was ‘they’re so ‘80s!’,” says Albert. “I don’t normally go for gloss finishes myself, but I knew it would work well here to reflect the light and provide a textural contrast to the matt finish of the timber veneer and brick.”

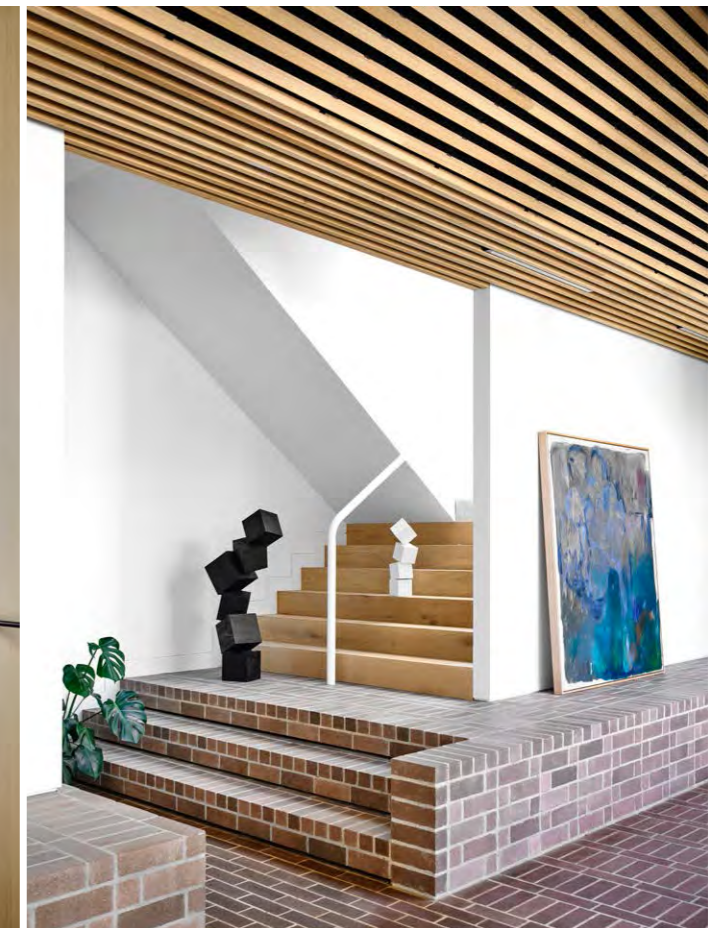
Another striking element in the kitchen is the curved wall, constructed from Brickworks Bowral Bricks product in the Murray Grey colourway, which cleverly conceals a butler’s pantry. “The wall was originally designed to have a hit-and-miss pattern, however that probably wouldn’t have been practical, so we ‘filled’ the holes and created an extruded pattern instead,” says Albert.

The result is a space that’s at one with its surrounds. “It’s bright and breezy and feels like a part of the outdoor area, because of the brick floors and large-scale windows. But at the same time, it feels warm and cocooning. It’s a lovely space to be in,” says Albert.

Architects *EAT, Collingwood, Victoria; (03) 8592 1999 or eatas.com.au. McKerlie Builders; Melbourne, Victoria; mckerliebuilders.com.au.*



MAIN ENSUITE *Above* Chisel D tapware and Silkstone Elbe basin, Faucet Strommen. The walls are finished in porcelain panels from Artedomus. Dekton Zenith benchtop, Cosentino Australia. Mirror, Nood Co. Custom vanity in Oak Rift White Wash veneer, George Fethers & Co. Ligne Roset ‘Cells’ vases and ‘Passe Passe’ towel rack, all Domo. Towels, Loom Towels. **MAIN BATHROOM** *Bottom left* Anchor Ceramics ‘Potter’ lights, Design Nation. Moda Teresa bath, ACS Designer Bathrooms. Wall panels in Oak Rift White Wash veneer, George Fethers & Co. **STAIRWELL** *Bottom right* Sculptures by Mark Galea. Painting by Amber Wallis. **MAIN BEDROOM** *Opposite* Cloche wall light, Porcelain Bear. Entre IB bedside table, Great Dane. Oakford Square Federation carpet, Prestige Carpets.





POOL Homeowner Kara with her son Jesse and daughter Sass. The bricks around the pool, Bowral Hamlet pavers in Ash, take their colour cues from the feature strip on the original house.



THE SOURCE

Geometric furnishings deliver mix-and-match flexibility and symmetry that's pleasing to the eye.

- 1 Mikhale mirror (1m diameter), \$599, Provincial Home Living.
 - 2 Clayton pendant lights, \$229 each, Beacon Lighting.
 - 3 Bowral Highlands Range of bricks by Bowral Bricks, from \$2155 per 1000 bricks, Brickworks.
 - 4 Opera 3-seater sofa, from \$2653, King.
 - 5 Oliveri 'Vilo' pull-out kitchen mixer, \$1275, Winning Appliances.
 - 6 Australian House & Garden 'Esperance' platter, \$59.95, Myer.
 - 7 Florence floor lamp, \$429, Domayne.
 - 8 Hans Wegner Circle chair, from \$19,750, Great Dane.
 - 9 Corner Halving rug by Mr Fräg (2x3m), \$4570, Designer Rugs.
 - 10 From one, another 3 sculpture by Mark Galea, POA, Charles Nodrum Gallery.
- For Where to Buy, see page 204. H&G*

Produced by Saffron Sylvester.