



Heart of the New,
SOUL OF THE OLD

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR A FAITHFUL FAMILY HOME





DETAILS
HOUSE CLASSIC HOUSE
LOCATION MELBOURNE

WORDS // JAMES CLELAND
PHOTOGRAPHY // PAUL WEST PHOTOGRAPHY

Tucked away in an inner-city suburb of Melbourne, this quiet family Victorian-era home has stood for almost half a century virtually unchanged. Since its purchase in the 1970s for roughly 5600 pounds by his father, Tony has always had a place in this home. Now co-owned with his partner, Michelle, they've come to the conclusion that although the home is wrought with history, it desperately needed reinvigoration to bring it up to a living standard expected of a modern residence.

Originally featuring a white picket fence and entry gate, elaborate fretwork on the front veranda and other decorative elements associated with Victorian cottages in Australia, the home's front and back outdoor areas were stripped bare and concreted by Tony's father to make a no-fuss, and at that time, contemporary '70s look.

However, as time wore on, this once-chic aesthetic became tired, drab and entirely unattractive, and this feeling was reflected throughout the entirety of the home. With a sagging weariness, the internal features of the home as well as the structural elements showed the ravages of time, and desperately needed some special attention.

Seeking help from a professional team, Tony and Michelle — who is an interior designer — enlisted Sherbrooke Design and Construction to draw up plans for the renovation and the rebuild while Michelle used her own expertise to refit the interior spaces.

The fundamental vision of the renovation was to keep the mature and timeless period details of the existing cottage and blend it



An outdoor entertaining area is ideal for summer nights

THE BRIEF CALLED FOR A COMPLETELY NEW REAR ADDITION TO THE PROPERTY, AS WELL AS A MODERN COURTYARD, SWIMMING POOL AND REAR-LANE-ACCESSIBLE GARAGE



WE LOVE THE VEINED MARBLE BENCHTOP, WHICH ADDS INSTANT LUXURY TO THE LIVING AND DINING AREA



A SUBTLE COLOUR PALETTE MAINTAINS COHERENCY THROUGHOUT THE INTERIOR AND THE USE OF NATURAL TIMBER FLOORING BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW SECTIONS TIES THE TWO SPACES TOGETHER

with a much more modern, practical and comfortable rear extension. This would achieve harmony between the traditional aesthetics of a period home, preserving a beautiful street façade while providing much more liveability and space to the residence so it can be enjoyed as a modern dwelling.

Since the brief called for a completely new rear addition to the property, as well as a modern courtyard, swimming pool and rear-lane-accessible garage, the first order of

business was to demolish the rear section of the old building.

During the demolition and subsequent rebuild, the remaining front section of the home was revitalised with painstaking attention to keeping the period elements that gave it such a strong character. Restoration of the street façade and garden became a welcoming and enlivened entry point into the home, and the reconfiguration of the internal front rooms and entry hall created spaces

more suited to the desires of Michelle and Tony.

The rear addition saw a second storey added as well as a large, open living area, which joins the kitchen, living and dining areas into a single space, extending the living zone outside into an alfresco dining space which lies adjacent to a modestly sized swimming pool. Beyond lays a new garage which provides ample space for cars and storage. Additionally, the new



A chandelier is a nod to the past that brings a touch of glamour to the room



European-inspired interiors create a warm space



Pendant lights make
a style statement



Study in style
with dark timber
pieces



area also provides space for utility areas and relocation of the toilet from a rear outhouse into the comfort of the home. The new additions completely revamp the home, turning it into a comfortable and spacious four-bedroom accommodation along with study, two bathrooms, powder room and the aforementioned living spaces.

Continuity of the internal aesthetic was achieved by using high ceilings in the new addition which mirrored those of the Victorian; a subtle colour palette maintains coherency throughout the interior and usage of natural timber flooring between the old and new sections ties the two spaces together. Additionally, the calacatta marble used sparingly throughout reinforced the home's aesthetic as a whole.

Wall and roof insulation, coupled with double-glazed windows and glass doors,

ensure the home's passive environment remains comfortable year round. During the exceptionally cold days of the Victorian winter, a bioethanol fire provides additional warmth and a cosy centrepiece to sit by in the home's front living room.

Tony and Michelle think their home's new lease on life has given them a much-needed boost. After living in the same bedroom his entire life, Tony now dubs the additional ensuite a slice of luxury. After hearing many friends and colleagues advising them to knock the whole place down and start from scratch, they're proud they were able to retain the heart and soul of this Victorian cottage and bring it into the modern era without compromising its integrity and liveability. ♡

PROJECT TEAM

Project design (house plans)
Sherbrooke Design
and Construction,
(sherbrookeconstructions.com)

Interior design
Michelle Downing Interiors
(mdinteriors@optusnet.com.au)

Builder
Sherbrooke Design
and Construction
(sherbrookeconstructions.com)

FLOORING

Kitchen, dining, living and bedroom
Stained oak flooring matt finish

WALLS

Kitchen Vattacan cream gloss
tiled splashback

INTERNAL PAINT COLOURS

Walls and ceiling roses Resene
Quarter Tea low sheen

Ceiling Dulux Ceiling white flat

**Architraves, skirtings, windows,
internal doors and robe doors**
Dulux Natural White semi-gloss

Corbels and hallway arch
Dulux Natural White low sheen

KITCHEN

Benchtop Calacatta marble

Splashback Vattacan cream
gloss tiles

Cabinetry Natural White painted
two-pack 30 per cent gloss and
American Oak Veneer Black stain
30 per cent gloss

Appliances V-Zug Combi Steam
stainless-steel wall oven; V-Zug
wall microwave; Smeg freestanding
oven/cooktop; Smeg feature canopy
rangehood; Miele dishwasher;
Liebherr integrated fridge; Liebherr
integrated freezer with ice maker;
Franke undermount sink; Abey
Flambe kitchen mixer

BATHROOM FITTINGS

Cabinetry Natural White & White
on White painted 2 pack 30 per cent
gloss with Calacatta marble stops
throughout including splashback
in ensuite

Tiles/walls and floor Cement grey
matt to floor and some walls.
White matt rectified to other walls
with feature tile in main bathroom
in mixture of gloss and matt
Vattacan White

Powder room Paco Jaanson
Santiago benchtop basin; Goccia
Gooseneck round chrome basin
mixer; Geberit wall-hung toilet with
Parisi soft-close toilet pan; Gessi
Goccia chrome toilet roll holder;

LEGEND

- 1 DRIVEWAY
- 2 GARAGE
- 3 WORKSHOP
- 4 LAUNDRY
- 5 LOUNGE ROOM
- 6 STUDY
- 7 ENSUITE
- 8 MASTER BEDROOM
- 9 KITCHEN
- 10 DINING ROOM
- 11 LIVING ROOM
- 12 BEDROOM
- 13 BATHROOM
- 14 SAUNA
- 15 STORAGE
- 16 OUTDOOR DINING
- 17 POOL
- 18 COURTYARD

Gessi Goccia towel ring chrome
Ensuite Villeroy & Boch Memento countertop double basin; Astra Walker wall set basin taps, shower mixer and toilet roll holder; In-situ shower base with SS waste channel grate; Garda round shower rail; Geberit wall-hung toilet with Parisi soft-close toilet pan; Thermor heated towel rail

FF Bathroom Reece tonic vessel countertop basin; Astra Walker basin, shower, bath tap including bath spout, toilet roll holder, towel rail and towel ring; In-situ shower base with SS waste channel grate; Reece Kado Arc freestanding bath; Garda shower rail; Geberit wall-hung toilet with Parisi soft-close toilet pan

WINDOWS & EXTERNAL DOORS

Glass Opaque and etched five glazing to front entry highlight window; the number is the street number of the home; all windows double-glazed

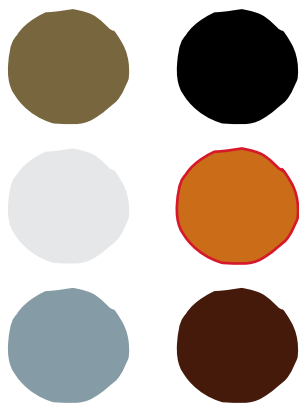
Internal hallway door Design Inferno fully glazed opaque and etched door

OUTDOOR

Roof Colorbond in Monument

Accessories Garage door in Monument

External paint colours Exterior house, alfresco, veranda and garage all in Bristol Quarry double strength low sheen; Exterior windows in Dulux Whisper White semi-gloss; Front door and veranda iron lace and iron posts in Dulux Taihape semi-gloss



Colour Palette

Black, olive, chocolate and white form the framework of this palette. Burnt orange and grey are the highlights. The result is a classic contemporary feel

PLANS MISSING

ED'S FAVE A FREESTANDING BATH IS A LUXURY EVERY BATHROOM SHOULD HAVE



01

02

03

04

05

06

09

07

08

Get the Look

01: Fabric rug from fermoie.com **02:** Chandelier from sweetpeaandwillow.com **03:** Pendant light from beaconlighting.com.au **04:** Desk, from oficinainglesa.com **05:** Bar stool from aerodesigns.com.au **06:** Daybed from satara.com.au **07:** Armchair from oficinainglesa.com **08:** Ottoman from sweetpeaandwillow.com **09:** Coffee table from satara.com.au

