

OUTDOORS Miniature Schnauzer Lola surveys her domain. Roof and cladding in Lysaght 'Spandek' in Surfmist®. Walls in recycled brick. Landscape design by Amanda Oliver Gardens. Decking, Radial Timber.

INTO THE FOLD

Aptly named Chatterbox House, this Melbourne bungalow's two-storey extension was inspired by the children's paper-folding game.

STORY Karen Spresser | PHOTOGRAPHY Marnie Hawson



EXTERIOR The facade was retained as well as the first three to four metres of the house, while the entry was swapped from the front to the side. **ALFRESCO** Roof and cladding in Lysaght 'Spandek' in Surfmist®, Lysaght. Walls in recycled bricks. Decking, Radial Timber. 'Trace' dining table and bench seat, 'Volley' chairs and lounge, and 'Tidal' side table, all Tait.

A thoughtful, extensive renovation has transformed what was once a dark and dated bungalow into a charming and light-filled family home, brimming with considered additions, colourful art and abundant greenery.

The homeowners bought the house on the land of the Wurundjeri people in 2017 and asked Emilio Fuscaldo of Nest Architects to breathe new life into this inner-city Melbourne property.

Part of their brief was for a house with functional spaces that were linked but not open, with the garden and courtyards a priority. They also wanted a house that

could adapt to the changing needs of their family, including separate living spaces for their children as they grew older and room for elderly parents.

"It wasn't in great condition," says Emilio. "In terms of the state of the house, the fabric was compromised and the site itself is on an old creek bed. So, we had lots of issues to deal with, hence why the new work was so extensive - there wasn't much to keep."

The first three to four metres of the house remained, with the entry swapped from the front to the side and the front verandah reinstated. The main bedroom suite now resides in the original part of the house with a further two bedrooms in the new two-storey extension. A studio

sits in the garden, home to another bedroom, bathroom and living area.

Plans saw a careful 'unfolding' of spaces as you moved through the house, with a series of internal courtyards bringing not only light but a sense of 'playfulness' and interest to the project.

"The owners wanted a forever home... a home where it was designed to be slightly understated... that had warmth and lots of light," says Emilio. "And they wanted something that had really interesting connections to what is a substantial and lovely backyard."

Instead of focusing all the glazing on the north and trying to maximise the backyard, the house was extended, with courtyards created on both sides. ►



KITCHEN Joinery painted Dulux Roland. Timber veneer joinery in American oak. Benchtop in stainless steel and island benchtop in Corian Designer White. Nobili 'Flag' pullout mixer, Reece. 'Chalk' pendant light, Alex Earl. ACP Atelier 'Sedis' bar stools, Stylecraft. 'Ceres' bowl by Debbie Weinmann, Jordan. Audo 'Hana' vase, Designstuff.

THE PALETTE

Dulux Roland
(kitchen joinery)

Dulux Natural White
(interior walls)

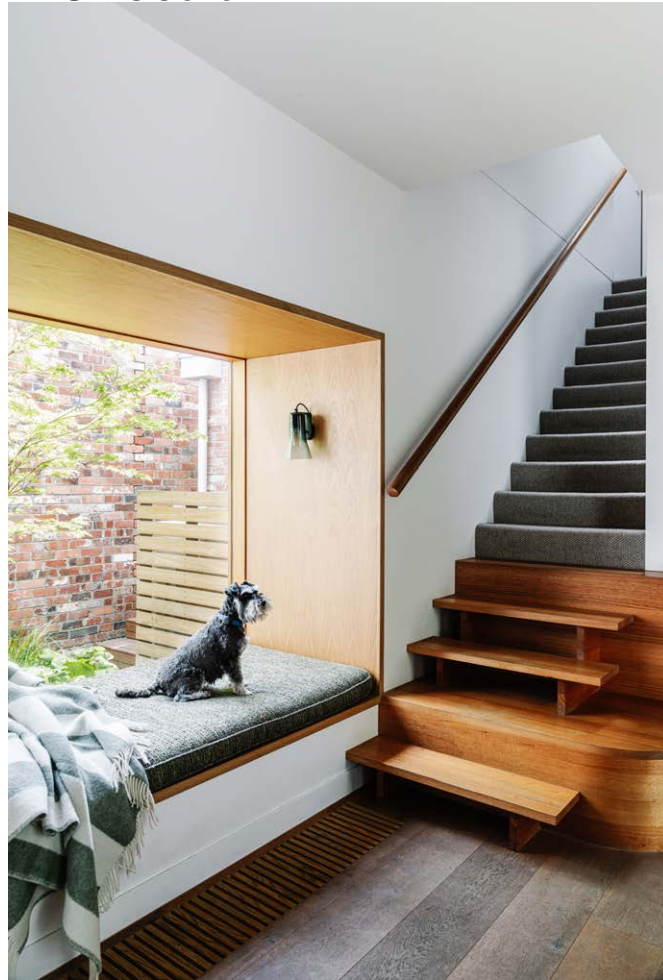
Colorbond® Surfmist®
(roof)

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DINING American Black Walnut dining table with Verde marble inlay, Daniel Poole. Ritzwell 'Marcel' dining chairs, Stylecraft. Credenza, owners' existing. Artworks by Euan Macleod, Marise Maas and Bronwyn Payne. Curtains in Parisi fabric in Silver, Charles Parsons. 'Ora' pendant light, Ross Gardam. **LIVING** Ceiling in Silvertop ash, Radial Sawn Timbers. 'Valley' sofa, Jordan. 'Kiri' coffee table, Made Studio. Kvadrat 'Lavo' rug, In Good Company. Artwork by Ella Deague. Cushions upholstered in Designs of the Time 'Angona'.





“The courtyards create all these corners, which we then rounded off in some areas, the idea being that each room or area had a connection to the outside,” says Emilio.

A bright, spacious kitchen opens to one of the courtyards, a beautiful outdoor space filled with greenery and artistic flourishes. The stylish kitchen area with its light-coloured joinery, stainless steel benchtop and large Corian-topped island, includes the dining room on one side, while another leads through to a living room with a timber-lined ceiling.

Explaining the intention behind the timber-clad ceiling, Emilio says, “The idea there was to give that room warmth. There’s two steps down into the room and, as you step down, the hope is that there’s a different kind of atmosphere... the glazing in that room is very focused, it doesn’t just open up to the backyard, it reveals the backyard very quietly.”

Once the build was finished, designer Silvia Roldan of Studio Esar came on board to curate furniture, art and decor. “At our initial meeting, what we saw was absolutely beautiful, a real homage to nature,” says Silvia.

“The clients are big plant-loving and art-loving folk and that was very apparent throughout the home. And they also loved natural materials... They love colour so there’s a lot of beautiful colour throughout.

“We are always guided by our clients’ preference for what they enjoy, what they love, and what they resonate with,” says Silvia. “For them, it was blue and green and that referenced a lot of their existing artwork.”

Blue and green colour tones are also highlighted in the selection of sofas, rugs and soft furnishings, with sympathetic shades of lilac also coming into play.

Special heirloom and custom pieces also feature in the home, including a round American black walnut dining table by Daniel Poole with a Verde marble inset, and the beautiful, linear ‘Chalk’ pendant light by Alex Earl above the kitchen island.

“The clients had some lovely existing pieces, like the wonderful credenza multi-drawer unit you can see in the dining room, and all their art and plants, so we had some good starting points,” says Silvia. “Then we curated and added pieces that were thoughtful and considered and hopefully pieces that they’ll be able to hand on, that will become future heirlooms for their children.”

Nest Architects: nestarchitects.com.au.

Studio Esar: studioesar.com.au.

Fido Projects: fidoprojects.com.au.

Amanda Oliver Gardens: amandaolivergardens.com.au.

“The owners love colour, so there’s a lot of beautiful colour throughout.”

SILVIA ROLDAN, DESIGNER



BEDROOM Bedhead and bedside tables, owners’ existing. Bed linen, Abode Living. Vitra ‘Akari 1A’ table lamp, Living Edge. ‘Alpha’ carpet in colour 20, RC+D. Curtains in Carlucci Two Tone fabric in colour 095, Unique Fabrics. Artwork by Margaret Ackland. **WINDOW SEAT** Lola strikes a pose. ‘Silhouette’ wall light, Ross Gardam. Stairs in Victorian ash. European oak timber flooring in Chamoisee, Tongue & Groove. **ENSUITE** Terrazzo benchtop, Signorino. Splashback in Inax ‘Yohen’ tiles and Agape ‘661’ basin, all Artedomus. ‘Scala’ mixer, Sussex Taps. ‘Dawn’ pendant light, Jardan.

COURTYARD Steps lead down from the kitchen to a tranquil courtyard where a Gillie and Marc bronze sculpture sits among the lush greenery.



THIS IS THE LIFE

In spring and summer, the family's favourite space is "outside on the deck under the vines" while in winter, they favour the sunken living room with views of the garden. "We're very grateful that we found such an outstanding architect and builder who could smoothly bring to life our vision," says the owner. "They were both creative and practical."



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THE SOURCE

Opt for a fresh palette of greys and blues for light-filled interiors, with timber and organic shapes for visual interest.



Produced by Marissa Foye.

1 'Raggio' pendant light, \$680/small, Casa Blanco. 2 *Blue Fire* artwork by Inga Dalrymple, \$1900, Otomys. 3 Walter G 'Savoie' linen cushion in Riviera, \$160, and 'Absurd' cushion in Cement/Sky, \$172, both No Chintz. 4 'Vaasa' chunky wool rug in Grey (320x230cm), \$1249, Miss Amara. 5 'Arche' sculpture, \$600, En Gold. 6 'Wave' grate drainage system, POA, Stormtech. 7 'Ptolomeo Luce' bookcase in Black Stainless Steel, \$2125, Space. 8 'Harlow' round basin in Brushed Gunmetal, \$749.90, ABI Interiors. 9 Round 'Gathering' oak veneer table in Brown Wash, POA, Nomi. 10 'Volley' chair, \$1029, Tait. **H&G**