

a modern victorian

Contemporary styling meets 19th-century class in this restored Victorian home



This page and opposite page The centre of the house is where people can come together to socialise and relax.



Built in the 1890s, this Victorian home was being used as the architect's office when it was first purchased. When the architect decided to move, Ian Poole made the decision to return the property to its original use and restore the Victorian façade, therefore a basement car park was excavated below the existing house, which necessitated the support of the fragile 118-year-old structure.

As the original single-level terrace house was sandwiched between two adjoining double-storey terrace houses and covered 100 per cent of the site, it was essential to create an internal courtyard to introduce natural light. In the heart of the home, following the demolition of the warehouse, an eight-metre courtyard was designed around which all the living rooms on the ground floor are clustered. All rooms have access to the courtyard through bi-fold glass doors, making the entire ground floor open-plan.

On the second level the bedrooms are also clustered around the courtyard, with bi-fold windows placed in much the same way as a traditional 'riad' or Moroccan courtyard house. The advantages of this type of plan are that the family enjoys an open-plan outdoor lifestyle in total security, with all the windows able to be left open at night for evening ventilation.

On the ground level sits the study, formal living room and formal dining room, separated from the kitchen by a walk-through servery and pantry. The large open-plan eat-in kitchen also enjoys the luxury of →



This page above A feature pond becomes part of the living experience by separating the lounge room from the outdoor dining area **This page below** Low furniture in a room with a raised ceiling line enhances the feeling of light and space **Opposite page above** An unobtrusive glass elevator provides the perfect spine for a rich, winding timber staircase **Opposite page below** A sleek colour palette of white and silver in the kitchen heightens the sense of cleanliness and sophistication

Internally the house is unashamedly contemporary, with a minimalist white-on-white colour scheme with a few primary colour highlights on sliding doors.



to the ultimate resale value of the home and so the owners enlisted the help of lift veterans from Lift Shop.

The front of the house facing the street remains as a restored Victorian façade, changed only by the sensitive addition of the contemporary sun canopy at the front door.

Internally the house is unashamedly contemporary, with a minimalist white-on-white colour scheme with a few primary colour highlights on sliding doors. The colour scheme is carried through the kitchen with white stone tops, vanities, splashbacks and tiles, with some Spanish 'rusty steel' vitreous-tile feature walls.

At all stages of the project, special emphasis was placed on the recycling, re-use and adaptation of the existing structure. Timber for the main internal staircases and external decks were recycled from the architect's offices, which were being concurrently rebuilt and refurbished in the city. The large 300x300 timber columns supporting the rear bedroom wing are recycled bridge timbers from northern New South Wales, while external cladding to the courtyard is titanium zinc. The primary design consideration was the preservation of the integrity of the Victorian façade in a conservation area, while still building a contemporary home with all the benefits of open-plan living.

Maintaining light and ventilation led to the decision to "cut out the heart" of the existing structure to create the central courtyard. This open space has become the new heart of the home, central to its aesthetic,

opening directly onto the courtyard through an eight-metre-wide sliding door while in this Lucullan home, all three bedrooms have their own ensuite.

A family and TV room opens via bi-fold doors to a covered 'Lanai', which is furnished with cane chairs, a rustic Balinese table and an antique timber mortuary bench from West Africa. Off the Lanai are a small glass-sided heated swimming pool and a fernery.

The main bedrooms have vistas off the

courtyard, with an outdoor shower tucked in behind the existing Victorian roofline. Despite the house being three levels with a basement, it is not visible behind the single-storey Victorian façade, thus maintaining the conservative street frontage.

The owners decided early in design to install a lift, as the house was over three levels and they were aware they were no longer as young as they used to be. The installation of the lift was also seen as crucial



essential for light, creating a haven of sunny privacy, a shaded retreat in summer, a place to eat, sleep, barbecue and to potter with the pot plants and fish pond. The intimate relationship of the kitchen to this space means the kitchen is also integral to the heart of the home.

The house has installed four rainwater tanks in the basement, which run a drip irrigation system as well as being the source of water for toilet flushing. The house is rewired for solar panels to the roof for a 'back to grid' connection.

This beautiful abode has been carefully thought-out, ensuring the restoration of the old-century façade yet creating a modern interior that evokes not only limitless style, but sleek, immaculate design. ■



LIFT SHOP NSW 1/75 Corish Circle, Eastgardens, Sydney | VIC 1/1 Belgium Ave, Richmond, Melbourne | TEL NSW 02 9666 3939 | FAX 02 9666 3949 | VIC 03 9421 4222 | FAX 03 9421 4333
Email ?? | Website www.liftshop.com.au | Architect JPR Architects Pty Ltd