



**FACADE** The front garden is sheltered by dense planting. "These terraces were bought in the 1970s by four architects, all friends," says architect Chris Peck.

The exterior paint has been custom-matched to the building's original colour.

**ENTRY/READING ROOM** *Opposite* Adding a pop of colour is a chair upholstered for Camilla Molders Design in The Design Archives

'Amadour' fabric in Amethyst Velvet from The Textile Company. It's set against a Phillip Jeffries 'Manila Hemp' textured wall covering in Kelly Green.

The floor's solid blackbutt boards are from Market Timbers. ▶



## SLIM CHANCES

*A particularly narrow Melbourne terrace now has no limits thanks to a clever rear addition that has allowed it to live up to its potential.*

STORY Stephen Crafti | PHOTOGRAPHY Paolo Cappelli

## THE PALETTE

Dulux Snow Season (family room)

Dulux Blue Rhapsody (bedroom)

Dulux Silkwort (kitchen joinery)



**KITCHEN** Tucked neatly under the pitch of the existing roof, the kitchen features built-in Blum hardware, Arctic marble benchtops from Marella Granite & Marble and routed-timber joinery in Dulux Silkwort. An expansive skylight allows plenty of natural light at all times of the day, ensuring the room feels open and generous. The original watercolour painting is by Guy Weir. Interior walls (throughout) are painted in Dulux Lexicon Quarter. **DINING** Opposite A Nicholas Dattner redgum table sits at the heart of the dining space. The painting is by John Lloyd. Window frames custom-made by building subcontractors in Victorian hardwood.

**There aren't too** many houses as narrow as this one. Located in North Melbourne, in a suite of four late-Victorian terraces all built around 1890, this home is only 3.6 metres wide. "The other three terraces are a little wider, but only just, at five metres," says Chris Peck, architect and director of AOA Christopher Peck. While this historic group of four homes sits 'cheek by jowl', each backyard benefits from the entire width of the four combined. "These terraces were bought in the 1970s by four architects, all friends, who decided there was a greater benefit in sharing the outdoors," says Chris.

Fast-forward almost 40 years and the end terrace, abutting a laneway, was purchased by Tara and her husband Austin, who have two small children, Ruby and Reggie. "The width wasn't our major concern. The issue was that there were only two bedrooms, and the galley-style kitchen was designed more for a single guy than for a family," says Tara, who engaged Chris, along with interior designers Camilla Molders and Vicki Barnes, to help stitch it together into something considerably more. While some people turn their backs on past renovations, Tara and Austin were quite fond of a few of the 1980s features, including the house's pitched-roofed extension.

As the land falls away from the street, there was an opportunity to create a three-level home behind the original red-brick terrace, but rules decreed it mustn't be visible in the heritage-listed streetscape. Inspired by the slate roofs of the terraces, Chris designed a three-level zinc-clad extension that not only provides

considerably more space, but also delivers panoramic views of the city skyline. Not surprisingly, given Chris's penchant for art, there is a mural of three galahs handpainted by him on the zinc tiles that form the primary outlook from the children's play area.

The kitchen, dining and living area (the latter is positioned on a slightly lower level) has been reworked and leads out to a private terrace. There are signs of the past everywhere, including in the white-painted bagged brick walls and the pitched roof over the living areas.

Chris also extended what was previously a pint-sized kitchen (borrowing space from an adjacent bathroom), and included a new U-shaped arrangement with a marble island bench, tongue-and-groove,

navy-painted MDF joinery below and increased bench space. To enhance the sense of space, a series of openings were made, ensuring the living areas benefit from the garden aspect. New joinery in the dining area, along with a change in level to the living zone, delineates the open-plan arrangement while maintaining the garden aspect.

The children's bedrooms now occupy the middle level, with the parents' bedroom, ensuite and dressing area on the top level; this floor utilises some of the previously unused space below the pitched roof. Complete with double doors leading out to a terrace, and additional light permeating from diamond-shaped windows embedded in the zinc tiles, it is, according to Tara, like "being in the ▶

**"ONE OF THE ISSUES WAS THE GALLEY-STYLE KITCHEN, WHICH WAS DESIGNED MORE FOR A SINGLE GUY THAN FOR A FAMILY."**

Tara, homeowner



**LIVING** The white-painted original bagged-brick walls offer a nod to the home's past. Boulevard sofa and Seymour armchairs, King. Kyneton artwork by John Lloyd.



tree tops". The windows, with their angular panes, also loosely reference the branches of the canopy of foliage that surrounds and frames the house.

"We love lying in bed in the morning and seeing the trees, the colour of the clouds or the amazing city skyline," says Tara. And at night, there's the lingering sight of the back patio, spotlit. "It's like peering into a forest," she says.

**DESCRIBE THE BRIEF AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE RENOVATION.** The objective of this renovation was to provide additional space for a growing family. The bones of the house and its communal backyard were all good reasons for the clients to stay put, yet with a recent addition to the family, they were looking for more sleeping, living and cooking space. In functional terms, a two-bedroom, one (small) bathroom house needed to expand to a three-bedroom, two-bathroom, two-living room plus laundry home.

**WHAT WAS THE DESIGN SOLUTION?** The design solution was to extend up, above the existing ground floor dining/living space, peel back the rear-facing roof, and connect a new first- and second-level bathroom/bedroom accommodation box into the rear of the heritage terrace across a narrow, glazed bridge. At ground level, the kitchen was increased in size by expanding into the bathroom behind.

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST HAPPY WITH?** Our clients are proud to answer queries from curious passers-by. That makes us smile.

**HOW LONG DID THE RENOVATIONS TAKE?** Construction was about eight months.

**BALLPARK COST OF THE RENOVATION?** Approximately \$400,000. ▶

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*Interior designers Camilla Molders Design; camillamolders.com.au. Hip Design; 0422 414 950. Builder D&A Dickson; 0417 059 895.*

**"THE OBJECTIVE WAS ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR A GROWING FAMILY. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR MORE SLEEPING, LIVING AND COOKING SPACE."** *Chris Peck, architect*



"WE LOVE LYING IN BED IN THE MORNING AND SEEING THE TREES, THE COLOUR OF THE CLOUDS OR THE AMAZING CITY SKYLINE." *Tara*



#### MATERIALS & finishes

**JOINERY** Routed timber and two-pack Dulux Silkwort two-pack polyurethane.

**BENCHTOPS** Arctic marble, Marella Granite & Marble.

**FLOORING** Solid blackbutt boards, Market Timbers.

**TILES** Elba marble, Artedomus (fireplace), Herringbone Mosaic tiles in Vintage Sky Blue, Teranova, and Ardesia floor tiles, Surface Gallery (ensuite).

**APPLIANCES** Handle-less ArtLine pyrolytic ovens in Obsidian Black, Miele.

**TAPWARE** Halo in Nero, Brodware (kitchen and ensuite). Hydrotap in Matte Black, Zip (kitchen).

**COLOUR SCHEME** Dulux Snow Season, half strength (family room). Dulux Blue Rhapsody (bedroom). Dulux White on White.

**LIGHTING** Delta Light Spy On in Black, Inlite (spotlights throughout), Duomo wall lights in black, Design Nation (throughout). Flos 'Aim' five-globe pendant, Euroluce (dining room). Ora 1000 pendant in Painted Black, Ross Gardam (kitchen).

**REAR EXTERIOR** This page The rear extension is finished with diamond-shaped metal shingles from Designer Panel Systems and Axon cladding from James Hardie. **MAIN BEDROOM** Opposite, top An e15 'Eugene' chair is positioned by the bed. **CHILD'S BEDROOM** Opposite, bottom left Curtains and bedlinen from IKEA add a pop of colour. **ENSUITE** Opposite, bottom right The vanity is topped with honed Tundra Grey limestone from Multiform Benchtops. For Where To Buy, see page 123. **H&G**