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Chateau charm

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RENOVATION

Words by Elizabeth Clarke • Photos by Timothy Kaye

A creative nod to mid-century

Step inside a modernist house rich with art and light.

Purist in design and rich in glamour, this artist's home in Caulfield North embraces mid-century principles and contemporary materials to create welcoming and wonderfully atmospheric spaces.

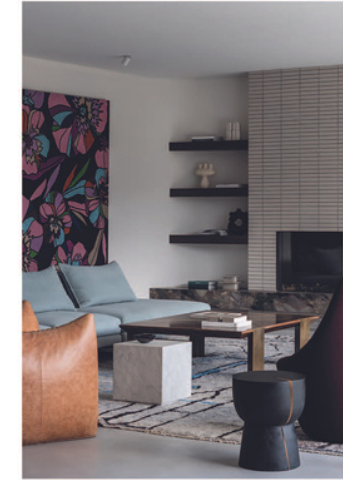
The original 1950s modernist house was ready for stage two of its renovation when the owner enlisted Kylie Dorotic and Alicia McKimm from Golden to take on the task.

"The owners are both creative with incredible ideas," says Dorotic. "It was important the end result wasn't slavish to modernism and, instead, was filled with fun and casualness and subtle moments of homage to the home's past."

With the main bedroom suite already completed, the designers worked with the owners and Omnicon Construction on the remaining spaces. Keeping the home's footprint intact, the kitchen, dining, living, laundry and rumpus room were gutted and re-planned for improved functionality.

Large steel front doors were installed that swing open to reveal an elegant foyer with a custom palladiana terrazzo floor made from Elba marble.

Stepping down to the lounge area, clean lines, hushed hues, and textural finishes make way for striking art and sculptural design elements.



Statement made: The lounge area mixes clean lines and hushed hues with sculptural design elements.



A brass statement chandelier hovers over a ruby-red lounge and grazia&co coffee table. A discreet retro-style bar with generous curves sits back into the wall as if part of the architecture; its linear stained-walnut facade contrasts with a rich marble benchtop that relates to the foyer floors.

Off this space to one side is the main bedroom suite and a small private living room; on the other, the family's living spaces and bedrooms. Every detail feels lovingly and patiently addressed.

Behind the bar, a corridor leads to the kitchen, where seamless walnut-veneer cabinetry forms a backdrop for a lustrous island bench made from breccia marble.

It conceals ample storage and a cooktop that sits beneath a pair of contemporary cylindrical extractor fans. The owner's dining table stretches the entire length of the kitchen.

The simplicity of white walls in the lounge room underscores an interior of rich complexity highlighted with vibrant art. Once an indoor pool, it is now the room in which the family spend most of

their time. "The space required flexibility and a lot of seating to accommodate every family member," says McKimm.

The playful arrangement of furnishings include a vintage coffee table, a 1970s tan leather B&B Italia Le Bambole lounge chair and a large aubergine felt swivel chair.

A stunning new fireplace wrapped in ceramic tiles from Artedomus draws focus. Framing the entire area is a vast Moroccan floor rug found on Etsy; its generous size allowing the owner to rearrange furniture at whim. Windows were freed of curtains, welcoming in plenty of natural light and allowing a seamless and easy transition between living and outdoor areas.

The interior poured-concrete floor stretches to the exterior, allowing for a unified entertaining space.

Dorotic says the renovation – a careful blend of creativity and liveability with a nod to mid-century – offers the owners huge flexibility. "It's a house that feels like a home," she says. "And, like a canvas, it is always changing." ■