

STYLISH ABODE

An original Queen Anne style home is reimagined for the modern day with a head-turning renovation.

Words
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Photographer
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Architect
Bayley Ward
bayleyward.com



SNAPSHOT

WHERE
Elsternwick, Victoria

BRIEF
Create a long-term family home with guest accommodation and numerous options for living, working, dining and playing.

LAYOUT
Front: formal study; master bedroom with ensuite; guest bedroom. Rear: open plan kitchen/living and dining room; laundry; pantry; family bathroom. Upstairs: children's bedrooms; floating library. Outdoors: dining area; gardens; elevated pool; guesthouse.

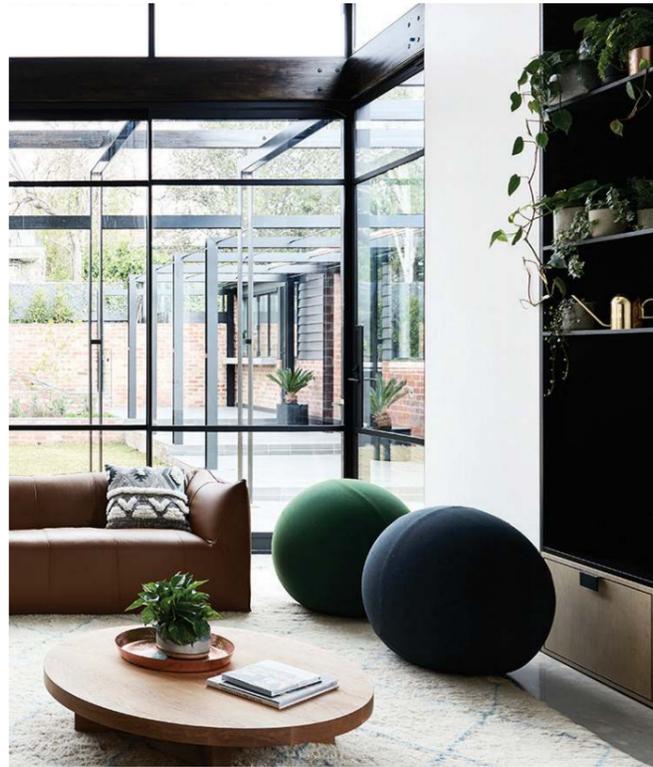
MATERIALS USED
Steel, concrete, cross-cut timber, brick.

Having remained untouched for almost 50 years, the St Georges Road project in Elsternwick started off as a light renovation job for the Melbourne branch of architectural practice Bayley Ward. But as imagination took hold, plans for the home changed considerably.

"We were initially approached by the client in 2013 to work on the front rooms of the existing property," says Olena MacCallum, Bayley Ward's Director of Private Homes. "The home was in a very original condition – which is a polite way of saying it was falling to pieces and in dire need of repair and attention. We came up with a long-term plan that would not only make the dilapidated home liveable, but also capture future ambition for the project. Over time, the client's desires evolved and so the scope grew."

Sitting comfortably in its heritage context, the Queen Anne home had retained a number of original features, many of which have been reimagined or restored. "The traditional home and extension have blended and overlapped rather than breaking with one another," explains MacCallum. "Existing brickwork grounds the building at both ends and provides connectivity to the original home."

Nevertheless, paying homage to the heritage of the building was not without its difficulties. The transformation of the large attic roof space – originally used as servant accommodation – into viable children's bedrooms proved to be a particular challenge. The existing roof was sliced back to form balconies off the first-floor bedrooms, maximising light and views whilst minimising visual impact on the heritage façade.

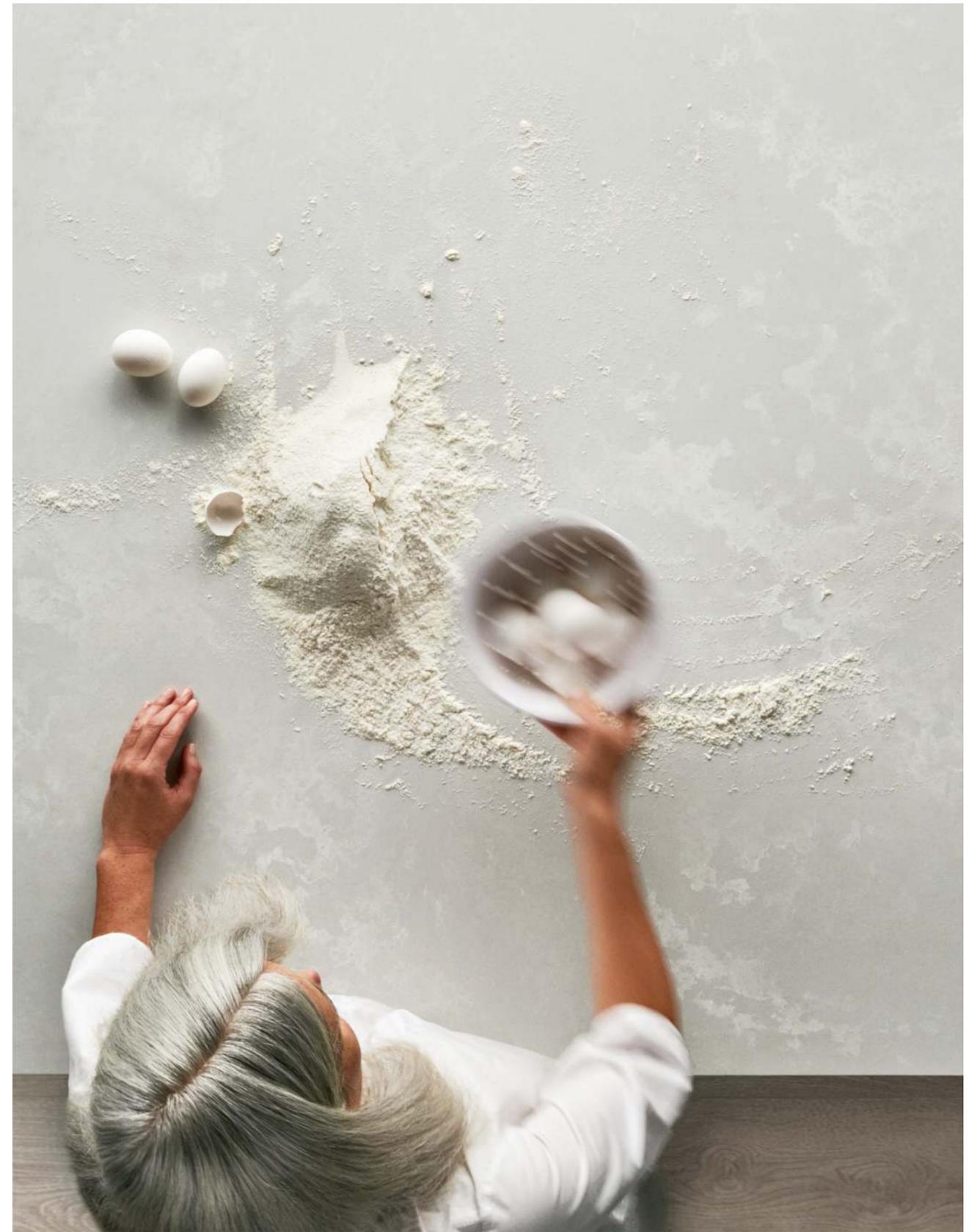


The three rooms to the front of the original home have been transformed into a formal study, a master bedroom with an ensuite and his and hers walk in robes, and a guest room. At the rear of the house, an open kitchen/living and dining room features a cathedral ceiling. Creating intimacy in the larger spaces, the rear rooms are subtly divided by a double-faced low height fireplace in white brick.

Looking out onto the gardens and elevated pool beyond, the kitchen opens onto a barn-style open gabled area that forms the outdoor dining space. "The barn-style extension was conceived as an appropriate response to the roof form and chimneys of the original home," says MacCallum. "It created an opportunity for numerous scales to be experienced throughout the home, including the private floating library/mezzanine space which is hung from the roof structure."

The layering of materials, textures and finishes adds to the richness of experience in each space. Steel features elegantly throughout, contrasting beautifully to the imperfection of the existing red brickwork. From the rear extension, the smooth grey concrete floor continues into the island, the plinth for the fireplace and the base of the staircase. The black marble benchtop is broken up with cross cut timber blocks in the kitchen, set against brass cabinetry fittings and tapware.

A special characteristic of the home is the existing stable building, which was repurposed into a guesthouse. This structure also contains a bar area which opens onto the pool, a steam room and a shower/changing space, adding a touch of luxury to the property.



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