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UNIVERSAL Vol. 22 No. 5 AUGUST 2017  
M.E.D.I.A.C.O. NZ \$4.50 (both incl. GST)

ISSN: 1327 - 3930



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of beautiful home  
transformations

**THE**

*Reno*  
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Enigmatic entries, extensions,  
additions, storage and more

# VICTORIAN TERRACE REINCARNATED

A renovated and extended home in Windsor proves a small footprint can have a big impact

Words Louise Smithers Photography Michael Kai

**we love**

THE KITCHEN'S  
G-LUX SUPER  
WHITE QUARTZITE  
STONE ALL THE  
WAY FROM BRAZIL



**“Instead of the traditional backyard extension, the new living spaces are interlaced within three private courtyards”**  
— Berit Barton

Making the most of a narrow footprint in Melbourne’s inner suburbs is an old Victorian with a new lease on life and a young family to shelter.

The owners were after a light and modern extension with a strong connection to the outdoors to suit their family of four.

Like most Victorian cottages, light and storage were sparser than a rapidly balding man’s follicles and needed improvement post haste. A layout conducive to entertaining and a parents’ retreat were also on the cards.

Pleysier Perkins architect Berit Barton, along with interior designer Elise Burton, worked out the home’s architectural and interior design in collaboration with builder Kleev Homes.

“Instead of the traditional backyard extension, the new living spaces are interlaced within three private courtyards,” studio director Berit outlines. “These spatial additions not only bring light into the long narrow building, they also blur the boundaries between inside and out. The gardens become part of the indoors and allow a continued connection between the different living areas.”

CAVAN VILLA  
AD 1885

RECYCLED RED BRICK, OAK JOINERY, NEUTRAL GREYS AND LOCALLY SOURCED CHARRED TIMBER FORM A PALETTE ROBUST ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND YOUNG KIDS AND STYLISH ENOUGH TO PLEASE DISCERNING ADULTS



Recycled red brick, oak joinery, neutral greys and locally sourced charred timber form a palette robust enough to withstand young kids and stylish enough to please discerning adults. "Every inch of the site has a purpose, hidden storage and utilities inserted carefully to allow for the daily needs of a young family, while still maintaining a modern and uncluttered home environment," Berit says. Sun-drenched cooking and dining is made possible in a modern kitchen with clerestory windows and glazed doors. G-LUX Super White stone is coupled with timber veneer and Laminex laminate for a timeless ambience. Gaggenau

## ed's fave

THE PROLIFIC USE OF SKYLIGHTS, CLERESTORY WINDOWS AND FLOOR-TO-CEILING GLASS DOORS



**“A popped-up roof to the rear of the extension generates a sense of space despite the small footprint and allows in light from all directions through high skylight windows”**

— Berit Barton

appliances and built-in Häfele fixtures are high end and high functioning.

The terrace's existing timber floors were restained and finished, while burnished concrete flooring was selected for the extension. The carpeted main bedroom and walk-in robe promise the retreat-style vibe the parents hoped to achieve.

An active young family craves a generous outdoor area, and the new garden by Ben Scott Garden Design does not disappoint. Lush courtyards provide softness to the design and introduce nature to the urban context.

Highly prized and frequently fired up, the Beefeater Signature Proline barbecue is a hub of activity year-round.

Inside, Elise introduced architectural track lighting and feature lighting by Archier (in the kitchen) and Artemide (in the living room). Muted furnishings complement the internal brick walls, lending a contemporary snugness to the various spaces.

Key to the success of Courtyard House was the client's willingness to retain the modest footprint rather than build a second storey, as many of the neighbours have opted for.





Minimal structural steel was therefore required for the extension.

“A popped-up roof to the rear of the extension generates a sense of space despite the small footprint and allows in light from all directions through high skylight windows,” Berit says. “The courtyards between living spaces keep the rooms visually connected and feeling spacious while maintaining a level of zoning.”

The unassuming simplicity of Courtyard House, combined with the insertion of courtyards to create meaningful outdoor spaces on a slight site, has resulted in a home that prioritises quality over quantity. **HD** [pleysierperkins.com.au](http://pleysierperkins.com.au)

