

VOCAL

AUSTRALIA

GUIDE

EXTRAORDINARY AUSTRALIAN kitchens & bathrooms

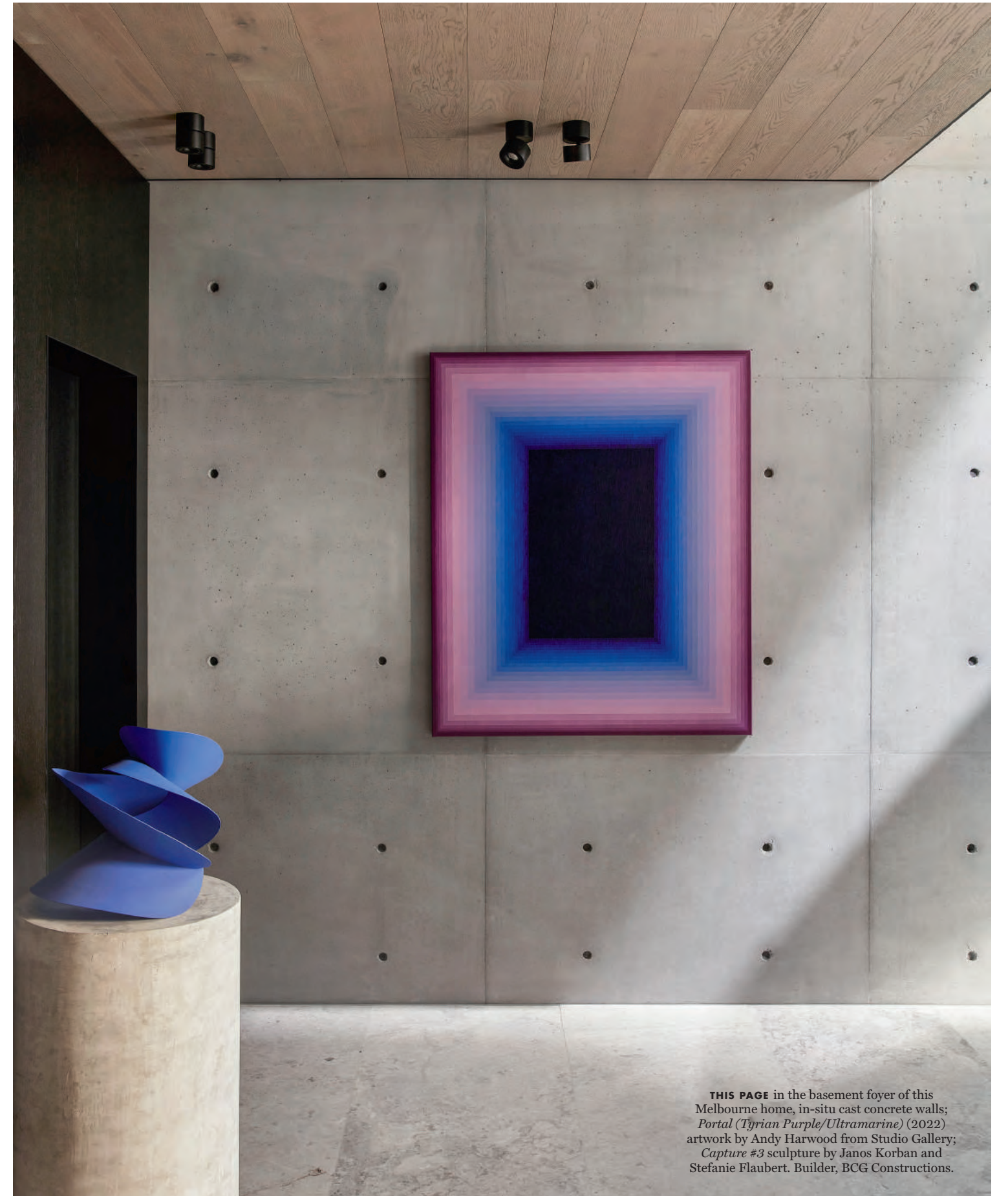


A FEAST OF
INNOVATION
AND DESIGN

IN THE PRESENT

A former manse and its extension become an immersive home catered for keen entertainers, thanks to an expansive vision from a topnotch team.

BY VIRGINIA JEN PHOTOGRAPHED BY SEAN FENNESSY



THIS PAGE in the basement foyer of this Melbourne home, in-situ cast concrete walls; *Portal (Tyrian Purple/Ultramarine)* (2022) artwork by Andy Harwood from Studio Gallery; *Capture #3* sculpture by Janos Korban and Stefanie Flaubert. Builder, BCG Constructions.



THESE PAGES in the ground-floor living room, folded steel helical staircase with black granite treads and risers, produced by Rye Stairs; Standard sofas by Francesco Binfare for Edra from Space Furniture; Flute side table from Poliform; Arco floor lamp by Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni from Euroluce; floor in New Savior natural stone from CDK Stone.

IN A TALE AS OLD AS TIME,
the merging of heritage character with a bold
sweep of the new was key to the gravitational pull
of this robust home in the historic Melbourne
suburb of Williamstown.

THE DWELLING IS made up of a former 1856-established Presbyterian manse with a contemporary extension. Coined Park House, it's the collaborative, expansive and impressive result of two design powerhouses taking full advantage of its enviable site within botanical parklands. The double-storey bluestone building required extensive restoration and the establishment of the rear addition by architects Pleysier Perkins was well underway when Mim Design came on board. What then started as an internal review soon evolved into a fully fledged interior detailing of the complete home, both new and old, for the Melbourne-based firm.

With avid entertainers for clients, the Mim Design team knew that the kitchen, the oft-spoken hub of the home, would need to be a space that welcomed and withstood daily routines and meandering conversations. "Visitors often gravitate to textures and unique forms," says Miriam Fanning, principal of Mim Design, "so we anchored the layout with large island benches and plinths that curve and undulate with the spatial volumes." The built-in corner dining nook also references these eye-catching elements for a sense of refined cohesion. "Its form plays off the curve of the island, whilst its ribbed bolsters reference the chiselling of the island," says creative director Emma Mahlook. A dynamic connection between the entertaining zone, the living area and alfresco space was also important to establish. "Windows were maximised at every opportunity," adds Mahlook. "The one behind the cooktop perfectly frames the manse, capturing a moment of history — a clever touch by Pleysier Perkins."

The manse also makes its presence known inside via the material palette, which takes its tactile notes from the bluestone facade. Rough hewn stone and concrete, blackened metal and the kitchen's stained American oak cabinetry and hammered grey marble are obvious nods to the manse's stature. The inspired shades of dove grey, charcoal and patina-ready finishes add drama and depth to the minimalist look. "It was an interesting balancing act in restraint and abundance," says Lisa Ransom, associate at Mim Design.

This curated palette is replicated in the powder rooms, bathrooms and ensuites. "The main ensuite is situated in the extension and, although cocooned in concrete from the façade, it is experienced as a space of restorative calm," says Ransom. "It is central to this home's amalgamation of old and new."

"Every space utilises colour, form, texture and proportion to artfully amalgamate the new with the old and ensure that the history of this home is highlighted," says Fanning. And in doing so, proves that the old with the new adage is set to withstand the test of time. mimdesign.com.au pleysierperkins.com.au



THIS PAGE in another view of the living room, fireplace surround in Domino Quartzite from CDK Stone; Mass coat stand by Tom Dixon; external bluestone cladding; landscape design by Rupert Baynes.



“Windows were maximised at every opportunity. The one behind the cooktop perfectly frames the manse, capturing a moment of history”

EMMA MAHLOOK

THESE PAGES in the kitchen, benchtop in New Elegant Grey marble from CDK Stone with custom ribbed-texture finish produced by Stonelux; stained-black crown-cut American oak cabinetry produced by Leeda Projects; Wolf M Series Contemporary oven and cooktop, Qasair rangehood, Sub Zero integrated column refrigerator and freezer, Asko dishwasher and Abey Schock sink, all from e&s; Pauline bar stools from Brdr Krüger; Verona tapware from Franke.

THIS PAGE in the dining nook, custom banquette designed by Mim Design in Pelle leather upholstery and New Elegant Grey marble from CDK Stone; Olivia dining table by John Bastiras Design Studio; 0414 chairs from Gallotti&Radice, enquiries to Ultimo; Rubn Angel 5 chandelier, enquiries to Fred International. **OPPOSITE PAGE** in the dining room, custom dining table by John Bastiras Design Studio; Series 430 chairs by Verner Panton for Verpan from Great Dane; Mark Douglass Design vessels (on table); *Sunset Unveiling* (2019) artwork by Lyès; I-O-N Bident suspension lamp from Porcelain Bear.





STYLE AGENDA
The
VL edit

A curated hit list inspired by the practical yet polished hubs of this home.



FROM LEFT Zen bath, POA, from Apaiser; apaiser.com Crema hand towel, \$39, from Kohn; kohn.com.au Karakter Sferico glasses, \$50 for a set of 4, from Cult; cultdesign.com.au Super White dolomite, POA, from CDK Stone; cdkstone.com.au Terrace handle, \$14, from Linear Standard; linearstandard.com.au Diptyque exfoliating hand wash, \$95, from Mecca; mecca.com.au Dolce Stil Novo 45cm compact speed oven, \$6490, from Smeg; smeg.com.au

COMPILED BY SANDY DAO

THIS PAGE in the another view of the ensuite, bath from Apaiser; tapware from Rogerseller; bronze glass shower screen. **OPPOSITE PAGE** in the main ensuite, benchtop and walls in Super White marble from CDK Stone with custom ribbed-texture finish by Stonelux; timber drawer fronts from George Fethers & Co; tapware from Rogerseller.