

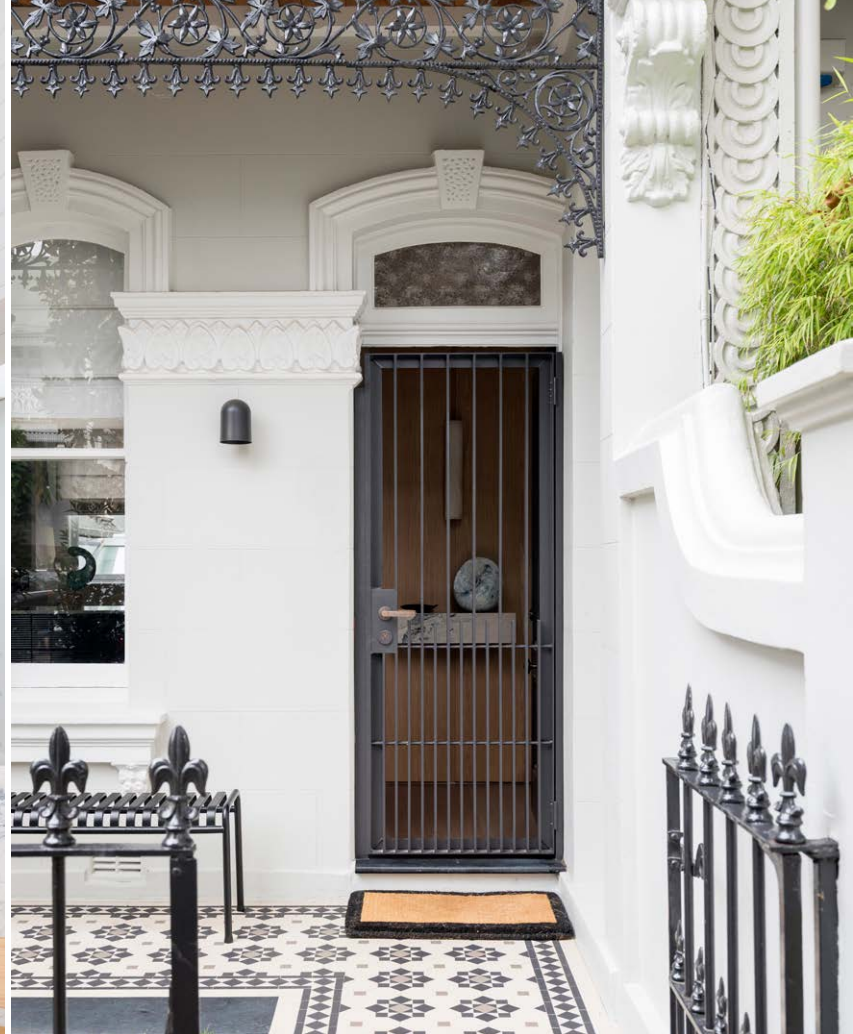
Comfort ZONE

Now a superb example of function meets form,
this Victorian terrace ticks all the boxes.

STORY & STYLING *Alexandra Gordon* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Tom Ferguson*

LIVING 'Nook' sofa and 'Putrellino' side table, both Jardan. Escea fireplace with surround in Evenex veneer in 'Almond', Elton Group. 'Panama' cushion and Society Limonta 'Ted' throw, Ondene. *Expulsion* artwork by Catherine Clayton Smith, Chalk Horse. 'Agra' rug in Moonstone, Armadillo. **EXTERIOR** Walls painted Dulux Mt Buller. Wall light, Nightworks Studios. Letterbox and 'Dover' floor tiles with 'Norwood border tiles, all Olde English Tiles. 'Palissade' bench, Hay.





When Zoe and Mark stumbled upon this Victorian terrace in Sydney’s east, they instantly recognised its potential. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac, the four-bedroom home had a northerly aspect and was unusually light-filled for the building type. “We were drawn to the abundance of natural light, which permeates almost every room in the house, even the basement benefits from a nearby skylight,” says Mark.

The couple lived there with their two children, Eve, 15, and Ben, 12, and their cavoodle, Billie, for 10 years before embarking on a renovation. The house had been substantially altered in 2003 but it was looking a little tired.

“An earlier renovation had maximised the rear spaces,” says Victoria D’Alisa of Porebski Architects who together with her brother, architect Alex Heyko-Porebski, was brought in to refresh the spaces from top to bottom.

“We have known Victoria and Alex for many years, so when we decided to embark on the renovation we never contemplated working with other architects,” says Zoe. This existing relationship made for an enjoyable process. “Zoe and Mark were fantastic clients who truly appreciated the challenges of the design and build process,” says Alex. “They gave us the freedom to explore creative directions and embraced bold ideas to bring our vision to life.” While the work was mostly cosmetic, the process from briefing to completion took two and a half years. ▶

DINING ‘Broad’ pendant light, Nau ‘Rib’ dining table, ‘J39 Mogensen’ chairs, all Cult. ‘Grande’ floorboards in Hekke throughout, Tongue & Groove. **KITCHEN** *Top left and bottom right* The kitchen and living room are linked by amphitheatre style stairs. Tama Blue benchtop and splashback, Worldstone Solutions. Tapware, Astra Walker. Bora cooktop, Winnings. *The Gathering* by Marissa Purcell, Day 01 Gallery. *Sea Spray* and *Tidal Pool* vessels by Katarina Wells, Curatorial+Co. ‘Betty’ bar stools, Cult. **ENTRY/LIVING** *Bottom left* ‘Palissade’ bench, Hay, ‘Dover’ pattern with ‘Norwood’ border tiles, Olde English Tiles. **ENTRY/LIVING** *Bottom left* ‘12:40’ wall sconce, Articolo. Infinito sculpture by Guido Deleu, Parterre. ‘Spirit’ bowl, Kate Nixon. ‘Nook’ sofa, Jardan. ‘Sequoia’ pouf, Cult.

“The house had been significantly altered from its original layout by the previous owners, so we enhanced the spaces to give the rooms a better flow and feel,” says Alex. The building work was carried out by Pamment Projects, long-time collaborators with Porebski Architects. “Pamment went above and beyond to deliver,” says Victoria.

The changes are most evident at ground level. Considered joinery transforms the reorientated living space. “At the entry we added a small joinery unit to create a foyer space cum set down area,” says Victoria. “A feature joinery unit with a gas fireplace acts as a focal point for the living room, while new timber veneer detailed joinery conceals storage under the stair.” A new amphitheatre style staircase leads you into the

reworked two-storey-height kitchen and dining. “This makes the stairs feel less confronting and directs you out past the kitchen,” explains Alex.

Nothing across the four levels remains intact. “Every space in the house was improved,” says Mark. While all four bathrooms and bedrooms have been overhauled with new joinery and finishes, the main suite wall was pushed out and opened out to views.

“We rearranged the ensuite so that all the amenities were on the same level and the ensuite, robe and bedroom feature raked timber lined ceilings and are flooded with natural light,” says Victoria. On the lower ground floor, the laundry was made more functional and the basement rumpus room was reconfigured. ▶

LIVING ‘Nook’ sofa, Jordan. & Tradition ‘Fly’ coffee table and Sequoia’ pouf, both Cult. Missoni cushion, Spence & Lyda. *Tree Bark (Spotted Gum)* by Melissa Boughey, Curatorial+Co. Crest sculpture by Luke Storrier. Vogel Studios ‘1/2 Ltr Forms’ and Michael Verheyden ‘Serve’ bowl, both Ondene. ‘Agra’ rug in ‘Moonstone’, Armadillo. **KITCHEN/DINING/OUTDOORS** Tama Blue benchtop and splashback, Worldstone Solutions. ‘Betty’ bar stools, ‘Broad’ pendant light, Nau ‘Rib’ dining table, ‘J39 Mogensen’ chairs, all Cult. *The Gathering* by Marissa Purcell, Day 01 Gallery. Dining table and chairs, Cosh Living.

THIS IS THE LIFE

“On weekends, we love to stay home. Besides taking the children to sport, the best thing about the weekends is not driving, as we are lucky to have everything we need within walking distance,” says the owner. “We also enjoy one or three coffees at our favourite local cafe. When we are at home, we enjoy spending time in one of the many living spaces.”



The external spaces were not overlooked in the redesign. The entrance to the house was reimagined with new plants and pavers. In the rear courtyard, the lower terrace was raised for a better transition and improved with the addition of a built-in seat centred around a fire pit, planter boxes and landscaping by Topos.

“The new design flows better and integrates with the house,” says Victoria. The balcony off the main bedroom, overlooking the courtyard, was fitted with steel railing to tie in with the Filetti stone pavers and fine detailing throughout.

Finishes and furniture were carefully selected. A neutral palette of wide oak floorboards, white walls and timber veneer creates a quiet backdrop for the contemporary furniture and art.

“A beautiful Tama Blue marble ties the ground floor spaces together, while aged brass accents on the hardware and the sculptural handrails add another layer,” says Victoria.

Local designs such as the ‘Rib’ dining table by Adam Goodrum and Jardan sofas in the living room are interspersed between custom joinery that cleverly integrates seating in a bid to maximise space.

“Post renovation, the living room is probably our favourite space, we spend hours lounging on the couches, listening to music and enjoying the flickering flames,” says Mark.

It is now six months since the family moved back into their updated home and they couldn’t be happier. “We really love it all,” says Zoe.

Every aspect has been considered from the front entry nook to the attic joinery that incorporates a desk and make-up area for Eve. The house not only looks beautiful, it is truly functional, the result of a synergistic collaboration between owners, designer, architect and builder. ▶

Porebski Architects: porebskiarchitects.com.au

Pamment Projects: pammentprojects.com.au

Topos: toposlandscape.com.au

MAIN BEDROOM Society Limonta bed linen, Ondene. *The Coverup* by Diana Miller, Curatorial+Co. Bench seat in James Dunlop ‘Vela’ fabric in Mink and bolsters in Catherine Martin for Mokum ‘Grand Boucle’ fabric in Champagne. **ATTIC BATHROOM** *Solid State ‘Hush Baby’* artwork by Henryk, Becker Minty. ‘Chios’ honed/brushed wall tiles and Rosso Crema and Crema Marfil floor tiles, Teranova. Custom vanity. **ATTIC BEDROOM** Custom joinery in the attic bedroom creates storage, seating and a desk for Eve. &Tradition ‘Lato’ side tables, Cult. Cushion in Elliott Clarke ‘Barzin’ in Salmon. Curtains, Homelife Furnishings. Bremworth ‘Samurai’ carpet in Misuto, Carpeteria.



THE PALETTE

Dulux Mt Buller
(exterior)

Dulux Snowy Mountains Half
(living room and rear exterior)

REAR EXTERIOR Walls painted Dulux Snowy Mountains Half. Dining table and chairs, Cosh Living. 'Beauford' sandstone pavers and Pendell Filetti Baton stone tiles, all Eco Outdoor. The inbuilt planters feature landscaping by Topos.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



1

THE SOURCE

*Express your creative side and give your interiors
a lift with colourful objects and layered textures.*

2



3



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7

6



8



10



9



Produced by Marissa Foye.

1 'Everest 1' **pendant light** in Textured Chalk, \$449, Beacon Lighting. 2 'Agra' **rug** in Salmon, \$5000 (3x2.4m), Armadillo. 3 Denim **bath towel**, \$120, Cultiver. 4 'Harmony' outdoor **extension dining table** in White, \$1299, Domayne. 5 & Tradition 'Lato LN8' **coffee table** in Oak and Cream Diva marble, \$1026, Finnish Design Shop. 6 *Dancing Light artwork* by Julia Mechielsen, \$3500, Hake. 7 Missoni Home **cushion**, from \$418, Winnings. 8 Rometti 'Fysallida' **vase**, \$1295, Space. 9 'Lucas' two-seater **sofa**, \$1999, Castlery. 10 'Jacob' **dining table**, \$1499, OZ Design. **H&G**