

RENOVATION WOW: AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION!

32 PAGES OF
KITCHENS
LAYOUTS • PLANNING • SHOPPING

australian

home beautiful

sunlit
HAVEN

PUT YOUR FEET UP AND
SOAK IN THE SHINY
LAST DAYS OF SUMMER

BATHROOMS

**SIMPLY
STUNNING
SINKS & TAPS**

**OUTDOOR
INSPIRATION**

*Gorgeous
trees to
plant and
love forever*

HAMPTONS DESIGN FILE

We head Stateside for the insider's guide to our enduring style crush

RENOVATING + DECORATING + ENTERTAINING + OUTDOOR LIVING



Small PACKAGES

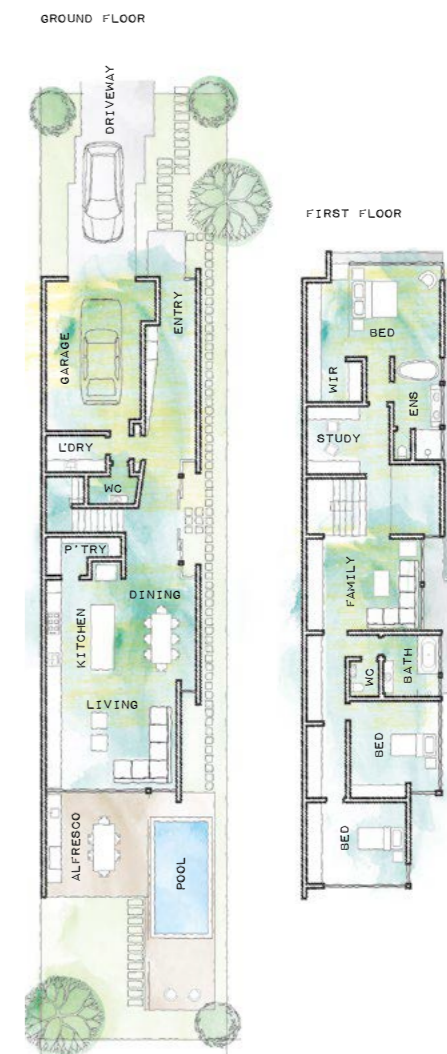
THIS MELBOURNE HOME
PROVES THAT SMALLER-
SCALE LIVING CAN BE
BIG ON BENEFITS

STORY SHELLEY TUSTIN
STYLING SIMONE ZARB
PHOTOGRAPHY DEREK SWALWELL

BRIGHT & BREEZY
Minimalist though it may be, there is nothing cold about the home Mark and Simone share with daughters Amelia (left) and Tahlia, courtesy of Simone's keen eye for interior style. A King Living sofa adds discreet colour to the living room's layers of grey, which range from the French oak flooring and sand-hued Armadillo & Co 'Sherpa' rug, to the serpentine curves of an Anna Pitjara artwork. Design tricks make the home eminently liveable. Double-hung and frameless sash windows offer cooling on all but the hottest days. >



FLOOR PLAN



Downsizing is usually the province of empty-nesters, but with two pre-teen daughters, Melbourne couple Mark and Simone have bucked the trend, embracing a more compact home in the prime of their family life. With the girls' high school years on the horizon, the family were keen to move closer to their chosen schools, even if it meant relocating to a smaller urban block. But beyond practical considerations, Mark and Simone had also taken a liking to a small suburb in north Melbourne. "We have relatives living here and every time we visited, we fell in love with it," says Mark. "It's a really vibrant area with a lot of activity by the river. We desired that for our family and it was a major drawcard."

A residential builder with an appreciation for smart design, Mark was also keen to snag a knock-down property and make his own mark on the urban landscape. They found the perfect prospect in a retro (but not in a good way) weatherboard; riddled with asbestos and with an awkward layout, the home was ripe for demolition over renovation.

The couple had used Gold Coast-based Jamison Architects – family friends and long-standing business associates – to design their previous home, and were excited to collaborate with them again,

commissioning Mark and Angela Jamison to design a duplex for the generous block, half of which would become the family home.

The couple's brief had two main requirements: storage and light. "Storage was a huge factor, because we were downsizing," explains Simone. "Even though we were wanting to live minimally, you can't help holding onto things to some extent!" The second demand was for plenty of natural light and airflow. "We didn't want to be living in a dark townhouse," says Mark. Architect Mark Jamison began the design process by getting up on the roof of the old house and identifying where neighbours overlooked the property or might, in turn, be impacted by the new building. The solution was flipping the standard duplex layout to put the hallway on the exterior glass-lined wall of the house, and dedicating the common wall side to service spaces like the garage and powder room. Landscaping aids in maintaining privacy, while bathing the interiors in leafy shadows.

Whether it's the easy way every need is catered for – from a nook for the car keys to a seat to pop on shoes – or the way the home opens up to welcome the crowds that the family loves to invite over for barbecues, this smaller home punches well above its weight. "I don't feel as though I'm in a townhouse at all," says Simone.

KITCHEN Simone adores cooking and the couple are frequent entertainers, so having a kitchen (above left) that was functional, and also a social space, was a priority. The Smartstone marble-look island bench has no sink or stovetop, marking it as a conversation space for people to gather, with the messier work done on the back counter. Mark himself took on the engineering challenge of creating a cantilevered island, with room for six seats. "The seats wrap around the island bench, so when we sit there, we're all looking at each other," says Mark (pictured, with Tahlia). Simone opted for slender-framed furniture – "Transit" counter stools from Curious Grace, and a Globe West 'Como' coffee table (bottom right) – to keep the kitchen finishes as the stars of the room, able to be admired from the living room sofa (bottom left). "You can see through them," says Mark. "Simone was really particular about being able to see all that stone." Similarly, an induction cooktop was chosen for its low profile while the splashback is black Corian, buffed just enough to make it appear to recede into the background. "We didn't want to see a reflection, but we didn't want it too matte," says Mark. "We have recessed LEDs that light it up at night and we love it." >



ILLUSTRATION KENZIEDESIGN.COM



“RATHER THAN MAKING THE HOUSE BIGGER WE JUST try to MAKE IT more efficient” ~ ANGELA, ARCHITECT



HALLWAY
Black-stained shiplap boards line the hallway and then wrap around to the kitchen (above), concealing the fridge and rendering the door that opens to the butler's pantry almost invisible. The hallway is also packed with useful functions, including an alcove (left) ideal for useful bits and bobs or artwork. "We're always thinking about how people are living in these spaces and what's going to make their living experience more enjoyable," says architect Angela.

OUTDOOR FLOW
The living room flows out to the alfresco area (far left). The couple decided to forgo a bulky outdoor kitchen in favour of a streamlined floating concrete bench and built-in teppanyaki plate.

ARTWORK (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) BLACKLIST. (BOTTOM RIGHT) RUVIM NEMIROVSKY. (OPPOSITE) ROSETTA SANTUCCI



WE LOVE...

The masonry wall

Clad in architectural blocks from National Masonry, the three lower-floor blade walls have been created using a clever 'reverse build' technique, with slim 90mm blocks on the inside and timber frame and lightweight concrete panels outside. The result is a gorgeous internal feature and an external wall that offers superior insulation against Melbourne's more extreme weather. Visit nationalmasonry.com.au for more information. >



"IT'S next-level architecture - IT'S THE THINGS YOU DON'T SEE THAT make it special"
 ~ MARK, HOMEOWNER



GIRLS' ROOMS Amelia's room (opposite) and Tahlia's room (above) are decorated to suit their personalities, and feature linen from Adairs and artworks from Blacklist. Cage pendants from Beacon Lighting and a rug from Armadillo & Co (seen in Amelia's room) complete the spaces. Floaty sheers are a pretty textural element, with recessed blinds hidden behind.

POWDER ROOM The powder room (top right) is designed to wow, with shimmering 'Cubica' tiles from Earp Bros. Simple fixtures - including a pendant from Beacon Lighting and wall-mounted Omvivo basin from Reece - keep the focus on the show-stopping feature wall.

MAIN BEDROOM Twin pendants from Beacon hang either side of a bedhead that Simone designed and had custom-made by an upholsterer (right); try Bed Bath N' Table to find a range of similar bedlinen. The ensuite (far right), with its stone bath from Reece, is open to the main bedroom and Mark says they wouldn't change a thing. "We often visit a resort in Bali that has a very similar layout, which we love," he says. "We have warm white LED lighting under the vanity basin and recessed in the shower niche, which are just bright enough to use at night without having light shining into the bedroom." >

ARTWORK (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) BLACKLIST





SWIMMING POOL

This was a must-have for Mark and Simone, who both had fond memories of swimming in their family pools as kids. As well as being fun and practical on scorching hot days, it also serves as a striking visual feature of the overall design. "We love that this section of the house - the pool and alfresco area - can be easily seen and accessed from the main living spaces," says Mark. "We often spend summer nights cooking, eating and swimming out here." The blunt edges of the space, bordered in poured concrete, are softened with lush landscaping by local company Acre.

CONTACTS

Architect
Jamison Architects,
(07) 5632 5365,
jamisonarchitects.com.au

PERFECTLY FORMED



1 2



3

INSIDE STORY
SIMONE & MARK'S HOME

Who lives here?

Mark, who works in residential construction; Simone, a primary school teacher; and their daughters, Tahlia, 12, and Amelia, 10.

Do you miss having a larger home?

Mark: "Not at all. Our architect gave us plenty of natural light and ventilation, and loads of storage. All the spaces feel great."

Any craving for another building project yet?

Simone: "Mark loves to build architectural homes and another project is always on his horizon! But we have no plans to move just yet."

What is your favourite part of the home?

"The kitchen island bench, as it's become the hub of the home. We both love to cook and enjoy sharing meals with family and friends."

Where would we find you on a Saturday?

Mark: "We get up early and walk around the river. We love cooking breakfast on the teppanyaki."



4



5

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

- 1. Simone and her younger daughter Amelia enjoy the 'Neo' modular sofa in Newport Marina, from King Living.
- 2. Ethnicraft 'Kubus Naomi' side table from Globe West.
- 3. 'Suede' dimensional wall tile in Taupe from Earp Bros.
- 4. The Blanco 'Subline500IF SteelFrame' flush-mount sink is a practical addition to the rear kitchen bench.
- 5. 'Adelphi' outdoor dining table and chairs, all found at Freedom.