

SWEET DISPOSITION

A rich, warm palette, *THOUGHTFUL* details and repurposed *mid-century* decor give this *cosy home* a joyful *LIVED-IN* feel.

STORY *Hanna Marton* | STYLING *Belle Hemming* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Marnie Hawson*



KITCHEN *design notes*

JOINERY Laminex on plywood substrate. Eco-certified blackbutt timber veneer by Briggs Veneers. Australian blackbutt hardwood. All designed by Brave New Eco and built by The Cabinet & Furniture Shop.

BENCHTOPS Fibonacci 'The Graduate' terrazzo.

SPLASHBACK Nagoya Mosaic-Tile Co 'Minokoyo' mosaics, Academy Tiles.

WALLS Silvertop ash, Radial Timbers.

DOORS & WINDOWS Victorian ash with Quantum 'Aquaoil' finish, Pickering Joinery.

FLOORING Raw porcelain tiles in Cinnamon, Surface Gallery.

LIGHTING Muuto.

TAPWARE Heritage exposed hob sink set, Consolidated Brass Tapware.

SINK 'Ontario' double sink, ABI Interiors.

APPLIANCES Fisher & Paykel oven and induction cooktop. Custom rangehood flue designed by Brave New Eco.

KITCHEN Textures and earthy tones come together to make the kitchen a warm and inviting hub with a 'japandi' aesthetic. The north-facing door opens onto a generous deck and paved outdoor space, where kids can play freely but well-supervised.

H&G BRAVE NEW ECO

When interior designer Megan Norgate and architect Nicola Dovey encountered this Californian bungalow in Melbourne, its well-worn kitchen in the middle of the house was dark and cramped. Three more original rooms, including one with a characterful bay window, and a hallway led to a low-ceilinged lean-to at the rear that squeezed in a bathroom and laundry.

“But it was quite a delightful space to be in because the owners have great taste,” says Megan, director of Brave New Eco. “They’d made it so nice with a beautiful paint job and their collections of objects. It felt simpatico in terms of our style and way of doing things.”

While it was a mishmash of architectural styles, from Art Deco to Arts and Crafts, the single-level house was a solid red-brick construction. But the asbestos-filled lean-to had to go. Nicola, director of Drawing Room ▶



KITCHEN/DINING The dining area features an original Chiswell extendable table, a family heirloom. Chairs and bar stools, stylist's own. **STORAGE** Treasured pieces add personality to this nook, which leads to a spacious laundry. The artwork on the shelf is a mid-century charcoal drawing, artist unknown. **DINING** Banquette seating was designed to fit the dining table when it's closed or extended. Pure wool banquette fabric, Abraham Moon & Sons. Pendant light, The Family Love Tree. Walls painted Dulux Grand Piano Half.



RATHER THAN A “WHITE DISPLAY KITCHEN THAT ONLY LOOKS GOOD WHEN IT’S CLEAN AND NOT IN USE,” A KITCHEN THAT WORKED HARD WAS A MUST.

H&G BRAVE NEW ECO

LIVING The owners requested joinery to house their record player and collection, and a Bitossi ceramic horse and mid-century glass vase take pride of place on the top right shelf separating the living room and dining zone. The Oblica fireplace pops against the Bowral Bricks in Chillingham White. The Chiswell sideboard in the rear corner is a family heirloom; the Danish leather sofa is also vintage. Michael Hirst 'Safari' chair. Artwork (left) by Gloria Tamerre Petyarre. Artwork (right) by Beci Orpin. Mid-century table lamp and side tables, vintage. Curtains, James Dunlop Textiles. ▶





Architecture, drew up plans in late 2019 to rebuild a clever, functional extension, add a second storey with a bedroom, ensuite and study nook, and replace the existing kitchen with a palatial bathroom.

Redesigning the rear extension was no easy feat. There was very little backyard, with most of the alfresco space on the sunny north-eastern-facing side, behind the garage. The owners didn't want to encroach too much on the outdoor area, so Nicola had to fit a new kitchen, walk-in pantry, dining and laundry into a compact footprint. She threw in a study nook for good measure.

Renovating in Melbourne during the pandemic was also challenging. Many of the specs and finishes were decided upon over Zoom calls or while rifling through samples in Megan's car boot. "It worked because they were wonderfully attentive, engaged owners," says Megan. "They were very clear about how they wanted to use the home, including different zones to live, work and escape to," adds Nicola. "They wanted somewhere for their parents, who live rurally, to stay. And they wanted a home they could grow into."

The couple also wanted to repurpose antiques from their family's farm shed, such as barn doors, an enamel bath and Bakelite door handles. The rich brown of the

vintage handles, repeated in new brass tapware, even helped inform the warm colour palette of brown, ochre, buttery yellow and putty cream. Their mid-century furniture and decor was accommodated as well.

The owners had a well-considered wish list, particularly for the kitchen, now at the rear of the house. Rather than a "white display kitchen that only looks good when it's not in use", a kitchen that worked hard was a must. "We love to cook and there are usually lots of things on the go and a mess being made," their brief stated.

"They wanted to be able to walk out of the kitchen to a veggie patch to grab leaves and herbs while cooking," adds Nicola. An appliance nook offers easy access to a well-used Thermomix and a recessed compost bin.

In the mid-century-inspired living room, joinery was designed around their record player and vinyls. "They thought about everything so deeply," says Megan. "Normally you have to draw that stuff out of your client!"

The planning paid off. Today, the house is just as cosy and lived-in as its thoughtful owners had wished for.

Design and building team Interior designer Brave New Eco; braveneweco.com.au. *Architect* Drawing Room Architecture; drawingroomarchitecture.com.au. *Builder* DC Building; dcbuildingvic.com.au. ▶

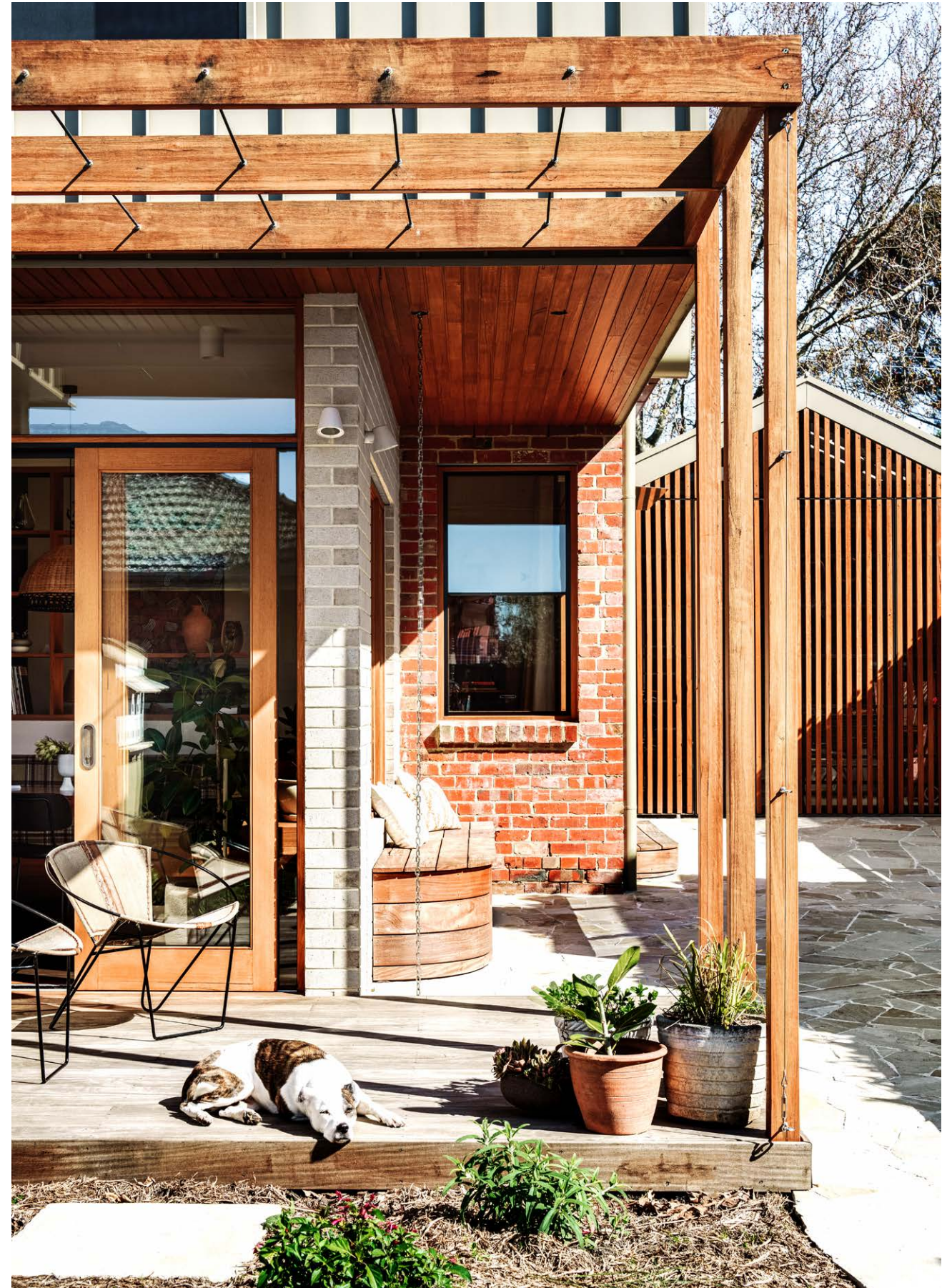
BEDROOM In the main bedroom, the owners had already installed the pendant lights, from Jordan, and the curtains, from Ink & Spindle, prior to renovation. Linen, Bhumi. Walls painted Dulux Coffee Clay. Floors, Havwoods Spotted Gum engineered boards. The hearth was retiled with Nagoya Mosaic-Tile Co 'Minokoyo' tiles and the fireplace surround painted the same colour as the walls. The planter in the fireplace is a 19th century ceramic vessel from Kennebec American Vintage.



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BATHROOM Nagoya Mosaic-Tile Co 'Minokoyo' wall tiles and 'Kayoborder' mosaics on curved bench, Academy Tiles, Pegasi shower, Faucet Strommen. Owners' existing bath. Bench topped with Fibonacci 'The Graduate' terrazzo. DeLonghi 'Iconic' towel rail. **BEDROOM** Custom bench seat in Abraham Moon & Sons plaid fabric. Walls painted Dulux Fiji Sands. **MAIN BEDROOM** Nordlux 'Tippy' wall sconce. Curtains, James Dunlop Textiles. **EXTERIOR** Pam, the family dog, suns herself under the pergola, made from blackbutt from Radial Timbers. Cumaru decking boards, Porta. Ivory bricks, Melbourne Bricks. Himalayan Sandstone crazy paving, Slated Discounts. **H&G**



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