

**This page** Overcoming a lack of light and an awkward layout in a period terrace house proved to be a rewarding task for the team at Neumode Design & Construction.



# EDGY AND URBAN

A Victorian terrace abandons its conservative past in favour of a hip and funky look in this remarkable transformation





An innovative and refreshing approach from Metroworks Architects and Neumode Design and Construction transformed a conservative Victorian terrace into this funky, two-bedroom, Richmond home. The renovation was so successful that it won Best Renovation/Addition \$150,000-\$300,000 in the Master Builders Association of Victoria awards.

As it's one of a series of Victorian terrace houses, special care was taken to retain the feel of the original dwelling to ensure it blended with its neighbours while still allowing for individual expression. A slope on the site allowed a double-storey extension to the back of the house to provide much-desired space. Highlight windows line the north and south-facing walls of the second storey and arrest the eye without compromising the traditional lines of the structure.

Internally, the architect took advantage of the limited available area, adding a number of touches to provide functional and aesthetically rewarding spaces. The original floor plan was altered to separate the living area from the bedrooms, giving the home a long entrance hall and the sensation of greater space.

As it's one of a series of Victorior terrace houses, special care was taken to retain the feel of the original dwelling to ensure it blended with its neighbours while still allowing for individual expression.



**Above** The owners wanted to retain the quirky character of the heritage property, while ensuring it was a practical living space. **Left** Traditional features such as highlight windows and the cathedral ceiling keep a sense of history alive within the property. **Opposite page** A sunny courtyard is a valuable asset in the inner-city suburb of Richmond.



Moving along the hallway from the entrance is the library, the master bedroom and a bright bathroom; the use of aluminium windows allows the shower to look directly into the adjacent sun-lit courtyard. The polished timber staircase, featuring stainless-steel balustrading, leads down to the open-plan kitchen and family room, which is set off by a polished concrete slab with exposed bluestone chips, in keeping with the edgy urban style of Richmond.











**Above** The bathroom was designed to withstand chilly Melbourne winters with a hydronic underfloor heating system. **Right** Timber has been used for the joinery, floorboards, staircase and the fencing in the courtyard.

**Bottom right** The kitchen is undoubtedly a modern room with few period details and slick chrome whitegoods.

#### NEUMODE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PTY LTD

Po Box 839, Hawthorn Vic 3122

**Phone** (03) 9889 4077, (03) 9889 4099

**Mobile** 0417 034 955

**Email** michael@neumode.com.au

**Website:** www.neumode.com.au

#### BILLINN CUPBOARD COMPANY

Unit 4e Albert Road, Preston Vic 3072

**Phone** (03) 9484 4944

**Website** www.billinncupboards.com.au

#### METROWORKS ARCHITECTS PTY LTD

**Website** www.metroworks.com.au

Framing the stairs, which rise from the lounge room, are striking stainless-steel balustrades that fly through from the ground floor to the first floor, creating a sense of continuity between the lower and upper living spaces. The stainless-steel finish is again reflected in the appliances and detailing of the kitchen. The joinery in this area is cleverly designed and constructed to fit neatly under the stairs.

The first floor comprises a loft-style study area that takes full advantage of the northern aspect, allowing the room to be bathed in sunlight. The joinery here was designed to take into consideration the client's need for a generous working space and maximum storage.

A cathedral ceiling creates a clever combination of angles and natural light to give the greatest impression of space from all aspects of the interior. High-set windows on the southern and northern walls enhance the light and interest of the space without compromising privacy or wall space required for the bookshelves and work area.

The timberwork throughout is finished in a white semi-gloss to keep with the sleek appearance and sophisticated air, while complementing the white walls and ceilings. The home is complete with in-slab hydronic heating to add the final touches to the ultimate inner-city villa. **ML**

