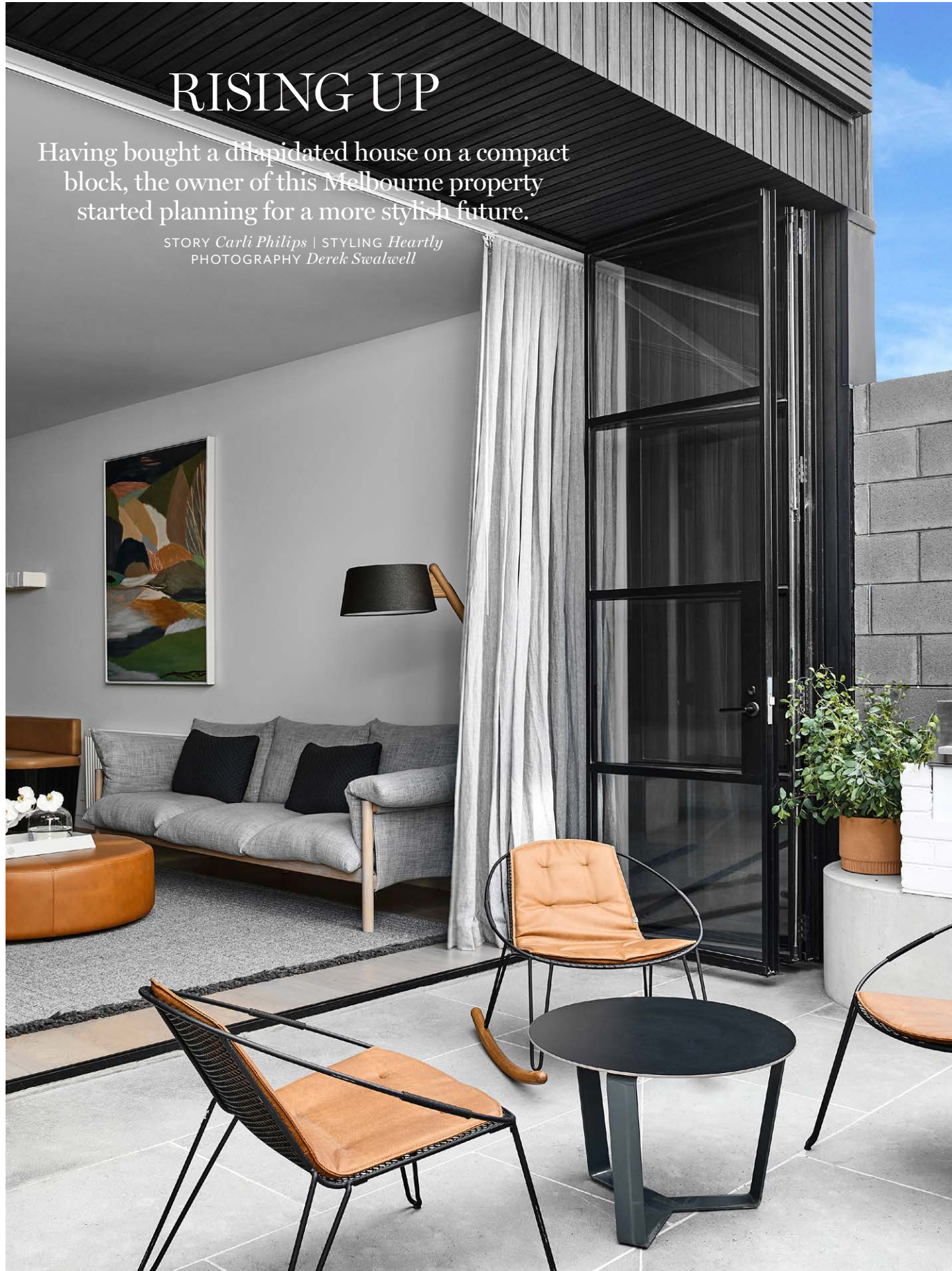


RISING UP

Having bought a dilapidated house on a compact block, the owner of this Melbourne property started planning for a more stylish future.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Heartly*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Derek Swakwell*



STREET ENTRANCE The home is clad in charred timber from Eco Timber, which also features throughout the interiors. **COURTYARD** Opposite Volley table and rockers, Tait. Alby ottoman, Hector lamp and Wilfred sofa (in living area), all Jardan. Highland rug, Bayliss. Artwork by Belynda Henry.

A melting pot of eateries, pubs, outlet stores and trendy bars, the bustling neighbourhood in Melbourne's inner east where this home is located is much loved by locals. Yet behind the busy roads splicing through its centre are quiet, charming streets where new and old sit side by side. The residential plots are mostly compact, originally designed to accommodate terraces and workers' cottages, so new homes must be built with Tetris-like precision. Interior designer Mikayla Rose, director and principal at Heartly, took it all in her stride.

The owner, Dan, who lives in the house with his partner and their labradoodle, Hugo, had a very specific wish list. "The brief was to create a functional home with zones where a family can come together and enjoy their own space – even on the tiny 148-square-metre block. The design was completed pre-Covid and it was vital that there was a workspace in each bedroom," says Dan.

The existing single-fronted Victorian cottage was dilapidated and since it had no heritage overlay, knocking it down and starting from scratch was a no-brainer. And while its width is the same as others on the street, a thoughtful floor plan resulted in a house that is surprisingly spacious. The addition of a second storey also enabled ►

LIVING ROOM *This page and opposite* The rear wall is lined in Brickette porcelain tiles, Urban Edge Ceramics. The entertainment unit is made from poured concrete with a block plinth clad in Navurban veneer from New Age Veneers. Kelly armchairs, Hector lamp, Wilfred sofa and Alby ottoman, all Jordan. Highland rug, Bayliss. Artwork by Belynda Henry. Listone Giordano oak flooring, Winspear (throughout).

“The brief was to create a functional home with zones where a family can come together...”

DAN, OWNER



KITCHEN/DINING *This page, opposite top left and opposite bottom right* The island, in Bellaseta marble from G-Lux, teamed with Hay 'About a Stool' stools from Cult Design, acts as a social hub. The wall-side benchtop is Dekton in Sirius. V-Zug cooktop and Zip 'HydroTap All-in-One', both Winning Appliances. Joinery in Laminex AbsoluteMatte Black. Brickette wall tiles, Urban Edge Ceramics. Dusk wall light, Est Lighting. Custom dining table by Heartly, made by Joel Elliott. T-Bar Duo (Stick) Cluster with Small Cones pendant light, LAAL. Seb dining chairs and SkLo knot sculpture, Jordan. **STAIRWELL** *Opposite, top right* Open treads allow light to flow through the house. **LIVING** *Opposite, bottom left* The custom entertainment unit runs all the way around the living room wall and is integrated into the concrete staircase treads. Wall light, Volker Haug. ▶

THE PALETTE

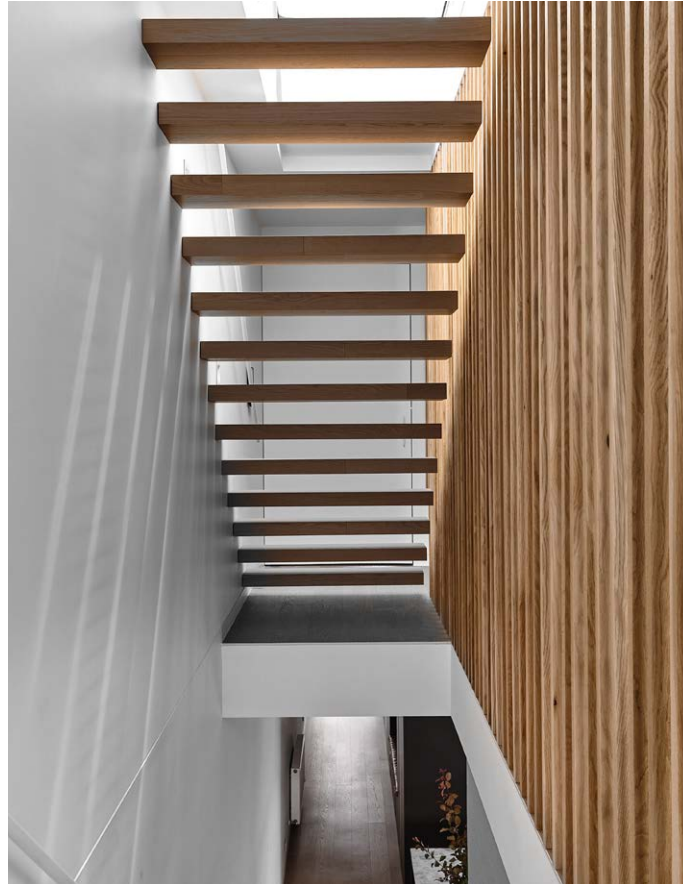
Dulux Vivid White
(walls, throughout)

Dulux Banksia Leaf
(main bedroom door)

Dulux Black Caviar



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



BEDROOM Above the bed is an artwork by George Hall. Bedlinen, Jordan. Coco Flip 'Jolly' wall lamp, Cult Design. **STAIRWELL** *Opposite top left* View from the kitchen up the stairs. **MAIN ENSUITE** *Opposite top right and bottom left* Phoenix 'Vivid Slimline' basin outlet and bath filler, Reece. Merricks terrazzo floor tiles, De Fazio Tiles & Stone. Bellaseta marble vanity top, G-Lux. Joinery in Navurban veneer from New Age Veneers. Switchable glass enables privacy while still allowing in light. Aveo freestanding bath, Kaskade Stone. **HALLWAY** *Opposite bottom right* Aeolian limited-edition photographic print by Debra McFadzean from Still&All. Door painted Dulux Banksia Leaf. ▶



the inclusion of a rooftop terrace with a magnificent panoramic view across the city.

In the absence of council restrictions, the facade could be ultra-modern and masculine. “Dan wanted something that was strong and bold, so we used concrete, blackened timber veneer, steel and stone,” says Mikayla. Charred timber in particular features frequently, both outside and inside the building. “We wouldn’t normally use it inside but the effect is very striking. We didn’t want too many white plasterboard walls so we created a pared-back palette and repeated materials throughout.”

The house is accessed via a covered entryway and opens into a short corridor lined in black timber veneer. Immediately to the left is a guestroom followed by a powder room which can be accessed from both the hallway and the guest ensuite. This set-up eliminated the need for two separate toilets. The rear of the house pools into an open-plan, shared space.

Because Dan is a big entertainer, but not a keen cook, the kitchen only needed to be “small but practical”, says Mikayla. The central kitchen island is more a social hub than a preparation area. It’s designed so that five people can face one another casually, but for a sit-down meal there’s a full dining table with built-in bench seating. The living area opens to the outdoor courtyard where there’s a generous wood-burning fireplace. Mikayla connected the inside and outside with steel-framed floor-to-ceiling doors that, when open, almost feels like one big space. “Even though we couldn’t fit a fireplace in the living room, this set-up means you can be sitting on the sofa inside and still have the ambience of the fire,” she explains.

Upstairs, the first floor is divided into two wings, with a bedroom, bathroom and study at one end and the principal suite at the other. “Dan wanted a distinctive and separate retreat that felt segregated. The corridor has a flat ceiling and is dark but when you enter the main bedroom, the roof pitches up and into a light-filled space. It feels like you’re going down a chute which is quite cool.”

Dan, who works in glass manufacturing, had access to all the best materials, and in the ensuite they installed switchable glass facing the street so that it can be transparent when not in use but made opaque for privacy. Skylights have also been used, strategically dropping light in through all the levels. And due to its proximity to such a busy main road, all the windows have been triple-glazed.

Mikayla also managed to fit in a basement laundry and cosy theatre room. The rooftop however, is all light and air. Framed with planters, it’s a small sanctuary in a busy city. ► *Heartly, Abbotsford, Victoria; heartly.com.au.*

ACS Builders, Croydon, Victoria; acsbuilders.com.au.

“We created a
pared-back palette
and repeated
materials
throughout.”

MIKAYLA ROSE, INTERIOR DESIGNER

THIS IS THE LIFE

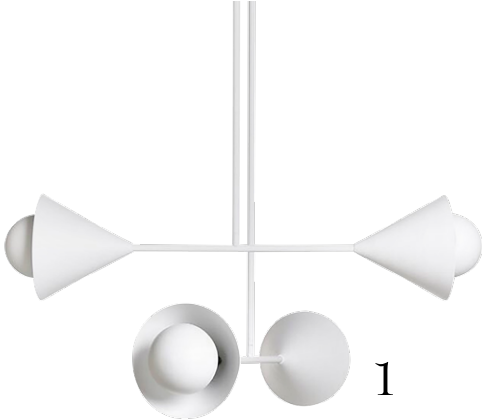
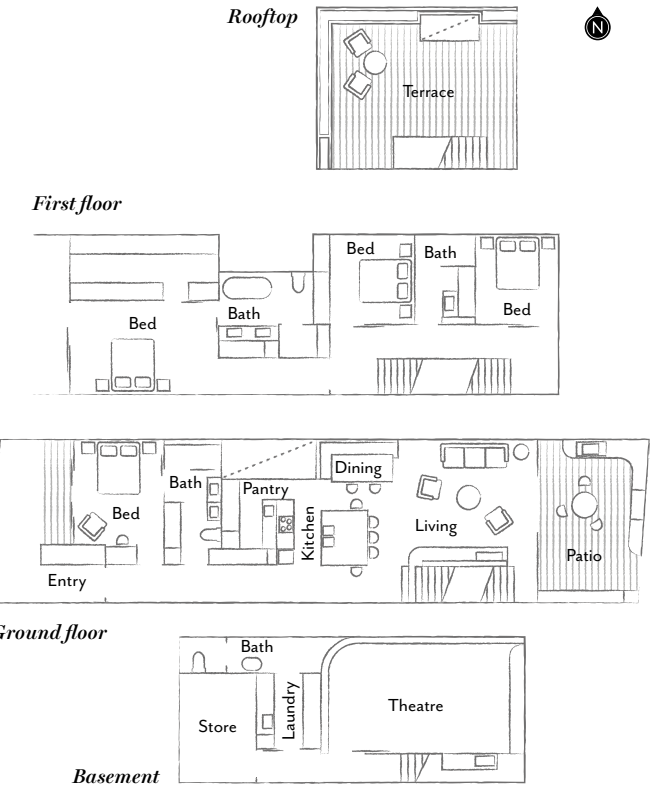
“The house has amazing light and volume for a property with such a miniscule footprint,” says owner Dan. “There isn’t a room that feels compromised. The neighbourhood, just three kilometres from Melbourne’s CBD, has a wonderful community feel – the baristas always remember your order, and visiting the farmers’ markets on Saturday feels like a real treat.”

MAIN BEDROOM The main bedroom opens onto a balcony. Bedlinen and Nook bed, all Jardan. Paulistano chair by Paulo Mendes da Rocha, available from Hub Furniture. Bedside tables custom designed by Heartly and made by Joel Elliott. Lightyears ‘Caravaggio’ wall light, Cult Design.



LAUNDRY Left Wall tiles, Academy Tiles+Surfaces. Leather cabinet pulls, MadeMeasure. Merricks terrazzo floor tiles, De Fazio Tiles & Stone. **COURTYARD** Volley rocker, Tait. Bricks, Austral Bricks. Wyndam limestone pavers, Eco Outdoor. **POWDER ROOM** Below Exlavstand basin, Studio Bagno. Dusk wall light, Est Lighting. Phoenix 'Vivid Slimline' tapware, Reece. Merricks terrazzo floor tiles, De Fazio Tiles & Stone.

THE LAYOUT



1

THE SOURCE

When the footprint is tight, turn up the feeling of space with clean-lined furniture and lashings of white.



Produced by Shayne Burton.

1 T-Bar Duo (Stick) Cluster with Small Cones pendant light, POA, LAAL. 2 Paulistano armchair by Paulo Mendes da Rocha for Objekto, POA, Hub Furniture. 3 Australian House & Garden 'Ibiza Coconut Fizz' reed diffuser, \$39.95, Myer. 4 Paths I limited-edition photographic artwork by Debra McFadzean, \$1050, Still&All. 5 Zip 'HydroTap G5 Celsius' boiling, chilled and sparkling tap, \$7795, Winning Appliances. 6 Rometti Terakota Lithos vase, \$1050, Space. 7 Hector oak floor lamp with marble base, \$2780, Jardan. 8 Veritable Smart hydroponic indoor garden, \$369, Harvey Norman. 9 Danish White engineered-oak flooring, \$121/m², Royal Oak Floors. 10 King Boulevard 3-seater sofa, from \$4390, King Living. For Where to Buy, see page 190. H&G