

EXTERIOR Charred timber (sho sugi ban) cladding from Eco Timber Group, graces the new extension, forming a stylish counterpoint to the original brickwork. The dark colour also sits easily in the landscape.

Walk through the front door of this home in Victoria
and time travel takes on a whole new meaning

FUTURE PERFECT

cheat sheet

Who lives here A professional couple with two sons, aged 11 and eight.

Style of home Mid-century meets contemporary in a house that now has four bedrooms and a second living space.

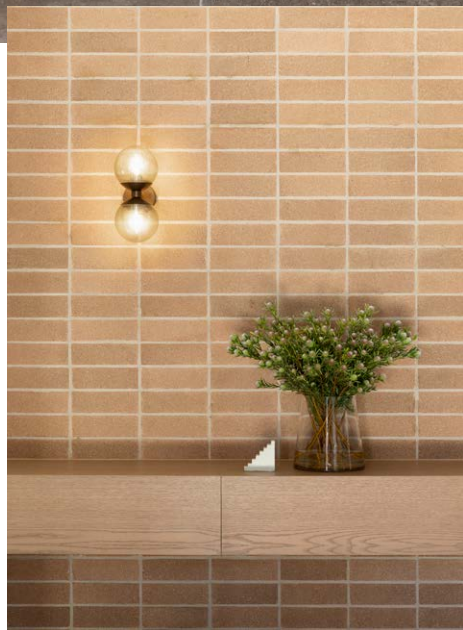
Location Torquay in Victoria, traditional land of the Wadawurrung people.



The renovation took place from June 2020 to February 2022.



Total cost was \$1.8 million, including the pool and landscaping.



KITCHEN (top left and opposite) Mikayla Rose made the most of the home's generous proportions by painting the walls and pitched ceilings Dulux Vivid White. Joinery in Haymes Grey Impression. Ebon timber veneer on rangehood, Ventech Australia. Inax 'Yohen' border tiles, Artedomus. Dekton Sirius benchtop, Cosentino. Frangite sink, Franke. Yokato kitchen mixer, Brodware. Highline linear light, Archier. Wall Step light, Volker Haug. Dita stools, Grazia & Co. Marlo sofa and Loop rug, Jardan. **HALLWAY** (top right) Wyndam limestone pavers from Eco Outdoor appear throughout. Willow timber floorboards from Made By Storey. Artwork by Nadia Düsselberg. **ENTRY** (above) The wall cladding — Bowral brickwork in St Pauls Cream from Brickworks — is a nod to the exterior of the original home. Light, Snelling Studio.



It was a case of back to the future for the owners of this coastal home near Torquay in Victoria. Seven years ago, they bought an early 1980s clinker-brick bungalow. Entirely original, it was a tantalising time capsule, with soaring timber ceilings, split levels, wood veneers and a breezy open-plan layout — all throwbacks to that bold and buoyant decade.

“We absolutely loved all those mid-century elements and the northern orientation,” says the owner. But sadly, the couple were less enamoured of the lashings of mission brown, the salmon drapes and the apricot walls that were part of the package. And the three bedrooms were quite small with low ceilings, while storage was in short supply.

So, in 2020, they enlisted the services of Heartly principal interior designer Mikayla Rose — happily discovered through the pages of *Inside Out* — and building designer Luke Jennings of Project Now to transport the house into the 21st century, with a stylish makeover that honoured its past while embracing the future. “They liked the charm and qualities of the original house and wanted to retain its character,” says Mikayla, “but it also had to be a contemporary home for a family with two young boys. They are all very active and surf, so it had to function accordingly.”

“We wanted a parents’ retreat, bigger bedrooms for the boys and more storage — including a mud room for sports gear and all the other things that accumulate at the front door!” adds the owner. “The kitchen and living areas had to feel connected, but we still needed break-away spaces. And the house had to be geared for easy entertaining, with doors that open right up, connecting indoors and out.”

In an inspired example of architectural recycling, Luke and Mikayla retained the central core, with the open-plan living areas along the northern side and three bedrooms and service areas on a split level along the southern side. They then tweaked the floor plan to include a mud room beside the entry in place of an office. “It’s the mother of all mud rooms, with lots of generous shelves. The family can just dump stuff in there — and sand stays there, too,” says Mikayla.

Luke also expanded the house at each side, converting the garage beside the entry into a self-contained guest suite and adding a new wing on the opposite end for a parents’ retreat. A separate building houses a cabana beside the pool and garage.



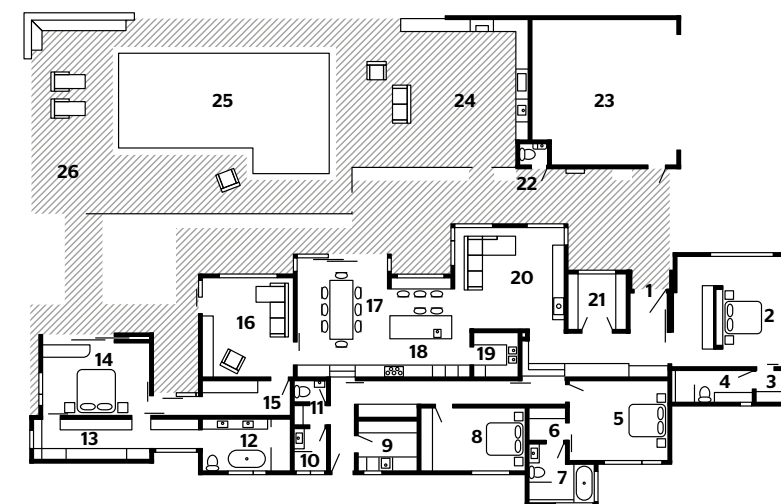
good news

This home is a mammoth piece of recycling, with the entire central core of the house and its brick structure retained. Major eco features are the new double-glazed windows with more adjustable designs (often on opposing walls) to ensure better cross-ventilation; strategic shading on some windows, coupled with the deeper eaves in the new section; and recladding and replastering the entire home, which gave access to all the wall and ceiling cavities and enabled modern insulation to be retrofitted.

LIVING ROOM (right) More Bowral bricks in St Pauls Cream surround the Cheminées Philippe fire. Raw American-oak timber veneer, stained to match the wooden floorboards. Verde coffee table, Southwood Home. Ceiling fan, Hunter Pacific. **GUEST ROOM** (below) The bedrooms are carpeted in a design called Untouched (Peaceful) by Bremworth. Billow timber veneer, Made By Storey. Leather tabs in Saddle Tan, MadeMeasure. EasyGroove panelling, Easycraft. Linoleum benchtop in Olive, Bench Top City. Chalk White laminate, Laminex. Dita junior stool, Grazia & Co. Wall-hanging by Tayla Bow. **KITCHEN/DINING** (opposite) What was a U-shape has been straightened out to create a smoother flow. Brecciolino splashback, Corsi & Nicolai. Induction cooktop, Miele. Featherston Scape dining chair, Grazia & Co. Otis dining table, Jordan. Oak chairs, Mark Tuckey. Artwork by Ingrid Daniell.



“We wanted a clean, relaxed and uplifting feeling for the interiors, with brave choices but not bling! We love timber, terrazzo, matt black steel and natural stone” HOMEOWNER



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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Entry | 14 Main bedroom |
| 2 Guest bedroom | 15 Library |
| 3 Walk-in wardrobe | 16 Living area |
| 4 Ensuite | 17 Dining area |
| 5 Bedroom | 18 Kitchen |
| 6 Walk-in wardrobe | 19 Pantry |
| 7 Ensuite | 20 Lounge room |
| 8 Bedroom | 21 Mud room |
| 9 Laundry | 22 Powder room |
| 10 Bathroom | 23 Garage |
| 11 Powder room | 24 Alfresco |
| 12 Main ensuite | 25 Pool |
| 13 Main walk-in wardrobe | 26 Raised deck |



WALK-IN WARDROBE (above) A mix of materials used elsewhere in the house was specified for this space. Dita junior stool, Grazia & Co. Kristina Dam Studio rotating mirror, Designstuff. **MAIN BEDROOM** (right and bottom right) Calming the room is Venetian plaster render in Dulux Vivid White. American oak veneer, painted in Haymes Grey Impression. Plinth in polished concrete, cast in situ. Earth wall light, Anchor Ceramics. Finley bed, Jordan. Linen, Society Of Wanderers. Leo bedside, Grazia & Co. Curtains, Champion Blinds. **MAIN ENSUITE** (below and opposite, bottom left) The benchtop is Brecciolino marble from Corsi & Nicolai. Inax "Yohen Border" tiles, Artedomus. Evenex laminate in Aspen Elm, Elton Group. Wall light, Snelling Studio. **MUD ROOM** (opposite, top left) Black windows and finishes complement the charred-timber cladding. Ottoman, Southwood Home. **STUDY NOOK** (opposite, top right) Fabric on the pinboard from Mitchell Group helps to muffle sound. Catifa 46 chair, Stylecraft. **OUTDOOR POWDER ROOM** (opposite, bottom right) Mirroring the shape of the window is a Yokato wall set and bottle trap from Brodware. Basin, Concrete Nation. Hand towel, Jordan.



“While many people expected us to render or paint over the original brickwork, we felt confident that it would work well with the black shou sugi ban timber cladding” HOMEOWNER

The home’s original assets, such as the open-plan layout, floor-to-ceiling glazing, clerestory windows and cross-ventilation, were used to the full, with none of the openings needing to be enlarged, although they were replaced with black powdercoated aluminium. “The new windows have high-performing double-glazing, a significant improvement over the original thin glazing,” says Luke.

Meanwhile, the design duo moved the kitchen from the northern wall and flipped it so the space embraces an island and an informal dining area, both of which look out to the gum trees. “The kitchen floats between two nib walls, with two original beams darkened to match the new joinery,” says Mikayla. “The materiality in the kitchen provides a focal point – we needed it to have a bit of spunk.” Hence the green finger tiles, Dekton benchtop, dark veneer on the joinery and the original beamed ceiling soaring overhead.

Materiality was key to the makeover, says Mikayla. Externally, the new sections are clad in shou sugi ban charred timbers that freshen the untouched clinker bricks in the central section. Inside, tatty carpets were replaced with bare timbers and limestone. Timber veneer, limestone and the kitchen tiles are nods to the past, but their hues are of the minute. “We agonised about whether to paint over that incredible timber ceiling, but it needed to be lightened up because the honey timbers wouldn’t cut it for the fresh new look,” says Mikayla. “The earthy palette, with white and black accents, is crisper and more up to date than the muddy browns of the past. And the accent green tile brings in the ocean, just 500 metres away.” Strikingly, a brick-tile foyer, reprised in the fireplace with its handsome cast-iron firebox, echoes the original exterior. In the bathrooms, terrazzo is “a throwback to the original era”, she says. “It has a timeless quirk to it, teamed with aged brass tapware and wall sconces.”

The furniture, too, is a nod to the property’s original era. “There’s a 1970s vibe going on with the sofa and bar stools – fun pieces that bring in warm rusty reds teamed with natural leather,” says Mikayla, who is hard-pressed to find a favourite feature in a home full of nice surprises. “I love the entry with the brickwork and brick tiles, and the ceiling and the natural light. There is a sense of fascination, a story being told in the way the materials are revealed and repeated.”

“We just love the variety of the materials and textures,” adds the owner, summing up the family’s admiration of the new home that deftly straddles the decades. **10**

Heartly is at heartly.com.au and [@heartlydesignstudio](https://www.instagram.com/heartlydesignstudio). Project Now is at projectnow.net.au and [@projectnow_vic](https://www.instagram.com/projectnow_vic)



OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING The undercover barbecue area has all the bells and whistles. Walls painted in a custom Dulux black colour. Joinery in Aries Natural laminate, Laminex. Schmick ‘Twin Zone Alfresco’ wine fridge, Bar Fridges Australia. Signature 2000 four-burner barbecue, BeefEater. Cushions, Southwood Home. Towel, Bambury.

LESSONS LEARNT

“Don’t be blindsided by obstacles”

HOMEOWNER

“When challenges arose, we learnt to be open-minded and agile in our thought processes and decision making – which sometimes led to a better outcome.”

GREAT FINDS



1 Big Blue limited-edition **art print** by Nadia Düsselberg, from \$640, Art To Art. **2** Kristina Dam Studio **rotating mirror** in Black, \$1299.90, Designstuff. **3** Marlo three-seater **sofa** in Rosewood/Bowie and Ghost/Oak Base, \$7879, Jordan. **4** *Basking On Hot Granite Rocks* acrylic-polymer-on-canvas **original artwork** by Ingrid Daniell, \$8800, Curatorial+Co. **5** Compact O2 **wall light**, \$710, Snelling Studio. **6** Verde **coffee table** in Brown, \$2899, Southwood Home. **7** Alfred terracotta **vessel**, \$89, McMullin & co. **8** Yokato pull-out **kitchen mixer**, POA, Brodware. **9** Rocky made-to-order **rug** in Birch, from \$6000, Jordan. **10** Lucia VX12 1400mm **freestanding bath**, \$3699, Kaskade. **11** Breciolino honed natural **stone surface**, POA, Corsi & Nicolai. **12** Inax 'Yohen' border **tiles** in YB14G, POA, Artedomus. **13** Turmeric Stripe **duvet cover**, \$339 for queen, Society Of Wanderers. **14** Ships May double-sided **quilt** in Fog, \$499 for king, Society Of Wanderers. **15** J'ai Soif **carafe with glass** in Teal, \$89, Maison Balzac. **16** Bowral Bricks 'Bowral76' **bricks** in St Pauls Cream, \$2398 per 1000, Brickworks. **17** Oak **dining chair** in Dark Wenge, \$510, Mark Tuckey. **18** Miele 'H 7260 BP Pureline' 600mm **pyrolytic oven**, \$3949, Harvey Norman.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: KATE LINCOLN



POOL AREA Wyndam limestone pavers from Eco Outdoor were used inside the home and around the pool. Polished-concrete plinth, cast in situ. Palissade lounge chair and sofa in Olive, both from Hay. Burleigh day beds, Eco Outdoor. Pepper timber side table, Jordan.