

worth THE WAIT

THIS BEAUTIFULLY REIMAGINED HOME IN BAYSIDE MELBOURNE IS THE REALISATION OF A LONG-HELD DREAM

STORY JACKIE BRYGEL STYLING BECK SIMON PHOTOGRAPHY DEREK SWALWELL



SUMMER SPLENDOUR Set across the road from the beach, the home of building designer Tina, her husband Lee, and Tina's children Monique (pictured below) and Mason is a year-round drawcard for their family and friends. "We entertain a lot," explains Lee. "I have three daughters and little grandchildren, and they love to come over as well." During the warmer months, the sun-kissed pool zone is the place to lounge and linger (opposite), with meals taken at a cantilevered dining bench topped with Caesarstone in Rugged Concrete and paired with Globe West 'Olivia' bar stools (below). The stunning outdoor kitchen has Stone Italiana 'Rocface' benches in Super White and panelled 2-pac joinery in Dulux Vivid White, but the real design star of the show is the wall of Austral Masonry 'Diamond Breeze' masonry blocks. "The bricks help block the wind while still allowing light through, and I think they suit the style of the house," says Tina. >





ENTRY
Designed by Tina, the front door made by Touchwood Windows and Doors in European Oak stained in Resene Sheer Black works in perfect harmony with the oversized handle from Auburn Woodturning.

Time and time again, a 14-year-old Tina would find herself walking past one of the most distinctive homes in the neighbourhood, imagining the world of inspired surprises that surely lay beyond its front door. Perched on the southernmost tip of one of Melbourne's prettiest waterfront precincts, the multi-level concrete property with its sharp angles and curved glass walls left an indelible impression on the young high school student. "I grew up a few streets away, so I used to come down and sketch the home," recalls Tina. "It just seemed so different to all other homes in the area."

As the decades came and went, Tina became a renowned building designer who continued to call the suburb home. Yet, she was never able to stop thinking about the area's iconic abode – built in the early 1980s, but well ahead of its time.

Three years ago, the property finally came onto the market. But sadly, it wasn't to be for Tina and her husband Lee. "We did try to buy it at the auction, but ended up being the underbidders on the day," says Lee. "It was just out of our reach."

"That was the first time I saw the home internally; it was quite different to how I'd imagined it," adds Tina. "There was a sunken lounge on the ground level and tiled floors upstairs, but there was so much I loved about it. It's such a solid house." >

KITCHEN Lining the splashback of the kitchen (below left), textured Prima Materia 'Cenere Mosaici' tiles from Disegno Casa contribute an organic feel. A duo of custom-made Qasair rangehoods is complemented by the 'Axis' track light found at Lights & Tracks. Connected to the island, a cantilevered table (below right), surrounded by Billiani 'Doll' chairs, is ideal for casual meals. Fornasetti plates on the wall serve as artwork.

"I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED *right here* – I DON'T NEED TO GO ANYWHERE ELSE" ~ TINA



LIVING ROOM "We love relaxing here," says Tina of the luminous upstairs living area with its soaring ceilings and double-height void, here enjoyed by daughter Monique and Bella the cavoodle (below). The Poliform coffee table, adorned by a shapely Elliot Golightly Design ceramic vase, sits atop a blue silk rug from The Rug Collection. Tina had the long-held King Living sofas – layered with cushions covered in Warwick Fabrics' 'Plateau Shadow' and 'Kalahari Blossom' – reconditioned by Motif Furniture Upholstery, using Warwick Fabrics' 'Clover Seafoam'. As practical as they are beautiful, the full-height sheers give the large living zone softness.



WE LOVE... *dreamy drapes*

As practical as they are beautiful, the full-height floaty sheers – custom-made in Silent Gliss 'Colorama 2' fabric – imbue the open-plan core living zone with a cocooning sense of softness, while still providing relief when the temperature rises. "The white drapes work well with the house," says Tina.



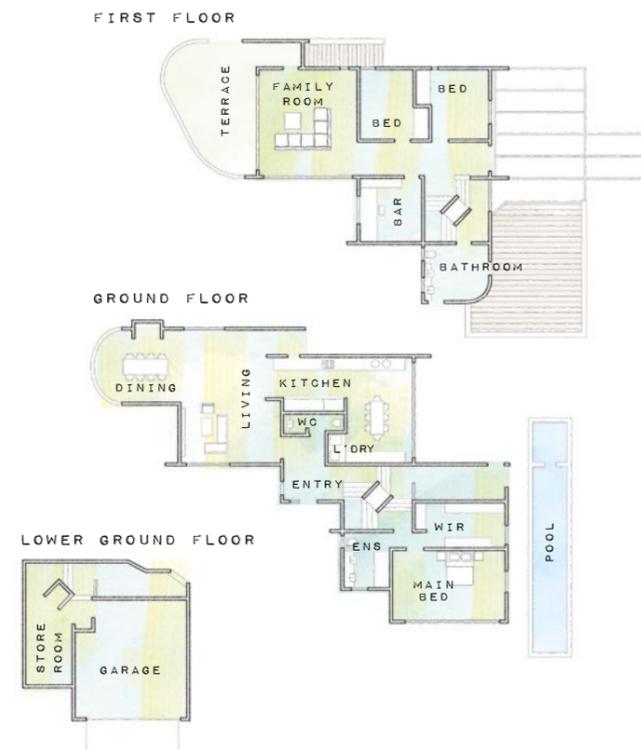
LOUNGE ROOM Tina transformed the upstairs study into a moody lounge complete with a beautiful bar (below). “It’s now an intimate area with a relaxed feel,” she says. A wall of Evenex veneer in Black Caviar from Elton Group creates a chic backdrop for the striking custom-made oak dowel wine rack and an eye-catching pair of ‘Bella’ pendants in Beech from ECC Lighting + Furniture. The Noguchi-inspired coffee table and trio of sculptural easy chairs from Matt Blatt complete the sophisticated scene.

Two years later, the home was once again calling for new owners. Almost on a whim, Tina and Lee decided to attend the auction. This time, fate was on their side. “It was very spontaneous,” says Tina. “We were going for a drive and came to the auction on the way. We didn’t have any plans. But I’m a pretty motivated person and thought, ‘If we don’t do it now, we’ll never get it. We have to make it happen!’” Lee was impressed by her tenacity. “Tina suddenly said, ‘I’m not missing out again’ when we arrived here, so she put in the first bid and knocked everyone out,” he recalls. “It was amazing.”

Finally, Tina could call her dream home their own. Then, it was time to transform it into her ultimate vision of style and functionality. She redesigned the galley-style kitchen, along with the lush alfresco domain, which now features a wall of breeze blocks. On the upper level, what was once a home office is today a beautiful bar and entertaining area. Expansive full-height glazing now lets the sea and sunshine into the home, with views of the stunning natural setting rightfully claiming centrestage in the living zones.

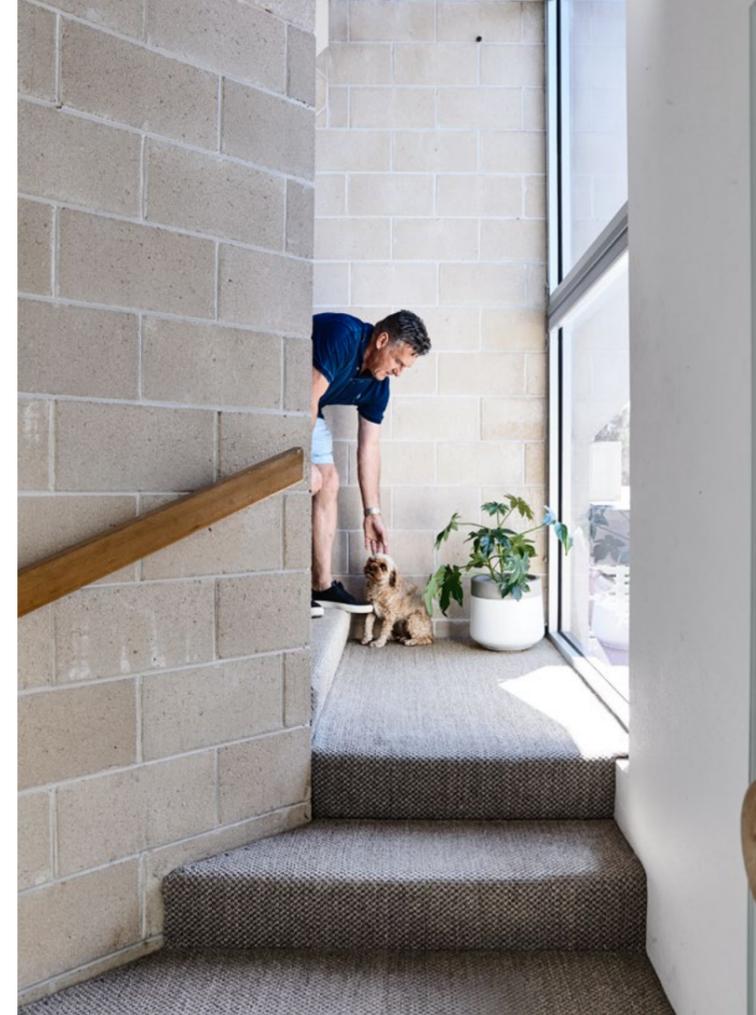
Tina decided to keep key organic materials such as concrete, marble and American oak uniform throughout, with additional warmth, colour and texture delivered through walls of ebony cabinetry, beautiful furnishings and treasured artworks. “This is now the home’s second major transformation,” she says. “I hope we’ve done it justice.” Certainly, she has no regrets. “I always thought I would love to live in this house, and I was right,” she says.

FLOOR PLAN



HALLWAY Sisal carpet from Floorspace provides softness underfoot on the stairs and along the hallway for Lee and Bella the cavoodle (top right), while walls clad in exposed Austral Masonry ‘Standard Grey Blocks’ continue a sense of textural interest throughout.

DOWNSTAIRS LIVING ROOM “This is such a cosy space to chat, with a view to the parkland and bay,” says Tina of the downstairs living room (right). By the window, a ‘Bali’ armchair from Poliform beckons, while statement-making ‘Super Grey’ marble from Signorino Tile Gallery encases the fireplace surround, lending a luxurious feel. >





“IT’S NICE TO
HAVE SOME
colour IN THE
HOME, AS IT *gives*
IT AN IDENTITY”
~ TINA

MAIN BEDROOM Trends come and go, but one shade Tina will forever be partial to is blue. And she’s not afraid to pay homage to the hue, as seen in the main bedroom (above). Walls swathed in Dulux Sharp Blue provide instant immersion in the watery tone, with a metallic pendant light from Papaya and carved timber whitewashed panels (opposite), also from Papaya, providing contrast. The ‘Charlotte Velvet’ chair from The Rug Collection, scatter cushions across the bed and floor cushions (a resting spot for Coco the cavoodle, opposite) upholstered in Warwick Fabrics, keep the palette consistent. The Globe West ‘Industria Uovo’ glass and metal side table displays a sculpture Tina found while travelling in Indonesia.

FAMILY BATHROOM Luxe finishes and an oversized freestanding tub (find similar with the Reece ‘Kado Arc’ freestanding bath) add up to pampering heaven in the family bathroom (top right & right). A feature wall of mosaic white penny round tiles brings an element of interest to the all-white space, as does the patterned bath towel and timber stool from Globe West. >



BALCONY With its jaw-dropping ocean vista, the balcony leading off the second living room never disappoints. “The view changes all the time and throughout the seasons,” says Lee, with Monique and Coco. “Winter is completely different to summer, but it’s always beautiful.” Drenched in minimal sun-bleached style, the zone has been thoughtfully dressed in ‘Breeze’ lounge chairs in White-Grey from WGU Design and a Globe West ‘Marina Cross’ coffee table. The oversized black pot was found at Pots Direct.

CONTACT

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TEXTURAL TREAT

INSIDE STORY
TINA & LEE'S HOME

Who lives here?
Tina, a building designer; her husband Lee, a business manager; Tina's children Mason, 20 and Monique, 15; cavoodles Bella and Coco, plus Mouchi the cat.

What's your best piece of building advice?
Tina: “There is so much choice around, but you don't have to have a lot of different finishes in order to have a modern and beautiful home. And don't be too committed to what's on-trend. Some trends tend to date very quickly.”

As a designer, were you spoilt for choice when renovating your own home?
“Yes, so I had to narrow them down to what I felt would be longer lasting in style. This will hopefully be the home we stay in forever.”

Typical Saturday afternoon in the home?
“Music throughout the house and sitting outside enjoying the sunshine.”



ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

1. Whitewashed timber wall panels from Papaya.
2. Tina, Lee and Monique with Coco the cavoodle.
3. Austral Masonry 'Diamond Breeze' masonry blocks.
4. Custom-length oak kitchen handles by Auburn Woodturning.
5. A metallic pendant light from Papaya in the main bedroom.
6. Prima Materia 'Cenere Mosaici' tiles from Disegno Casa line the kitchen splashback.
7. Blue silk floorcovering from The Rug Collection.

