

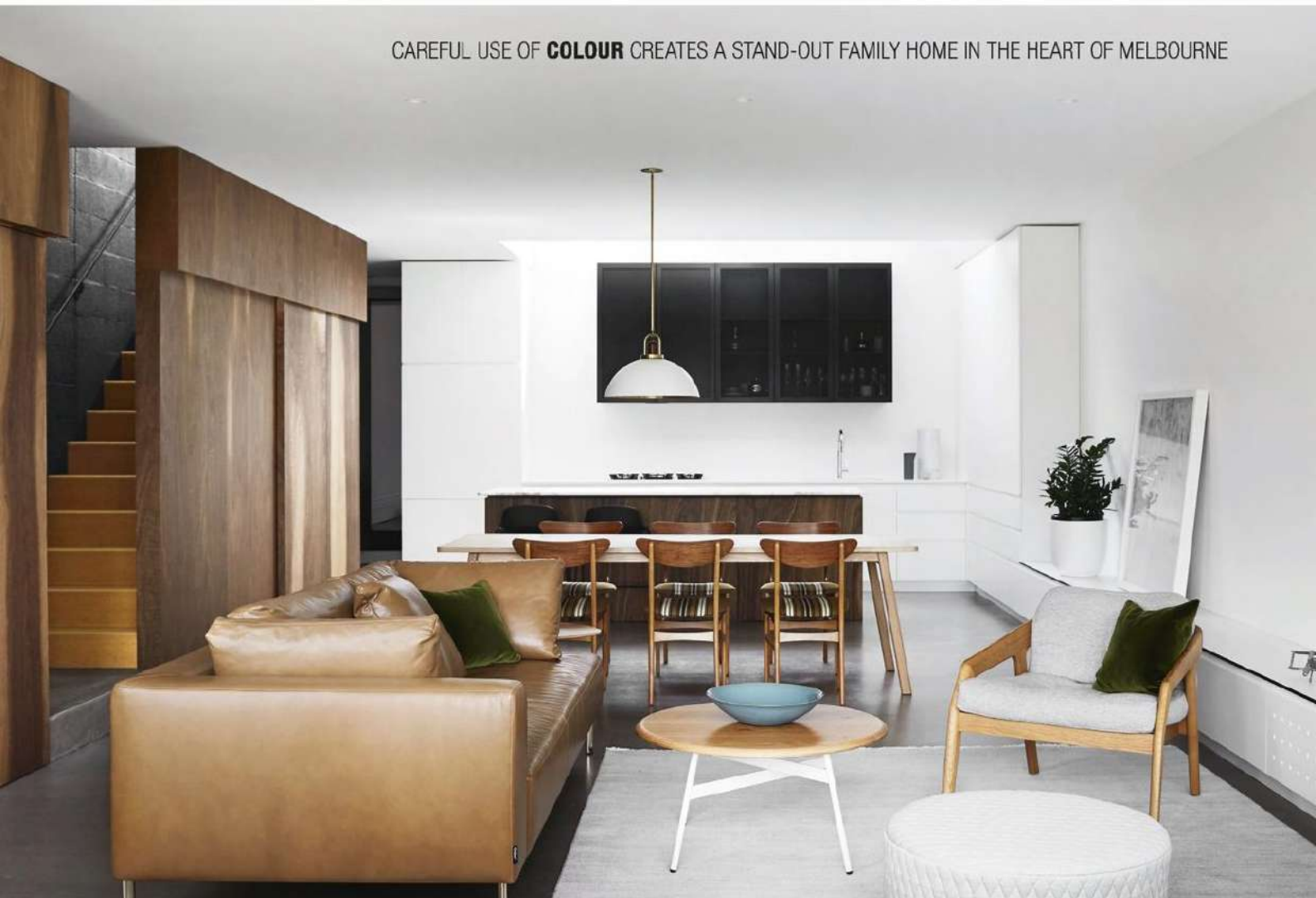


PERFORATED STEEL  
STAIRS ALLOW LIGHT TO  
FLOOD DOWN THROUGH  
THE LOWER LEVELS

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## S P O T

CAREFUL USE OF **COLOUR** CREATES A STAND-OUT FAMILY HOME IN THE HEART OF MELBOURNE



**Natural tones** The dining table was custom-designed between the architects and Tescher Forge, while the "Arc" pendant is from Allied Maker.

**Hello, yellow** The staircase is painted in Dulux "Softsun" while the landing and lower staircase is lined with Tretford cord carpet in "Jonquille". The black blockwork is painted in Dulux "Domino". →

## C O L O U R



**Smart space** Glass and mirror create a sense of space in the small bathroom. The Reece freestanding bath adds a touch of luxury. **Dark side** Lining board painted in Dulux "Domino" creates a moody backdrop in the master bedroom. **White space** Clerestory windows in a double-void height fill the kitchen with light. Perforated sheet metal from the Locker Group was used for the overhead cabinet doors while white Penny Round tiles from Perini add texture to the splashback. **Great divide** A 10mm black steel frame creates contrast between the old and new spaces. **Red hot** A vibrant vintage art poster from The Galerie in Fitzroy adds a playful touch to the original part of the house (opposite). The Hektar floor lamp is from Ikea. →

HEIDI AND HEATH VALKENBURG didn't want to give up their inner-city Melbourne home when they started a family. Their 1910 Victorian cottage was convenient for work and close to great restaurants and cafes. Instead of moving, they decided to adapt the heritage home to their changing needs. Finding more space was the top priority, and they wanted to connect the garden to the house and create more entertaining spaces. To make this happen, they handed over to an up-and-coming architecture and interior design firm.

**ON THE AGENDA** "Taylor Knights made the process very easy," Heidi says. "We really trusted them and let them have free reign over the design process, with us making minor tweaks as needed." The couple knew they wanted concrete floors, marble, timber and steel as part of the design, and to retain the home's original period features at the front of the house. At the back, they wanted a modern, minimalist renovation. The final consideration was a third-level roof deck to capitalise on city skyline views.

**LET THERE BE LIGHT** The architects retained and restored the front three rooms and created a steel portal as a threshold between the old and new spaces. They also designed a double-height void with northern windows, and eastern skylights to provide a light-filled space that provides ventilation, sky views and extra light into the rooms on the first floor. Pops of colour were introduced throughout the home, most notably in the stairwell. "The intention was to have colour and light washing down from the void above," architect Peter Knights explains.

**JOB DONE** McKerlie Builders completed the renovation in July 2016 after a year-long build. "Joel was a sensational builder. His attention to detail was second-to-none," Heidi says. "The builder sometimes gets overlooked once the house is finished; Joel executed the design perfectly and we would happily work with him again." The result of that year is a four-bedroom, two-bath house with a kitchen and living area, separate lounge room, a rooftop terrace with city views and a reasonably sized backyard. "We now have a house big enough for our family, and space to entertain while still being close to the city and work," Heidi says. 🏠



**WHO LIVES HERE?**

HEIDI AND HEATH  
VALKENBURG, WHO BOTH  
WORK IN FINANCE, AND  
THEIR CHILDREN EVIE,  
FOUR, AND HUGO, TWO.

**Blue note** Buster + Punch lighting hangs above a Jarden Nook sofa. The Miniforms Colony Armchair is from Cafe Culture + Insitu while the Emi pod side table is from Anaca studio. The rug is Armadillo & Co and the photograph of Mick Jagger is by Andrew Nathanson, bought at the Morrison Hotel Gallery, New York.



## LIGHTEN UP

Heidi and Heath have maximised natural light in their home by using clever design features, such as the clerestory windows above the kitchen, the large windows in the stairwell and skylights on the top floor. As well as being good for your mood, lots of natural light will also cut down on the amount of electricity you use. Here are a few ways you can lighten up your own home.

**Paint tricks** One of the simplest ways to lighten up a dark room is to use light colours on the walls. White will reflect natural light the best, but if you love a bit of colour, go for light shades of blue, green or neutrals.

**Mirrors** Place mirrors opposite windows to reflect the light. This also makes small rooms feel larger too.

**Glass** Front doors with glass panels will let light filter through, in fact, the use of glass in general will make spaces feel lighter and larger. Glass also reflects light.

**Windows & skylights** For a more permanent change, you could install or swap out windows for larger ones. Clerestory windows (top of the wall), like the ones in Heidi and Heath's kitchen, will allow extra light into dark rooms without getting in the way. A skylight is a clever way to add light if extra windows aren't an option. →

**Quiet space** Limited edition illustrated book prints from *The Birds of Australia* by John Gould sit on custom cabinetry painted in two-pack Dulux "Vivid White". The mushrooms were from Fat on Melbourne's Chapel Street.





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**Timber textures** Big River spotted gum floor-to-ceiling cabinetry creates smart storage in the new living room. A glimpse of colour from the carpet in the stairwell helps to differentiate the rear renovation from the traditional cottage at the front of the house. **Modern living** The Brydie sofa from Cafe Culture + Insitu and a walnut side table from Anaca Studio add simple sophisticated style to the living room. The burnished concrete flooring and different grainy timbers in rich tones create a striking juxtaposition of materials in the open-plan kitchen and living area.

**SHOP IT/** A SOPHISTICATED PALETTE MAKES FOR UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE



**1** Emi **pod** in Black Japan, \$2420, Anaca Studio. **2** Caravaggio **wall light** in Matt White, \$430, Cult. **3** Carl Hansen + Son "CH33" **dining chair**, \$1100, Cult. **4** Hooked 6.0 **chandelier** in Nude/Brass, \$1495, Living Edge. **5** Casa Uno "Clarita" **ottoman**, \$559, Zanui. **6** Broadway **cushion** in Ivy, \$39.95, Freedom. **7** Cotton Lustre **cushion** in Regal Blue, \$54, West Elm. **8** Hektar **floor lamp**, \$79, Ikea. **9** Zanzibar Gem **plant**, \$45, in Watercolour **pot**, \$49, Domus Botanica. **10** Axel **sofa** in Leather Saddle (2.26m x 91.5cm x 88cm), \$3499, West Elm. **11** Carmine **rug** (2m x 3m), \$699, Freedom. **12** HAY High Oak **stool** in Black, \$328, Amara. **13** Jakk **bath sheet** in Charcoal, \$64.95, Country Road. **14** Muji "New York in A Bag" **ornament**, about \$33, MoMA Store.



**Colours and finishes**

FROM LEFT **Floor coating** in 10/3.1, from \$200 a sq m, Pandomo. Dulux Wash&Wear **paint** in Softsun, \$85.90 for 4L. Engineered Australian Spotted Gum **wood panels** (2.4m x 1.2m x 15mm), \$90 a sq m, Big River Group. Calacatta **Marble**, \$800 to \$1600 a sq m, CDK Stone. For stockists, see page 176.