

enki

FOR
MODERN
LIVING

THE HOME OF DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE

SUSTAINABLE
LIVING

finding tranquility



TIME
TRAVEL

A respect for both the past and the present
has established a new identity for this
Federation home in Malvern, Australia

Photography Shannon McGrath





"THE NEW ADDITION NEEDED TO CREATE A
CONSTANT FUSION BETWEEN OLD AND NEW"

In the 1980s the dwelling underwent a similar renovation process with the addition of a two-storey rear extension. Whilst most of the original home has been retained, this extension has been completely replaced with the aim of developing "a synergy between the spaces and how they function," says Berryman



A prevailing desire to maintain the distinctive heritage features of period properties has given rise to a new generation of contemporary extensions that are bolstered onto the back of older homes – as the original bones of these buildings are left relatively untouched. There's no denying this contrast certainly thrusts history into the spotlight, yet quite often it also leaves a plan lacking cohesion and fluidity. Never one to stick with the status quo, studiofour instead opted for a synergetic approach for the restoration of a Federation property in Malvern, Australia. With a craftsmanlike finesse, the firm has intricately woven the old with new as the existing language of the build has been translated within the rear extension. Simple in its form, yet dramatic in its appeal, the jet-black, zinc-clad addition nods to the traditional Australian farmhouse vernacular while welcoming natural light deep into the home through its glazed openings. Lying beyond the sliding doors is an open-plan living area that functions simultaneously as a kitchen, living and dining room – creating a space for "social gathering, cooking with freshly gathered produce and event hosting," co-director Annabelle Berryman enthuses. To the naked eye, the interior appears arguably minimalist in its aesthetic treatment, but further examination unveils a series of sensitively-designed moments that take cues from the original build – including the rectangular kitchen tiles which converse with the tessellated tiles of the front verandah. Choosing to take the path less travelled may be wildly unpredictable, not to mention unnerving, yet as studiofour continue to demonstrate, it is always worth exploring.



"ITS VALUE ALSO LIES IN THE
SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION
OF A HERITAGE BUILDING"

Carving out the core of the extension volume has created a handy sheltered outdoor area while also restricting upper level views - preventing sight-lines into the neighbouring gardens



Aligning with the pared-back appeal of the interior, the minimalistic kitchen showcases an island in-front of a "linear service zone". When necessary, sliding doors can be used to shut off the domestic passage which comprises laundry storage, a butlers pantry, integrated fridges and a mud room

"THIS AREA OF THE HOUSE HAS
BECOME THE HEART OF THE HOME"





"THIS RENOVATION HAS PROVIDED OUR CLIENT WITH A HOME THAT SUPPORTS HEALTHY LIVING"

HOME PROFILE

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
studiofour have sensitively removed and replaced the rear extension of this Federation home. The once disconnected floorplan is now open and airy thanks to the addition of a zinc-clad volume with glazed elements. From the street, this jet-black extension is largely undetected as the original heritage volumes have been retained. While these rooms may look no different from the outside, internal walls have been removed to open up the spaces and create a better flow throughout the abode. The master bedroom and en-suite is uniquely placed at the front of the residence while three additional bedrooms sit upstairs. The new heart of the home combines an open kitchen with a casual dining and sitting room. Clever planning has created a separate space behind the island and cooker for storage and service functions. Adjacent to this is an eight metre long elevated produce garden where the owners can grow and gather their own food.

LOCATION
The suburb of Malvern, Australia

PROJECT SIZE
291 sq. m



"THE DESIGN BLEEDS BOTH BUILDING FABRICS SO ALL SPACES ARE FLUID, PERMEABLE AND HIGHLY CONNECTIVE"

"OUR CLIENT'S
WELLBEING HAS BEEN
OPTIMISED BY THE HOME
AND ITS CONNECTION
WITH THE LANDSCAPE"





MEET THE DESIGNER

studiofour

Adopting a holistic approach to design is this Australian firm headed up by Annabelle Berryman and Sarah Henry

Why choose a pitched form?

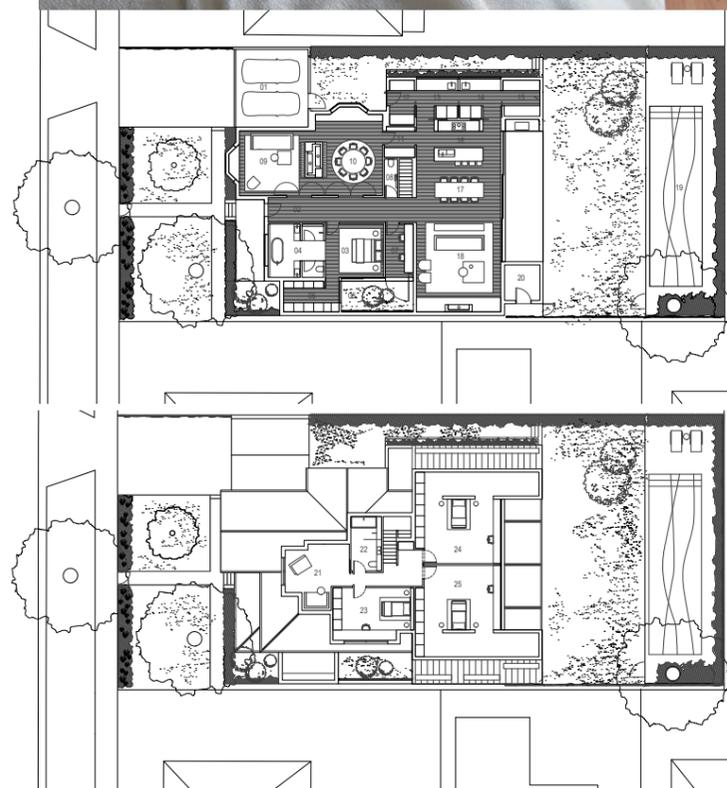
SH Our clients had a strong connection with regional Australia and a longstanding history on working farms, so it was felt that the purity of a pitched form would speak truly of them and evoke a level of nostalgia and familiarity. Additionally, in order to maintain high ceilings that could flow from the front of the residence to the rear, a pure pitched volume was a clear strategy. It provided greater amenity for the residents and increased lighting levels in the upstairs bedrooms whilst meeting overlooking regulations without the need for frosted glass or screening.

How does old and new interact here?

AB Both existing and new areas of the house benefit from a sense of connection; through colour, texture and material choice. These details extend to the selection of artwork – pieces with black edging adjacent the black stained glass, concrete bagged finish and existing brickwork and bath linen with grey stitching sitting against the patterned floor tiles highlighted with grey grout.

How has the extension and renovation improved the life of the owners?

AB With strategic re-planning and the interconnection of a new two-storey addition, the functions of the house have been extended and rejuvenated. The renovation has given a clear purpose for each and every space and can now keep up with the ever-changing demands of a family. Interaction with both the indoor and outdoor spaces has increased, as has opportunity to entertain and gather with friends and family. In turn this will lead to greater family unity.



PROJECT NOTES

ARCHITECT & DESIGNER
studiofour

STYLING
studiofour

LANDSCAPE
studiofour

BUILDER
Richard Hollingsworth