

# design anthology

INTERIORS / ART / ARCHITECTURE / TRAVEL



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HOME / MELBOURNE

# Where Life Happens



There are several reasons designer Hamish Guthrie chose to make his family home in East Melbourne's Jolimont, named for the residence of Victoria's first governor. 'I love this neighbourhood because it's a stone's throw from the CBD and is surrounded by some of the city's best gardens and parks,' says Guthrie, co-founder of design practice Hecker Guthrie. 'And being close to the studio is a big plus.'

When Guthrie and his two young daughters (and recently adopted dog Elka) found the 19th-century Victorian terrace house, it took them somewhat by surprise. 'At the time, we were renting in an adjacent street,' he recalls. 'We serendipitously stumbled upon the house when we were out walking one day. To say there was some work to be done would be an understatement.' Guthrie, however, seized the opportunity to bring his design skills to a personal project in an area he already loved. 'There's something about a Victorian house I've always been drawn to,' he says.

Guthrie led a light and sensitive renovation of the single-fronted two-storey home, aiming to preserve its historic character while subtly integrating new elements. 'We extended the rear across both levels and pushed out to the boundary along the side, to increase the floor area just enough to make some of the critical spaces functional,' he says. 'It was important that any work I did to the house felt appropriate. I wanted any new materials to add a slightly

more contemporary context, but be neutral and minimal enough that they didn't compete with the incumbent architectural language.'

Off the street is a walled courtyard, and the home's entrance leads to a series of formal rooms that have been opened up. The two internal levels are spread over 185 square metres; the ground floor, dedicated to public spaces, houses the kitchen, dining and study space connected to a modest decked courtyard, while on the upper level are the master bedroom and ensuite, two additional bedrooms, a bathroom and a laundry. 'I like its intimacy and charm, the fluidity of the interiors and the fact that the house can change over time with minimal intervention,' says the designer. 'I know I can mix up the furniture and artwork to reimagine any of these spaces and it will all work.'

Throughout the home, a neutral white backdrop accentuates an eclectic mix of materials and textures in the form of furniture, art and objects. The contrast reflects different aspects of Guthrie's personality, and creates moments of curiosity and discovery. Functioning simultaneously as a kitchen island and a work and craft area, the Philipp Mainzer-designed BIGFOOT table is where the family spends most of its time. 'It wears the marks of our lives — scratches, burns, glitter stains — which I like,' Guthrie notes. 'I think it's the ultimate indulgence to be able to design and build your own space to reflect who you are and how you live.'

#### Text

Karine Monié

#### Images

Shannon McGrath

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A bright blue door leads into the Victorian-era terrace of architect and designer Hamish Guthrie, who took its renovation as an opportunity to sensitively and skillfully combine the building's history with contemporary design

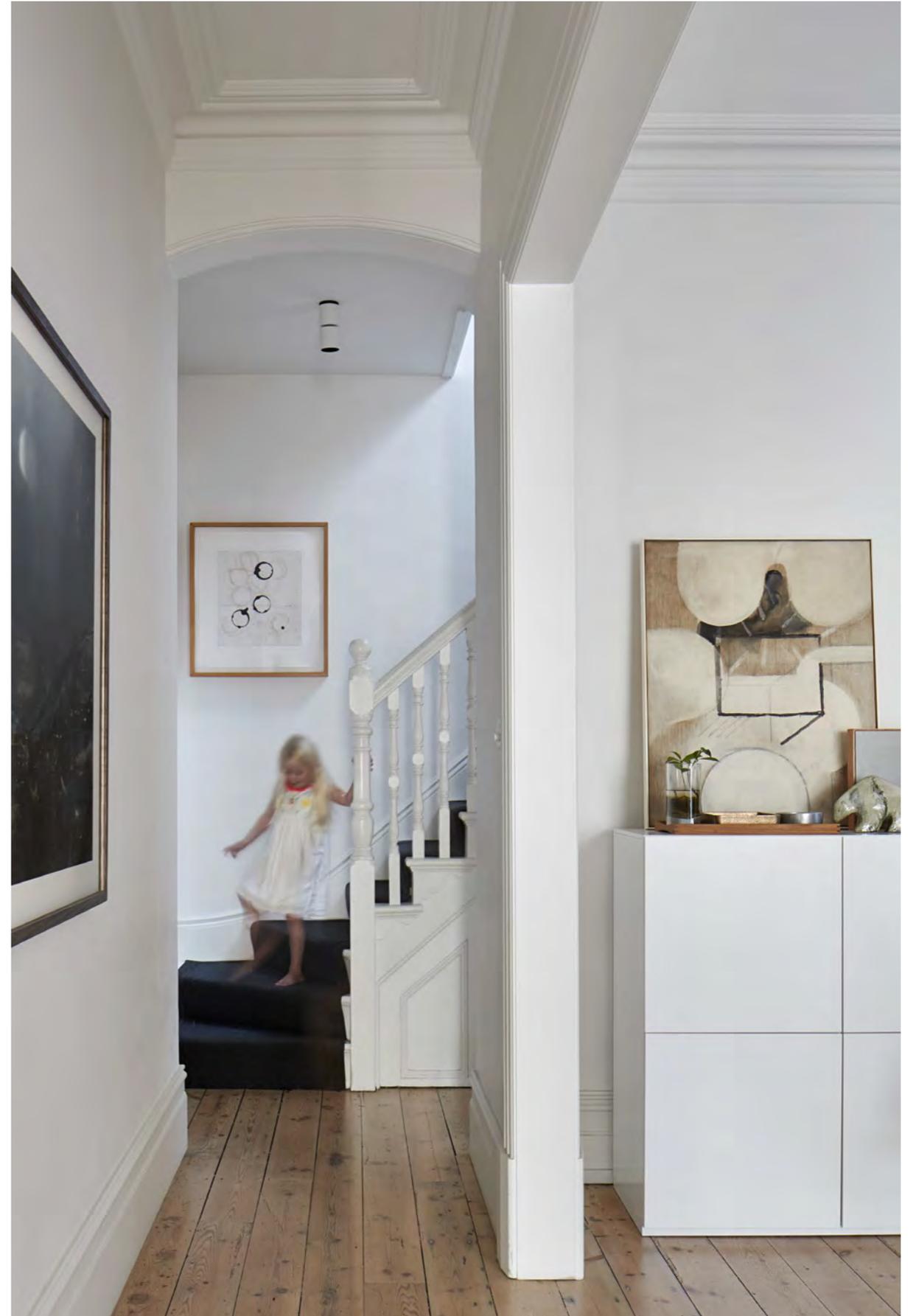
#### This page

In the light-filled living room, pendant lights by Workstead and a Pylon chair by Tom Dixon for Cappellini add industrial touches to the otherwise soft space, with a Piero Lissoni-designed Extrasoft modular sofa and wooden Pon side tables by Jasper Morrison for Fredericia setting a neutral tone





An original fireplace takes pride of place in the reception room, topped with lively art and sculptures by the likes of Jeff Koons and Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec

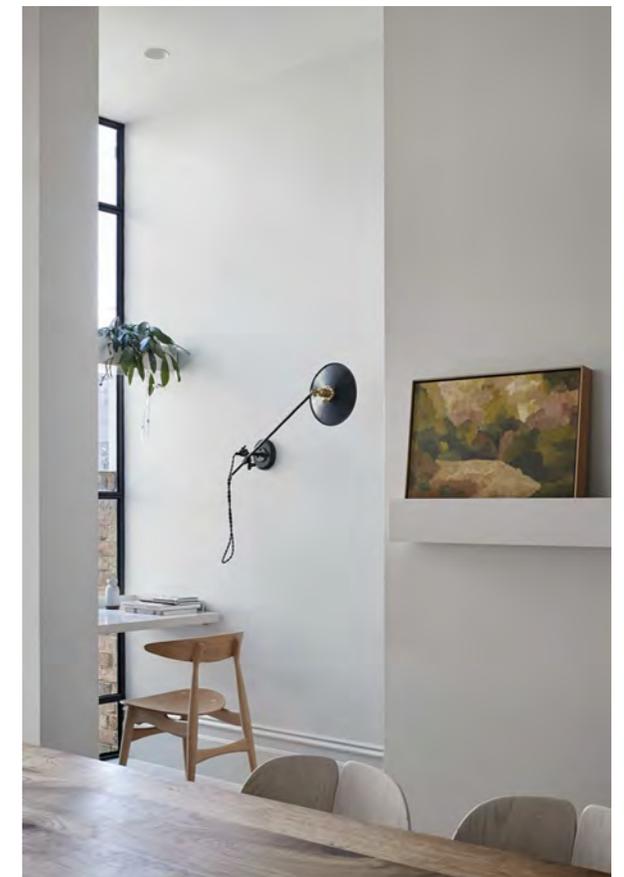


Previous page and this page  
In designing a home for himself  
and his two young daughters,  
Guthrie needed to artfully balance  
the functional with the decorative.  
In the hallway (previous page),  
the latter comes in the form of a  
photograph by artist Sam Shmith  
and a work titled *Spillage III* by  
David Band. In the reception  
room (this page), functional design  
pieces include the Konstantin  
Grcic-designed Clerici bench from  
Mattiuzzi, Book&Look storage by  
Pagnon & Pelhaître and shelving  
by Pierre Paulin, both for Ligne  
Roset. Art and books add colour  
and further visual interest





The family spends most of its time around the solid wood e15 bigfoot table, making the kitchen and dining area the heart of the home. The Osso dining chairs by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec and nodular pendant light by Atelier Areti are organic yet playful elements that complement the wood, terracotta and foliage. A well-curated trio of artworks complements the warm tones, while the black Workstead wall lamp adds an element of the industrial





This page  
A darker palette imbues a sanctuary-like feeling to the master bedroom, amplified by the cosy volumes of a Pianca bed and soft coverings. A series of ceramic artworks by Lisa Larson sits among books and accessories on bedside shelving by Pierre Paulin, with a Langley side table by David Chipperfield for e15 in the foreground

Facing page, top  
A sculptural clothes rack by Tom Dixon echoes the geometric shadows cast into the bedroom

Facing page, bottom left  
In the minimalist master ensuite, an Agape tray table adds a natural touch, while the vanity mirror by Blu Dot offsets the linearity of the subway-tiled walls

Facing page, bottom right  
Rather than being conventionally hung on the wall, some of the artworks in the master bedroom stand atop a textural Halcyon Lake rug

