

# Best of Both Worlds

**ARCHITECT** — JCB ARCHITECTS

**INTERIOR DESIGN** — HECKER GUTHRIE

**PHOTOGRAPHY** — TREVOR MEIN

THE LIVING ROOM FEATURES KNOLL'S  
PLATNER LOUNGE CHAIR AND SIDE  
TABLE ([studioitalia.com.nz](http://studioitalia.com.nz)) AND FLOS  
LUMINATOR FLOOR LAMP ([eccocanz.com](http://eccocanz.com)).

BERTOIA FULLY UPHOLSTED  
DINING CHAIRS SIT AROUND  
A PLATNER DINING TABLE  
(studioitalia.co.nz)



*Asserting that contrasts can collide for the better, the Fitzroy House provides an organic, warm and welcoming space right in the heart of the city.*

An inner-city dwelling reminiscent of a cosy workers cottage, Fitzroy House boasts the juxtaposition that so many architects attempt, but few achieve so superbly. It was a refurbishment by Hecker Guthrie — in collaboration with JCB Architects — that saw a refusal to let location or space act as restrictions to the home's potential. The resulting single-floored, two-bedroom apartment, designed with a couple or a small family in mind, feels as commodious and as welcoming as any large home.

Floor-to-ceiling windows and doors fill the space with natural light, encouraging a spatial flow that's usually sacrificed when it comes to smaller, inner-city living. Likewise, the melange of warm and earthy materials are more evocative





of a rural residence than a Melbourne CBD space, with the bricked facade giving way to an interior crafted from luxurious stone, marble and timber. The exposed, bluestone walls scattered throughout deliver a rustic ambience, especially when paired alongside the American Oak floorboards, which snake from the entranceway through to the adjoining bedrooms and beyond.

Rusticness, however, while bringing warmth and cosiness in spaces, can occasionally connote lack of sophistication, and so lashings of fine, contemporary furnishings are employed to project the interior to a more suave and modernistic

place. The Bertoua dining chairs, for example, in upholstered tan leather, add depth to an otherwise earthy theme, while the sculptural tchotchkes, side tables and vases are distinctly present-day. The final touches that pepper the spaces, like the flourishing plant life, provide a soft contrast to the tough, natural materials and the overall masculine ethos.

Trending the line between different aesthetics while throwing all the rules of inner-city living to the curb, Fitzroy House reminds us that you can have the best of both worlds while still remaining an example of exemplary design.

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GET THE LOOK

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**1. J+I Crocetta stool**  
by Kazuyo Komoda  
for Riva 1920  
from Matisse

**2. Uno Goose Neck  
Kitchen Mixer in gun metal**  
by Elementi  
from Robertson

**3. Lou table**  
by Christophe Delcourt  
for Minetti  
from ECC

**4. Snoopy table lamp**  
by Achille & Pier Giacomo Castiglioni  
for Flos  
from ECC

**5. Platner lounge chair**  
by Warren Platner  
for Knoll  
from Studio Italia

**6. Apero coffee table**  
by Charles Wilson  
from King Living

