This page In the entryway, the floors have been laid in tumbled Carrara and Bardiglio tiles from Aeria Country Floors in NSW. Stair runner in 'Envy' from Fyber. Animal totem from an estate sale. The walls are painted in Porter's Paints 'Whisk' and the arch baseboard in Porter's Paints 'Popcorn'. The console is draped in a linen tablecloth by Cultiver. The blue vase is from an estate sale and the smaller vase is a vintage flea market find.

DOUBLE TAKE

Words **CARLI PHILIPS** Photography **LILLIE THOMPSON**
Styling **MARSHA GOLEMAC**

Two differing design perspectives mingle cohesively in this dashing Melbourne home.

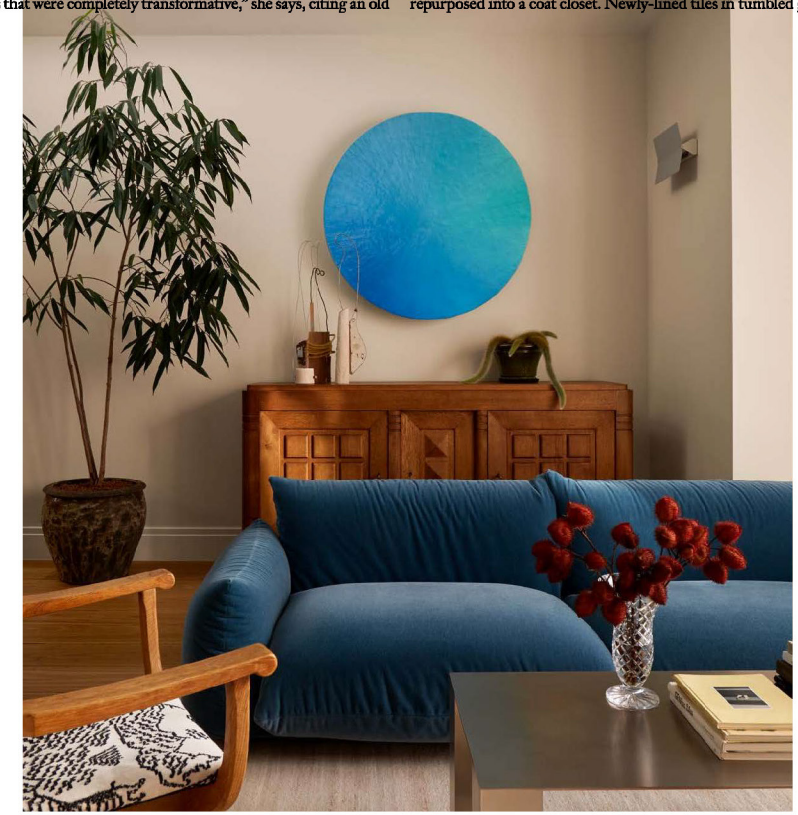
This page The house blends traditionalism with a contemporary aesthetic. In the ground-floor sitting room, light-grey USM modular units from Anibou with blue vase by L'Objet. *Breakfast Bend — Hill End* by Luke Sciberras from Scott Livesey Galleries. 'Camaleonda' sofa by Mario Bellini for B&B Italia. Noguchi 'Akari' floor lamp from In Good Company. Oditti 'Rolling Stones' coffee table with a Murano glass ashtray, a silver catch-all bowl by Edition Office and a vintage blue plate, gifted to them by Tali, who also bought the inexpensive armchair and re-covered it in 'Squiggle' fabric by Colefax and Fowler. Brahman Perera custom pendant light. 'Malawi' rug in Blush by Armadillo. Walls painted in Porter's Paints 'Safari'. Curtains installed by Lovelight.

"It was already really good, we just made it cooler," explains interior designer Tali Roth, who infused this period home in Melbourne with the dash of extra edge it craved. Her clients, a couple in their 30s, have a self-confessed love of heritage architecture, and this 130-year old house reflected their respect and appreciation for provenance.

The trio reluctantly but realistically accepted that Covid and Christmas would delay construction massively, but they went ahead and ordered furniture anyway. Good fortune had it that the huge international lead times ultimately met up with the build timeline completion. In the meantime, it also made for a slow yet rewarding hunter and gatherer-style process. "We were actively looking for furniture, but weren't in a major rush," says Tali. "We had the luxury of time to really search for good vintage and the interiors are also testament to the power of great re-upholstery – we bought a number of nondescript pieces and wrapped them in fabulous new textiles that were completely transformative," she says, citing an old tub chair recovered in a rich blue linen with a pictorial borrowed from the 17th century. Her clients, says Tali, were the ultimate superstar collaborators. "They work in corporate jobs but love collecting furniture and understand good design. This project was a real creative outlet for them. They have major style."

From the outset, it was obvious that the couple had different aesthetics: one leaned towards modernist influences, the other to a more English-farmhouse look. It was a dichotomy that Tali embraced wholeheartedly. In the rose-pink library a cheerful Giancarlo Valle 'Smile' chair mingles with a sombre 18th-century French verdure tapestry, while in the sitting room a pale grey modular USM 'Haller' unit talks to an inexpensive skirted armchair jazzed up in a decorative, puzzle-pattern fabric.

The first room at the entry was once a bedroom, walk-in-robe and ensuite but has been converted into a sitting room, linen closet and re-arranged bathroom. Existing shelves in the corridor were retained and painted, an adjacent floating desk and study nook repurposed into a coat closet. Newly-lined tiles in tumbled grey »



This page At the heart of the living room is an Arflex 'Marenco' sofa sourced second-hand by Tali from Curated Space and re-covered in a blue mohair velvet that picks up on the cerulean Ryan Hoffman artwork from Sophie Gannon Gallery. Henry Kjærnulf 'Curule' chair from Nord Modern reupholstered in Dedar 'Tiger Mountain' fabric from South Pacific Fabrics. Large oak sideboard in the manner of Charles Dudouyt from The Vault Sydney with three sculptures by Matt Bromhead on left. Custom stainless-steel coffee table by Tali Roth with clients' own vase. Interior flora from Florian Wild. Nemo Lighting 'Applique à Volet Pivotant Plié' aluminium wall lamp by Charlotte Perriand from Finnish Design Shop. 'Odessa' rug in Arboria from Armadillo.

This page, clockwise from top left 'Moller 71' chairs from Nord Modern attend a 'Johansen' dining table from Great Dane on which is a vase bought at a Paris flea market. In the living room, designer Tali Roth sits on the Arflex 'Marenco' sofa. She also created the stainless-steel coffee table. In the corner is an 'Alky' armchair by Giancarlo Piretti from CCSS re-covered in Dedar 'A Soft Place' fabric from South Pacific Fabrics. The entire kitchen was gutted and rebuilt with new joinery painted in Porter's Paints 'Whisk' and Arabescato 'Corchia' marble from Apex Stone installed to replace the existing granite. Form & Refine 'Shoemaker' bar stools from Nest. Tapware from The English Tapware Company. Fridge, cooktop and oven, all from Wolf. New cabinet at the front features reeded glass and standard classic knobs from deVOL Kitchens. Galerie MCDE 'Simple Sloping Block' sconce from Rewire. Saucepans and basket, clients' own.

« Bardiglio and Carrara marble on the floor in the hall now extend to the powder room, climbing the walls in a checkerboard pattern.

Overall, the preference was not to be too heavy handed, so the open-plan zone remained unchanged. "The kitchen is small and to make it bigger we would have had to re-do this entire part of the house which would have made it a whole different project," says Tali. Although the layout was retained, it was completely rebuilt with a more sophisticated and traditional look: classic tapware, shaker cabinetry, a reeded glass storage cupboard and Arabescato Corchia marble to replace the old timber veneer joinery. Danish 'Moller 71' chairs ring a mid-century dining table from Great Dane while the refined living area is a cohesive combination of eras: a razor-sharp bespoke steel coffee table, plump Arflex 'Marenco' sofa re-upholstered in mohair velvet and a large circa 1940s French oak sideboard. "It's a small footprint so we didn't want to overpopulate it; we wanted it to feel purposeful, inviting and useable," says Tali.

Upstairs, the principal bedroom and second bedroom share a bathroom (with different access points). Overlooking the backyard is a home office, while a handsome library with a balcony faces the street. Cocooned in Porter's Paints Fresh Wash 'Victoriana' pink, it's a grand reading room outfitted with an antique Palladian bookcase, six-panel Chinese privacy screen, Artemide 'Shogun' floor lamp, and oversized 18th-century French verdure tapestry. "It's very European and timeless – a room fit for a king. But, like the rest of the house, there's also a real clash of styles," says Tali.

For the homeowners, it's completely multipurpose. "It's nice to work there during the day, but also light the fire and relax with a book in the evening. These days it's also become a bit of a project space too – the kidney bean table tends to be covered with Lego as we grapple with building a Land Rover 'Defender'.

"The goal was to create a home that really reflected our personalities; to have a place that would be able to grow with us and make an old terrace a bit more modern but still keep its integrity and soul. Tali challenged us to look at different and unexpected pieces that we would never have chosen ourselves – I think we've achieved that which is great." ■

talirothdesigns.com; stevenswaters.com.au; florianwild.com

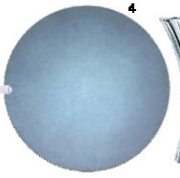
This page In the library, the walls are painted in Porter's Paints French Wash in 'Victoriana'. French 18th-century verdure tapestry likened to Aubusson from The Vault Sydney. Sofa by Maker&Son and Giancarlo Valle 'Smile' armchair flank the Artemide 'Shogun' floor lamp from Pamono. 'Acacia' rug in Fawn from Armadillo. Brutalist wooden coffee table from Modern Times. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** The rear yard with landscaping by Florian Wild. Transitioning from the entry hall to the rear, the floors are laid in tumbled Carrara and Bardiglio tiles from Aeria Country Floors. Existing joinery was re-painted in Dulux 'Linseed'. Small artwork on shelf is a purchase from the clients' travels through India. At the top of the shelving unit is a 'Hanson' wall light by Jim Lawrence. In the centre is a signed Ned Kelly print by Sidney Nolan given to the owners as a gift. The basket in the bottom right was purchased from Leonard Joel. Timber stepladder from Martin Allen Antiques. &Tradition 'Little Petra VB1' armchair from Cult. Kidney bean desk in the corner of the library by Tall Roth made by Lowe Furniture. Vases, clients' own. Mario Milana 'dePostura' dining chairs. Antique Palladian bookcase from Martin Allen Antiques. Six-panel Chinese privacy screen from Leonard Joel. Blush linen curtains with a custom fringe trim made by Lovelight. Basic tub chair from Curated Spaces re-upholstered in Dedar 'Schwarzwald' fabric from South Pacific Fabrics.

This page The master bedroom gives a nod to the mid-century in calm, muted tones. The walls are Venetian plaster in a warm beige with skirting in Dulux 'Knapsack'. Tali designed the bespoke wardrobes and the custom bed, which was produced by Heatherly Design. Feature cushion in Dedar 'Be Bop A Lula' fabric. Jake Arnold for Parachute bouclé throw. Existing floorboards. Custom rug by Tali Roth. 'Ines' striped tabouret from Worn. The white sculpture was made by Tali's grandfather. **Opposite page** In the master ensuite, bath in integrated Calacatta Viola stone from Apex Stone. Venetian plaster walls. The basin is a travertine curved stone custom sink from Apex Stone, made by European Marble Centre. Tapware from The English Tapware Company.

SPEED READ

» The owners of this home in Melbourne have a predilection for heritage architecture. » Their brief was for the 19th-century terrace "to be a bit more modern but keep its integrity and soul". » The couple leaned towards different aesthetic preferences, one with a penchant for mid-century style and the other for a classic English-farmhouse look. » Interior designer Tali Roth embraced these differences, proposing an environment that gently mixed both. » The home is filled with imported designer furniture that sits alongside inexpensive vintage pieces that have been re-upholstered. » On the ground floor, a former bedroom, walk-in-robe and ensuite was converted into a sitting room, linen closet and redesigned bathroom. » The footprint at the rear stayed intact but was rebuilt. » Upstairs, the grand library is a multi-use space for reading, working and relaxing.

5 SIGNATURE STYLE KEY PIECES



1 Mario Milana 'daPostura' **dining chair**, $4168, from 1stdibs. **2** Aubusson **tapestry**, $8434, from 1stDibs. **3** Perrin & Rowe 'Ionian' two-hole bench mounted **mixer** in Chrome, $1385, from The English Tapware Company. **4** *The blue in your eyes brings out the blue in me Grampians pinnacle hike, VIC. 2:13pm, 16/09/2022* (2023) **artwork** by Ryan Hoffman, POA, from Sophie Gannon Gallery. **5** Nachtmann 'Saphir' **vase**, $220, from Riedel.