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INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

united nations
INTERNATIONAL STYLE AT HOME

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PLUS >> A SMALL-SPACE SOLUTION FOR INNER-CITY LIVING

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

It's hard to imagine a smoother pairing of existing and new forms. Modern elements, such as the Industria X stools (www.industriax.com.au), only enhance the rough texture of exposed old bluestone walls. →

pure genius

ORGANIC MATERIALS, SOFT PALETTES AND CLEAN FORMS
MAXIMISE SPACE IN THIS TINY MELBOURNE TERRACE

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TIP "There is a certain warmth and feeling of peace given by stone, timber and all things sourced from the earth" Michael, owner



1 A DISTILLED KITCHEN LENDS USABLE SPACE TO THE LIVING AREA

Michael, the bachelor owner of this tiny bluestone terrace, doesn't cook much, and his home is near one of Melbourne's vibrant eat streets. He does entertain, though, so Hamish Guthrie, of interior-design studio Hecker Guthrie (www.heckerguthrie.com), made the kitchen an extension of the living space. The pared-back Elba stone island from Artedomus (www.artedomus.com) acts more like a bar than a prep space. Meanwhile, the sink and cooking areas are unified with a seamless Elba benchtop and splashback. "The kitchen is my favourite area. I'm yet to turn on an appliance, but it's still a natural gathering space," says Michael.

2 THE SMART USE OF SCALE ENHANCES THE SPATIAL PERCEPTION

Instead of the usual large 'sofa, armchair and coffee table' combination, Hamish went for a considered take on the overstated, with highly edited collections of big pieces. The generous Christien Meindertsma 'Urchin' pouf (www.christienmeindertsma.com) adds extra seating to the oversized Diesel 'Cloudscape' lounge chairs for Moroso (www.hubfurniture.com.au). Meanwhile, a Diesel With Foscarini 'Fork' light (www.spacefurniture.com.au) plays with expectations. "In small homes, it's more about the space around objects," says Hamish. "Scale adds the element of surprise without overcomplicating an aesthetic."

3 NEW FLOURISHES PLAY UP AND MODERNISE EXISTING MATERIALS

What the cottage lacked in size, it made up for in original stonework. "When I saw the bluestone hallway on auction day, I knew I could really do something with the space," says Michael. Hamish used the bluestone as the starting point to honour the front of the house throughout the renovation. The poured concrete floor is flecked with bluestone aggregate, and the transition between the prefinished Harper & Sandilands American oak floors in the front and the extension is marked with a strip of honed bluestone. Newly finished, bagged and painted brickwork brings a similar strength and honesty to the extended living space. →



With living space of the essence, Hamish went to great lengths to ensure the outdoors acts as an extension of the living area. Skyrange steel windows (above) add security without hampering the view. The wall was treated with the same bagged and painted brickwork as the living room to unite indoor and outdoor spaces. (Left) Willow Scandinavian furniture, like the Swedese 'Libri' shelf (www.fredishere.com.au), maintains the flowing light and uplifting quality of the living area. (Opposite page, top left) The kitchen bench overlaps with the living room, doubling as a bar for guests.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS



TIP Don't indulge in more rooms than you need. "This home is about generosity of space and light. There are no poky rooms - just good, usable living spaces" Hamish Guthrie

4 LIFTING CABINETS AND FURNITURE OFF THE FLOOR TRICKS THE EYE

Hamish used every available opportunity to lift furniture and fittings off the floor so the eye would travel further and give a sense of extra space. Even the custom-made wall-mounted wardrobes 'hover' above the floor and below the ceiling. "When you can see the full extent of a room, the space reads a little bigger," Hamish explains.

The bathroom follows suit, with a suspended Elba bench instead of a vanity and a narrow mirror balanced on top. In the kitchen, the concept continues, with mirrored panels used for under-cupboard kickboards and above the splashback to visually stretch the available space.

5 ROBUST MATERIALS AND ELEGANT TEXTILES PROVE A GOOD PAIRING

A mix of austere and intimate pieces creates balance in the bedroom. A hardwood Mark Tuckey 'Box' bed (www.marktuckey.com.au) introduces tactile, tangible beauty, while the original bluestone walls maintain the old soul and the large Loom 'Hepsi' rug (www.loomrugs.com.au) rounds off the hard edges. The custom oak veneer wardrobe doors (also used in the kitchen) are routed for an updated take on classic tongue-and-groove and finished with two-pack Dulux Greyhound to tie in with the bluestone walls and floors throughout. Mother of Pearl 'Brionne' handles (www.motherofpearl.com) echo the 19th-century terrace style. ✚

Natural materials blend the old and new parts of the house. The seamless Elba stone slab and splashback in the bathroom (above) links to the kitchen. A Mark Tuckey 'Egg Cup' stool (top) lightens the visual load of the bluestone walls. Wall-mounted wardrobes have been lifted above the floor (above right), creating a roomier feel. Artworks are by Julie Rrap and (opposite page) Janet Laurence, and from Arc One Gallery (arcone.com.au).