



72 *Interiors*



LIVING **NATURALLY**

Natural light is abundant in this
Erskineville abode thanks to a carefully
planned renovation

Words Lauren Clarke Photos Scott Williams



When thinking of a terrace house, certain stereotypes come to mind. Pokey spaces, steep staircases and dark, tiny rooms are often synonymous with these dwellings that are common in densely populated parts of the city — but that's not the style of living many homeowners desire.

When the owners of this Eskinville dwelling decided to renovate, they were determined to abolish the terrace house stereotype and instead welcome in natural light. They wanted to create an abode that didn't feel pokey or closed off, with a sense of space, open air flow and fluid ventilation. "They wanted a home they could expand and grow into," say Ben and Aaron Tees, directors of TAOSS Construction Group.

That meant a dramatic overhaul of the existing building. Despite this, the facade of the terrace was left relatively untouched outside of repairs and cosmetic touch-ups. This kept the classical feel of the home alive from the street while allowing the interior a chance to truly shine.

And shine it does. From the moment you step inside this home, you feel as if you've been transported to another world. This house makes no apologies for its fabulousness, with bold details, glamorous features and well-crafted features all working in harmony.





houses & apartments wrenthamville

we love
THE EUROPEAN
LAUNDRY. THE PERFECT
SPACE-SAVER IN THIS
TERRACE HOME

houses & apartments wrenthamville



Nowhere is this more evident than in the kitchen. Here, the warm blackbutt flooring is replaced with bold geometric tiles in a charming colour scheme that helps delineate the space. Storage is carefully considered, with white cabinetry featuring sharp nose finger-pull handles to ensure a seamless experience when working close to the luxe marble benchtop. Lights are strategically placed at different points in the detailed ceiling, balancing ambience with functionality.

The ceiling detail in this space certainly is another talking point. "There are exposed joists with ferringhose bracing and curve details in the new section of the home and the curve details in the first existing component," Ben and Aaron say. "This is normally a very overlooked part of a project, but it is evident it can truly create a masterpiece when done right."

Another favourite feature in the house is the void area in the centre. "You can look down from the master bedroom with internal timber shutters, which sit behind joistery beams," Ben and Aaron say. This enhances the sense of space and also amplifies the light, allowing it to travel through the orifice with ease.

The bathroom features romantic pink tiles that don't shy away from the metallic tones of the tapware. They're as bold as the rest of the design choices within this home. The tile is in direct contrast with the ensuite bathroom, with its black and white tiles that set a more subtle aesthetic. The entrance to this space is also subtle, hidden in among a wall of cabinetry, adding a sense of privacy as is befitting such a space.

Under the stairs, a European-style laundry was added, allowing for maximisation of the available floorpace. And, if you journey along the

Every detail in this space has been thought out, from the storage to the lighting and the way the space is used.







A pair of pinkie (the backrests, and the sides of the toilet) — there are just some of the high-value bits customised in this house



"It doesn't matter what room you're in, if you look around there will be hundreds of small details that you wouldn't see in a normal house — even some of the gutters were custom-made to particular specifications"

houses & apartments arkiville

houses & apartments arkiville



spiral staircase burrowing to a lower level, you'll discover a charming study nook.

"Every single millimetre of the house was discussed in detail," Ben and Aaron say. "It doesn't matter what room you're in, if you look around, there will be hundreds of small details that you wouldn't see in a normal house — even some of the gutters were custom-made to particular specifications."

Not all these changes didn't come without challenge. Access to the block was restricted due to the very narrow street and frontage. This meant the building team had to think creatively and take extra care to get the job done. However, it was rewarding to say the least. Not only is the finished product a peaceful masterpiece, layered with hidden detail, but the TAGS team found some interesting relics as they went about the project.

"We actually found an old well under the ground when we started demolition," Ben and Aaron say. "It was made out of bricks and you could barely fit inside it. We had to change the engineering of the concrete slab to cantilever over the old brick well and also fill it in with concrete. It wasn't picked up on any plans, service diagrams or anything."

The rear yard didn't escape the makeover. This was once a space covered in overgrown plants but now it's completely usable. An undercover area, seating space and some carefully considered plants make this an inviting spot the entire family can enjoy. www.housing.com



The main bedroom includes the storage, which is the best of spaces in the house

