



Hidden talent

A majestic 19th-century inner-city terrace is lovingly restored, with a secret tranquil oasis nestled at its heart.

Photographs **PRUE RUSCOE** Words **CHRIS PEARSON**

This page In the stairwell and formal living area, Freado oak floorboards and stairs from Tongue N Groove. Balustrade in solid oak with custom brass details. ClassiCon 'Bell' side table from Anibou. 'Agra' rug in Pearl from Armadillo & Co.

Opposite page The 19th-century facade with its ornate iron filigree fretwork has been restored to its former glory.



SPEED READ

» When the owners bought this three-level inner-Sydney terrace in 2014, it was a rundown warren of rooms, divided into four flats. » As it was at the end of a row, with windows on three sides, they could see the potential and hired Megan Burns of CM Studio to make the house work for relaxed modern living. They also wanted a sense of calm – a challenge in a property on a main road. » They gutted the house, demolishing the rear section while retaining the facade and front rooms to comply with heritage regulations. » Megan added a crisp new addition on the rear, which, in an unusual move, includes the main bedroom, entered via a discreet door on the formal entry level. » She confined the palette to three main materials, oak, marble and brass, for a sense of continuity and to avoid harsh contrasts, in keeping with the tranquil aesthetic.



For those interiors, adds the owner, “We wanted something sophisticated, super-simple, clean, elegant and uncluttered.”

Megan gutted the house, while retaining the facade and the formal living areas on the entry level, and the two bedrooms upstairs. She located the main bedroom on the entry level, behind that discreet door, so it looks directly into the tree canopy and down into the courtyard with its water feature and lily pond.

“It’s noisy at the front, but the owners, who are from the country, wanted quietness. Here they can leave the windows wide open and all they hear are bird sounds, while also enjoying plenty of light,” says Megan.

From the formal living area and main bedroom on the ground floor, a new flight of oak stairs leads down to a media room, family room and open-plan living area, where steel French doors with generous glazing take in the courtyard with its Japanese maple. Two existing bedrooms and a bathroom occupy the top level.

For the interiors, much of Megan’s inspiration came from the clean, neutral-toned aesthetic of Belgian design stars Vincent Van Duysen and Nicolas Schuybroek. Accordingly, she has confined the materials palette to oak, marble and brass throughout for continuity, the warm natural hues generating a sense of calm, while the white walls lend freshness. “The owners wanted something true to the house, with a simple palette and three main materials,” she says.

Befitting the majestic facade, she reinstated archways, deep skirtings, cornices and architraves, which had either been removed or compromised over the years, and added wall panelling. “It elevates the zone and makes it more formal, compared with the more relaxed square set used downstairs,” says Megan. Similarly, she went to great pains over the crafted finishes by including, for example, brass inlays in the balustrades. The results are crisp and pared back, with meticulous attention to detail. As a favourite space, Megan singles out the informal living, with its sitting area and the kitchen with its banquette, “falling away to the courtyard. It’s so serene.”

“The whole outside world just fades away,” adds the owner, relaxing in her sun-soaked informal living area. “I can’t believe how calming this house is.”

For more go to cm-studio.com.au.



This page, clockwise from top In the ground floor guest bathroom, basin and shelf in Carrara Gioia marble designed by CM Studio and made by Euro Marble. Carrara marble tiles in shower from Surface Gallery. Astra Walker 'Icon+ Lever' tapware in Eco Brass. Custom mirror by Saltwater Joinery. Sculpture on mantel from Anchor Ceramics. Custom fireplace in Carrara Gioia marble from Euro Marble. Astra Walker 'Icon' gooseneck taps in Eco Brass. Bath from ACS Bathrooms. **Opposite page** Custom bedhead by Saltwater Joinery. Nemo 'Lampe De Marseille' wall light by Le Corbusier from Cult. Bedding by Bemboke.

[FACT FILE]

Interior design
CM STUDIO

Builder BAU Group Joinery Saltwater Joinery. **Vanity/basin** Custom Carrara Gioia marble sink designed by CM Studio, fabricated by Euro Marble. Custom shaving cabinet with brass trim by Saltwater Joinery. **Splashback/wall finish/flooring** Carrara Gioia slab from Euro Marble. **Tapware/showerhead** Astra Walker 'Icon+' Lever' tap in Eco Brass, 'Icon+' exposed overhead shower with hand shower set in Eco Brass.

For stockists see Address Book.

SHOW TIME

Lustrous finishes ensure this bathroom shines without compromising on function.

DESIGNER MEGAN BURNS "This master bathroom has no door and is completely open to the master suite. As it's on show it needed to be functional and simple but also a showstopping feature that always looks beautiful. We wanted to make the space an homage to the marble we were using throughout the house." *What luxury item did you choose for this space regardless of budget?* "The most luxurious thing was committing to the marble slabs, and using the finish for all surfaces and the basin. The honed finish is so soft to touch, and by using slab instead of tiles the finish is so much smoother and the markings in the marble so pure in how they are expressed." *cm-studio.com.au*

Photograph
PRUE RUSCOE



Simply iconic.

Occasionally, there's a moment of transformation, when a simple innovation changes the order of things. That is the invention of something iconic.

Introducing Ortho, the latest award-winning icon from the designers at Phoenix, taking modern bathroom interiors to the next level.



phoenixtapware.com.au



100-7810-44
Ortho Wall Mixer Set
Available in Chrome and
Matte Brushed Nickel



PHOENIX
TAPWARE, SHOWERS & ACCESSORIES