winning blend

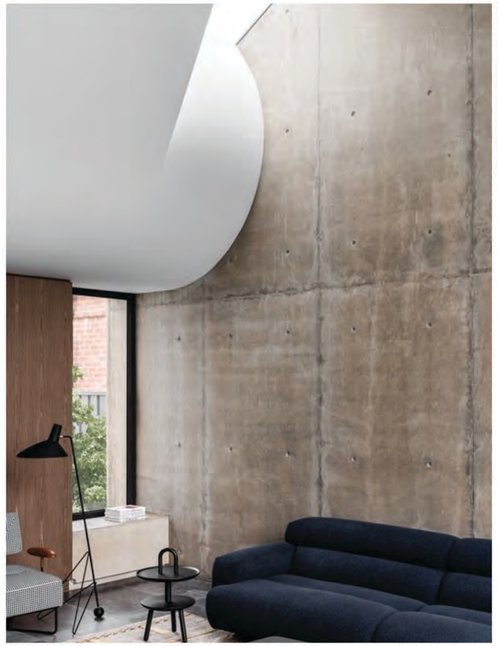
ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM STUDIO GRAM HAS REDESIGNED AN EARLY 20TH CENTURY HOUSE WITH THE ADDITION OF A MODERN EXTENSION IN ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Photography by Timothy Kaye

Nestled amongst a leafy Adelaide neighbourhood - Rose Park, this 382 m² house celebrates the meeting of the old and the new. Early investigations revealed that the walls of the original dwelling were constructed from off-form concrete, making it a unique building for its age and location. This discovery served as a key material direction of the project. To maintain the integrity of the original dwelling, only subtle changes in plan were made. The central corridor maintains the original spatial arrangement of the home and leads to the extension wing of the house. It is 162 m² and includes the social living area composed of living, dining area and kitchen. Here, a billowing form on the ceiling becomes the transition between the original dwelling and the extension, celebrating the coming together of old and new. The curved bulkhead feels weighty yet soft and is an example of compression and release in action. The curves are then taken up in the furnishings of the living room: the dark blue sofa by Jardan, next to it Cassina's side table, and the central fireplace with suspended hearth. With light retro detailing, the Stellar Works' chair makes a warm addition, embodying the relaxed spirit of Australian living today. On the floor, the camel kilim-style carpet from Jardam was placed; it is decorated with tufts of textural pom poms, in both warm earth tones and dark ones. A touch of minimalism is given by &tradition's floor lamp with clean lines. Apertures in the walls and ceiling creates a connection between the sky and the garden, allowing a moment for its occupants to witness the ephemerality of the garden and its seasonal change. Besides, the living room enjoys a beautiful view of the existing pool that was retained. It served as a key driver for the location and arrangement of the extension. The gentle curves of the pool would also later serve as a key inspiration for the sculptured forms found throughout each of the spaces.

"FROM THE STREET THIS EARLY 1900'S QUEEN ANNE VILLA APPEARS LIKE ANY OTHER, HOWEVER BENEATH THE SURFACE LIES A SERIES OF SPACES DESIGNED TO BE UNIQUE IN THEIR FUNCTION AND EXPRESSION, YET CONSISTENT IN THEIR APPROACH, RESULTING IN AN ARCHITECTURE THAT IS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED."

DAVE BICKMORE, STUDIO GRAM'S DIRECTOR



The sculptural quality of the thresholds accentuates the act of moving from one space to the next, resulting in an architecture that's completely unexpected. Thus, the delicate curve of the bulkhead is repeated in the walnut joinery below and is also found in the sculptural wooden backrest of the dining chairs by De La Espada. They surround a rectangular wooden table, while above a triangle pendant by Apparatus Studio hangs which creates a soft light. A cabinet that includes a bar acts as a divider between the living and the dining room.

Next to it, the kitchen was placed, centered around the Elegant Gray stone island bench from CDK. Crackling veins on a dark surface give this limestone a sophisticated look. This natural stone provides a textural juxtaposition alongside the American walnut joinery. Two Grazia & Co stools in cream wool lend a luxurious tactility. An array of modern appliances complete the kitchen, including a cooktop by Wolf, Miele dishwasher and warming drawer, and Sub-Zero fridge.

"TO BE WITHIN ITS WALLS IS TO BE REMINDED OF THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN TIME, SPACE, LIGHT, COLOUR AND MASS – THE PHENOMENA THAT SHAPE THE EBB AND FLOW OF OUR EXPERIENCES."

Each room explores the use of colour and materiality to evoke a feeling that is akin to its function. Leaving the living area, on the right we find the cellar, which reveals a rich burgundy color - a celebration of the client's impressive wine collection. But at the same time, it remains united in its use of the same walnut wood panels and stone top as the other spaces within the extension.
Next door, the private bathroom highlights a darker and more intimate palette.
In front of these two spaces, there is the simply designed office with a bookcase set into the wall and a suspended desk (both in walnut wood). The Flos Snoopy table lamp in black with the white marble base creates an iconic design moment

On the opposite side of the open living area, there is an informal lounge. Here we find a black fireplace while its chimney hood is hidden in the white wall and creates undulating curves, echoing the sculptural architecture of the entire house - the result is an elegant contrast. Placed on the fireplace mantel, the Snoopy lamp by Flos takes up its design (the same one present in the office).

At the clients' request, slight changes were made to the floor plan of the original home to incorporate a master wing that includes a walk-in-robe and ensuite. In particular, the walk-in closet has wardrobes with curved corners that cover the entire height of the room, from the ceiling to the floor, thus creating a large space for storing objects. In the center, an island dresser was incorporated above which Marz Designs' pendant lamp hangs. Its delicate frosted globe and solid brass give it the touch of elegant luxury.

These details are echoed in the en-suite bathroom thanks to Brodware's antique brass taps. Resembling a sanctuary, the space includes a long vanity with a rich stone top including a round sink on each side flanked by the mirror. In between, a window illuminates the freestanding bathtub in front of. The walls are covered with shiny ceramic tiles from Academy Tiles which feature light texture, subtle crackle effects and natural color movement.