

Chiselled lines

The clean-cut angles of this sleek Melbourne home are complemented by the cleverly placed, curvaceous contours.

Words CARLI PHILIPS Photography PETER CLARKE

This page Alongside a large commissioned work by Colin Pennock from Arthouse Gallery, a Matter Made 'Avoo' chair in solid brass by Pedro Paulo Venzon from Criteria gleams in the hallway leading to the casual dining area. Lowe Furniture 'Atticus' dining table from Hub surrounded by Verpan 'Series 430' dining chairs from Space. Opposite page The monolithic entryway makes an impressive welcoming statement. 'Tiga' sconces by Inlite.



This page The pendant light in the kitchen was conceived by Mim Design and sourced through Ambience. Living Divani 'Hinge' stools from Space are pulled up at the curved island bench, which is made from two solid slabs of stone. **Opposite page, from top** Under the 'Otto' one-arm pendant light by David Weeks from Criteria, the formal dining room features a B&B Italia 'Oskar' table by Vincent Van Duysen from Space with 'La Pipe' chairs by Friends & Founders from Fred International. The table holds a mix of glass objects by Anna Torfs from Space, Tom Dixon from De De Ce, and Philip Low from Hub. In the formal lounge, a pair of Inheritance Collection armchairs by Stephen Kenn face the Baxter 'Chester Moon' sofa by Paola Navone, all from Criteria. A 'Mondrian' coffee table by Jean-Marie Massaud from Poliform radiates in glossy orange beside the fireplace.



It has elements of strong and rigorous bravado combined with the subtlety and softness of smooth curves," explains Emma Tulloch of Emma Tulloch Architects who designed this contemporary 'forever' family home in Melbourne in collaboration with interior design studio Mim Design. This aesthetic description is also well suited to the homeowner's appreciation and love of luxury cars, a collection now stored in a newly designed aggregate basement.

Mim Design principal Miriam Fanning says her clients, the director of McLaren Developments and his wife, were fastidious when it came to the minutiae. "He is passionate about attention to detail. As designers, we needed to be really spot-on too. For us, this project was specified to the nth degree. It was to a level not usually found in a house [and] it had to be executed perfectly." While clean-cut and monolithic when it came to the architecture, the close-up interior touchpoints of this house are exceptionally sophisticated, with a nod to intricate industrial design. Aged brass is used extensively on specified fixtures throughout. Handles, in particular, have been given special treatment with some folded on a soft radius while others are knurled Buster + Punch hardware. "In homage to the client's love of fine automobiles, [we] found equilibrium between the refined finesse of precision detailing and durable materials," says Miriam.

The home's overwhelming box-like structural geometries are complemented by sweeping curves that gently bend around corners. The most dramatic are at the oversized entryway and silo-like, polished-plaster curved staircase with its steel ribbon balustrade. In the cellar, black-stained oak veneer joinery follows the radial form of the room and in the kitchen, two solid blocks of stone have been carved with round edges. While powerfully heavy, a natural palette creates a softened sense of "intimacy and calm", says Emma. To the left of the ground floor, off the lobby, is a powder room in moody Nero Marquina marble. To the right, a north-facing study »



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« overlooks a garden designed by Jack Merlo. Off the hallway, fluted glass doors open to a large lounge and formal dining room outfitted in a B&B Italia ‘Oskar’ table and Friends & Founders ‘La Pipe’ chairs. The cosy, casual den opposite features floor-to-ceiling views of the garden and pool, brightening the grey and neutral space.

The corridor path pauses at a black portal, transitioning from narrow floor tiles into a larger format, marking the intersection between the formal and casual areas. From here, the expansive rear balloons out with an open-plan kitchen, dining and casual living area. A glass walkway links to the ‘west wing’, a large secondary zone with a pavilion lounge, ensuite and bedroom that opens onto a terrace and basketball court. The self-contained apartment-style accommodation was designed with guests in mind.

When it came to furnishings, trust played a major role, explains Miriam. “The brief was ‘do what you think looks good’. For us, it was about making sure each piece worked with one another and didn’t look like a display house. We prioritised using varied product from all over the world. It’s not from one distributor or manufacturer. We wanted to create different layers and levels of interest.” This meant using a rich palette of materials expressed in furniture such as Poliform’s glossy tangerine ‘Mondrian’ coffee table and Baxter’s ‘Chester Moon’ sofa in quilted button-back blue suede.

Level one is dedicated to the sleeping quarters. Two children’s bedrooms stem off the main axis that has built-in banquette seating with storage. At the top of the stairs, double doors open into a generous 75sqm master wing with an ensuite and extensive walk-in robe made in soft quarter-cut oak veneer. Lined in a vibrant teal felt, accessory drawers have been meticulously compartmentalised while bespoke robes and shelving illuminate an array of bags and shoes.

A custom brass joinery unit with rows of shelving for the owner to display his collections is located in the eight-car garage. A golf simulator, cinema room and gym add to the fun, but when the carparks are empty it makes for a “fabulous party space”, says Miriam. | emmatulloch.com.au; mimdesign.com.au; jackmerlo.com

SPEED READ

» Emma Tulloch of Emma Tulloch Architects and Miriam Fanning of interior design studio Mim Design collaborated on creating a spectacular contemporary family home in Melbourne. » The three-level home’s box-like structure has been softened with curves in places such as on the polished plaster staircase at the entry and the rounded edges on the monumental marble kitchen island. » Furnishings are a mix of contemporary statement pieces and the finer details include top-quality fittings such as bespoke handles that add their polish to the interior scheme. » In the basement, a golf simulator, cinema room and gym are housed alongside an eight-vehicle garage.



This page “The curved fillets unify the edges such that you want to keep looking to the next corner. They also soften the house which, despite its scale and generosity, creates an intimacy and calmness,” says architect Emma Tulloch. GandiaBlasco ‘DNA’ sofa from Hub and Tribù ‘Illum’ table and chairs from Cosh Living. Large pots from Martin Kellock Pots & Planters. Opposite page, clockwise from top left *Chinese Whispers II* (2015) by Danelle Bergstrom from Arthouse Gallery hangs in the master bedroom. Custom bed by Grazia&Co. Porada ‘Ziggy Night’ table. ‘Silhouette’ wall sconce by Ross Gardam. In the master bedroom, proportion was a key consideration. The natural stone is overscaled but balanced by a wall of smaller, pleated tiles. ‘Shy’ sconce by Bec Brittain from Criteria. The downstairs study overlooks the garden. A pair of Verpan ‘Series 430’ stools from Space sit under the custom desk with leather inlay from Zuster. ‘Ora’ desk lamp by Ross Gardam.