

we love

THE BRODWARE
PULL-OUT
SPRAY MIXER IN
RUMBLED BRASS

IMMACULATE ITALIANATE

Contemporary elegance in a heritage setting

Words Louise Smithers Photography Sharyn Cairns

“From the sink, the homeowners can prep meals with a view as they gaze out the steel-framed double-glazed window”

— Rosemary Ross

Rosstang Architects has performed CPR on a number of neglected historic homes, breathing life into tired buildings whose brittle bones are beautiful but crying out for help. Milford was once such home begging for a dose of TLC and some serious sprucing up.

Prior to its renovation, the beautiful dual-level 1890s Italianate Victorian home didn't lend itself to family living. A poorly located commercial kitchen with enormous stainless-steel rangehood disrupted the flow of the heritage house, which lacked proper connection to the outdoors and generally felt disjointed.

“We removed an existing store room and wine storage that blocked access to the garden, removed the kitchen, internal dividing wall and its fireplace and external walls with non-original windows,” explains Rosstang Architects co-director Rosemary Ross. “New walls were added to create the pantry and laundry, and carefully curated openings in the existing brick external walls created connection to the garden and light.”

Appropriate finishes speak to the structure's past, such as the Catherine Martin Majorelle Marcasite wallpaper that runs from the original hall through to the new kitchen, leaving texture and opulence in its wake.



ed's fave

THE LARGE STEEL-FRAMED ISLAND BENCH TOPPED WITH DOLOMITE LIMESTONE



The reimagined open-plan kitchen and dining area is a place for gastronomic gathering and bustling family life. A huge 2m x 3m steel-framed island bench topped with dolomite limestone commands attention. Sporting a custom Dean Phillips (Ambient Ring Two 1.8m diameter) pendant floating above, the island is a focal point and the central hub of activity.

Every centimetre of the kitchen has been meticulously pulled together. There's the mother of pearl tumbled brass lip pulls and the Zimbabwe black granite flamed-finish benchtops, to name just a couple. From the Franke Kubus Fraganite Onyx sink the homeowners can prep meals with a view as they gaze out the steel-framed double-glazed window. A butler's pantry keeps clutter out of sight and provides ample storage.

Oyster grey and black cupboards from the Laminex AbsoluteMatte range subtly inject colour into the scene without overwhelming the aesthetic. "The final kitchen looks amazing, feels great and functions seamlessly," Rosemary enthuses. "It's light-filled, spacious, glamorous, warm and inviting."

The outdated bathroom has been replaced with modern facilities. The Astra Walker Icon basin mixer in aged brass is a prime example of the elegant fixtures found throughout the space. Neo Basalto tiles from Coulson Tiles line the floors, while Arte Domus Inax Yuki border tiles decorate the walls. Douglas & Bec light fixtures filter light through the opaque glass screen within the Skyframe steel shower frame.

Preferring to "intervene" rather than "interfere", Rosstang Architects has fashioned a home imbued with an enhanced sense of space. Working within the existing heritage shell, the carefully renovated kitchen respects the original home while allowing it to facilitate modern living. **HD** rosstang.com.au

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