

EXTENDED PROPERTY

# BRIGHT & *beautiful*

*The elegant, light-filled interior of this Federation house in Melbourne has been adeptly enhanced and dressed, creating a family home as practical as it is breathtaking*

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**LIVING AREA**

The antique coffee table is the perfect size for playing boardgames, but its generous proportions needed a bold rug to balance it out. 'The rug is like a piece of art,' says Jo. Coffee table, Asian Tide, [asiantide.com.au](http://asiantide.com.au). Artwork by Kirsty Davidson, [kirsty davidson.com.au](http://kirsty davidson.com.au).



**FRONT PORCH**

The beautifully carved antique Balinese bench (above far left) is a welcoming touch at the front of the house and was bought by Jo when she lived in Thailand. 'It's pretty weathered and grey now, but it only gets more lovely with age,' she says. For a similar coach light, try Nottingham Black Coach exterior wall light, around £11.75, Bunnings, bunnings.com.au. Rattan basket, Coastal Living, coastalliving.com.au.

**CORRIDOR**

Jo included a short staircase between the new extension and the main part of the house (above left) to emphasise a sense of journey between the two spaces. The wooden Indonesian trunk was also purchased in Thailand. Pewter bowls, Hermon & Hermon, hermonhermon.com.au.

**SITTING ROOM**

This part of the house (far left) has been given a warmer palette to enhance its cosiness. 'The walls are painted in a creamy shade that's incredibly soothing,' says Jo. A versatile approach

to the decoration ensures that she can alter the feel and look of each space simply by changing the accessories. The collection of African baskets (right) paired with the Asian side table adds an eclectic feel to this scheme. Juju guinea fowl feather headrest, around £324; African Binga baskets, from around £41 each; all Frey, frey.net.au. Architectural and interior design, Jo McIntyre, Beautiful Home, beautifulhome.net.au.

**LIVING AREA**

Dark wood flooring paired with white walls enhances the clean, crisp aesthetic of the open-plan extension (above) and allows the accents of red to pop. For a sense of cohesion, Jo stained the yellow pine floorboards in the old part of the house a rich chocolatey brown to match the flooring here. Leila four-seater sofa, from around £3,700, Jardan, jardan.com.au.





Jo McIntyre is a traditionalist at heart. ‘The tree goes up on the first day of December and on Christmas Day, we have turkey with all the trimmings,’ says the Melbourne-based architectural designer. The well-appointed Surrey Hills home that she and her husband Steve share with their children Annabelle, Sophie and Henry reflects this predilection for the past, as well as Jo’s ability to take something beautiful and make it even better.

#### GOOD FOUNDATIONS

The grand Federation property that the couple bought eight years ago had already been extended by a previous owner, but it was ill-equipped to cope with the rigours of 21st-century family life. Never one to shy away from a project, Jo seized the opportunity to demolish the ‘tired and dated’ extension and rebuild it from scratch. ‘That’s what I do,’ she says. ‘We knew we needed a long-term house that would get us through the teenage years, but still be suitable for grown-up children at university.’ The new, larger extension echoes the high ceilings in the old part of the property, with extra-tall windows that flood the open-plan space with warmth and light.

The original part of the house, meanwhile, was in excellent condition, retaining many of its original features, such as fretwork, cornicing, and fireplaces. ‘I widened the doorways to allow more light to filter into the dark corridors, which can be a problem in these old houses, and I sacrificed a room to create a walk-in wardrobe off our bedroom.’

#### TABULA RASA

For the decorative adjustments to the newly configured spaces, Jo decided to create a timeless look. Downstairs in the open-plan extension, crisp white walls and dark stained oak floorboards provide a blank canvas for an interior that will evolve gradually over time. Rangy sofas add a welcoming note, while a gnarly antique coffee table and bold patchwork rug bring textural depth to the room. ‘I prefer to use artwork and furnishings to give layers of interest,’ says Jo. ‘I can change things as our tastes, or trends, evolve.’

Elsewhere, streamlined schemes feature more practical additions. A ledge beneath the windows in the extension conceals storage for electrical devices; in the kitchen, an elegant Calacatta marble splashback and a quartz stone island were chosen to be pretty and easy to maintain; upstairs, generous cabinetry in the children’s bathroom looks serene, ‘but hides a multitude of sins.’

#### FINISHING TOUCHES

Jo’s talent lies in carving out practical yet beautiful family spaces, but that is not to say her home is bereft of decorative flourishes. Evidence of her penchant for Asian art abounds. The Indonesian trunk in the living area and the bench on the porch are relics from years spent living in Thailand. Other pieces, such as the eye-catching bamboo pendant light above the dining table and the feather headdress in the sitting room, reveal a preference for eclectic, organic influences. Function and flair do not often come together so well but, in Jo’s hands, a happy marriage has been made.



#### KITCHEN-DINING AREA

The oversized bamboo pendant adds drama to the otherwise serene dining area. ‘I love the organic feel it brings,’ says Jo (left). The artwork had been commissioned for the McIntyres’ previous home, but Jo found the ideal spot for it here (left). ‘It picks out the colours of the framed squares of Designers Guild fabric in the sitting area and pulls the scheme together.’  
Scribble lamp, Milo Naval at Omo Furniture, omofurniture.ph. About a chair AAC22, £199 each, Hay at Clippings, clippings.com. Artwork by Anita Dammersmith, Altered Images Art, alteredimagesart.vpweb.com.au.



**MAIN BEDROOM**

The bed is dressed from top to bottom in tactile linen in soothing tones (above left), including a fabric cover on the base. Paired with a richly textured rug, the effect is irresistibly cossetting. **Plaza Natural rug**, from around £325, La Grolla, lagrolla.com.au.

**HENRY'S BEDROOM**

Jo opted for a versatile white scheme (above) for her son Henry's room, furnished with a classic Wishbone chair for timeless appeal. **CH24 Wishbone chair**, £647, The Conran Shop, conranshop.co.uk. **Linen double duvet set** in Smoke Grey, around £147, Cultiver, cultiver.com.

**CHILDREN'S BATHROOM**

Porcelain floor tiles (left) are a practical option, ensuring the bathroom is quick and easy to clean, essential with three children in the house. The bespoke vanity unit contains a cleverly concealed laundry chute. **Bespoke plantation shutters**, AP Shutters & Blinds, ap-shutters.com/au/. **Bespoke cabinetry**, Creative Cabinets, creativecabinetsvic.com.au. **Linen Turkish towel**, around £14.80, Knotty, knotty.com.au.