

GENTLE TOUCH

A thoughtful upgrade to this early 1900s sandstone villa delivers the light-filled spaces and sense of serenity its owner dreamed of.

STORY *Georgia Madden* | STYLING *Georgie Fried & Georgie Shepherd*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Christopher Morrison*



STREET ENTRANCE Warm
brickwork complements the sandstone
as a unifying element throughout.
Landscaping by Habitat Landscape
Corrugated-metal roofing by Revlon

THIS IS THE LIFE

Michael admits that he told the designers he didn't really need 'any fancy kitchen stuff' since he wasn't much of a cook, but the new space has proven transformative – in more ways than one. "Cooking is my new passion!" says Michael. "The old kitchen was small, with a galley-style layout and a freestanding oven in the corner under a brick chimney – it wasn't very functional and didn't offer much inspiration. I mostly entertain outside, with the garden and century-old brickwork as backdrop."

DECK AND LINK Old and new are neatly connected by a passage that opens to landscaped courtyards on both sides. Sliding doors, Southern Joinery; Louvre Tec operable roof system (over deck); Jek dining chairs and Linear dining table and bench seat, all Totip.

located on a picturesque tree-lined street in North Adelaide, surrounded by a mix of beautiful heritage and contemporary homes, this turn-of-the-century sandstone villa was easy to fall in love with. "It was just a picture-book image of 'home,'" says Michael, who bought the property in 2015. Inside was another story, however. It was dark and cramped, with a kitchen that was awkward to cook in and an unwelcoming living area in a 1980s extension at the rear. "Although the front bedrooms enjoyed beautiful northern light, the living areas just felt sad," says Michael.

In 2018, Michael enlisted the help of architect Tim Evans to reimagine the house with a new layout, more space and lashings of light. It took a couple of years to find the right builder, but work finally got underway in 2020 and was completed in early 2021.

Key to the reconfigured layout was a larger main bedroom and spacious new ensuite, and replacing the original kitchen with a more generous main bathroom. At the rear of the home, the dated extension made way for a 115-square-metre addition that accommodates an open-plan kitchen/dining/living area. The old and new parts of the house are cleverly connected by a ▶

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KITCHEN Easycraft Easy VJ panelling on the upper part of the wall and rangehood imbues the space with a farmhouse feel. Zellige tiles on splashback from Cerbis Ceramics. Whitewashed American oak veneer joinery. Benchtop in Elba marble from CDK Stone. Appliances, all Miele. MCS Solo stools, Mattiazzi. Novi double butler's sink, Turner Hastings. Olde English tap in Charcoal Bronze finish, Astra Walker. Deep Star downlights, Insight Lighting. Muuto 'Ridge' vase (on buffet), Oscar & Willow. Artwork by Simon Bajada. Arbon tumbled-limestone flooring, Eco Outdoor.

glass-walled link that fills the back of the house with natural light from every angle. Sliding doors on both sides of this passageway open to a covered deck and landscaped courtyard by Habitat Landscaping.

Interior designer Georgie Shepherd, principal of GSID and her team stepped in to give the revitalised villa the "Zen feel" Michael yearned for. "He wanted everything to have a bespoke, handcrafted feel, with tactile finishes and plenty of personality. He didn't want anything shiny or clinical. Charm, texture and warmth were the priorities," says Georgie. "The architecture was beautiful, light and quite simple in form, and it gave us a great foundation to work upon."

For the new open-plan area, the GSID team specified an earthy, tonal palette: tumbled-limestone tiles (with under-floor heating) teamed with pale Elba marble benchtops and whitewashed American oak for the joinery and nearby furniture. "We chose finishes that already looked slightly lived-in," says Georgie. "Since they're natural materials, they will only look better over time."

THE PALETTE

Dulux
Snowy
Mountains
Quarter
(throughout)

Dulux
Black Caviar
(front door and
iron lace)

Porter's Paints
Rattan

Photos are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



The kitchen is the undisputed hero of the space, defined by a marble-topped island that resembles a stunning piece of bespoke furniture. "The design of the kitchen originated from Michael's love of farmhouse style. We wanted to draw inspiration from this look, but make it more current in form and materiality."

To give Michael the extra storage he needed without detracting from the kitchen's characterful feel, Georgie and her team designed a built-in buffet that extends the length of the dining zone. Touches of woven cane add texture and softness to the piece - a charming feature that is carried through to the built-ins in the living area and laundry.

"It's a deceptively simple house but a lot of thought has gone into the detailing," says Georgie. For example, the tiled splashback in the kitchen is recessed so that it sits flush with VJ panelling on the adjoining wall, and the dining table and chairs were custom finished the perfect shades to go with the floors and leather joinery handles," she says.

An Escea gas fireplace turns up the cosiness in the living area and low-slung seating, in shades of pumice and mustard, creates an idyllic spot to curl up with a book or watch television. "We wanted colours that connect indoors and out without bringing in the usual greens - this palette takes the space in a different direction," says Georgie. A striking handwoven rug grounds the space, while ▶



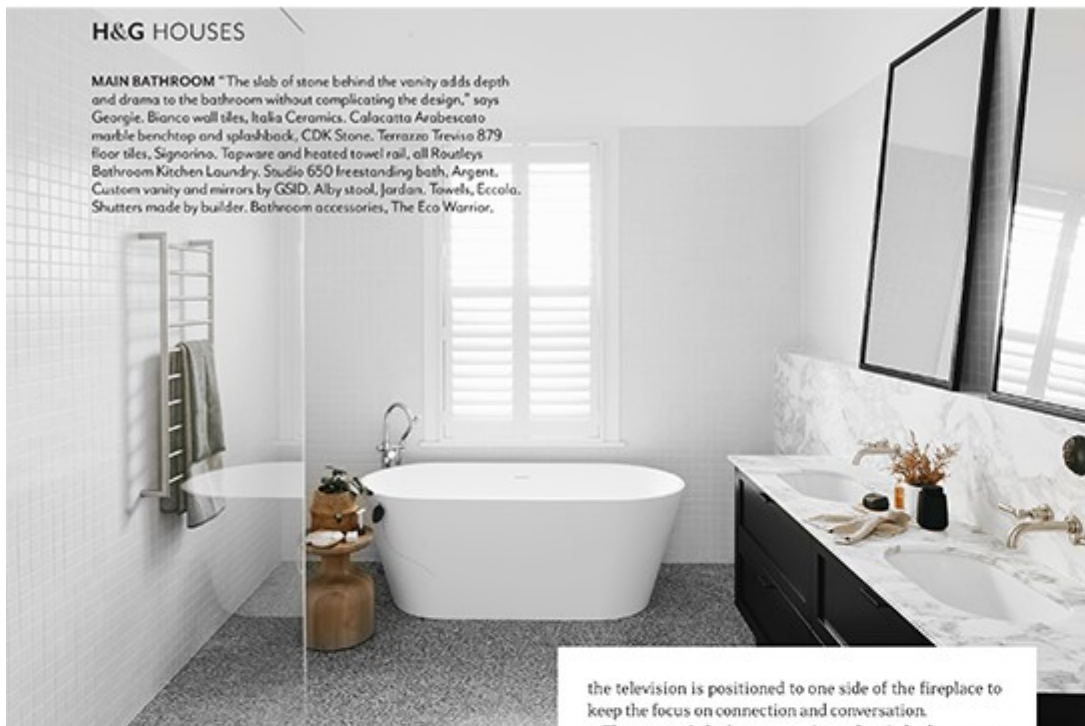
THE LAYOUT



LIVING This page and opposite top Outdoor furniture: Tom Bandy stool, Nook sofa, Wilfred chair, Alice coffee table, Dari Camel rug, all Jardan. Scatter cushions (on sofa), Eccola. Austral Bricks 'La Paloma' bricks (on chimneybreast), Brickworks. Gas fireplace, Escea. Wall and ceiling cladding, Easycraft. Banquette cushion upholstered by Pelle Leathers.
DINING AREA Dining table and custom pendant light, both Agostino & Brown. Mattiazzi 'Leva' dining chairs, Auro Objecti. Terracotta bowl, Eccola. Shorebirds ornaments, Oscar and Willow. Artwork by Simon Bajada. Custom webbing (on buffet) from House of Bamboo.

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MAIN BATHROOM "The slab of stone behind the vanity adds depth and drama to the bathroom without complicating the design," says Georgie. Bianco wall tiles, Italia Ceramics. Calacatta Arabescato marble benchtop and splashback, CDK Stone. Terrazzo Treviso 879 floor tiles, Signorino. Tapware and heated towel rail, all Roulleys Bathroom Kitchen Laundry. Studio 650 freestanding bath, Argent. Custom vanity and mirrors by GSID. Alby stool, Jordan. Towels, Eccolo. Shutters made by builder. Bathroom accessories, The Eco Warrior.



the television is positioned to one side of the fireplace to keep the focus on connection and conversation.

The new main bedroom, ensuite and main bathroom are located in the original part of the house. "The bathrooms reference the new extension, while at the same time making their own unique statement," says Georgie. The decorating scheme here was adapted from the concept of 'yin and yang' - a light and bright ensuite adjoining the main bedroom, and a more formal look with darker tones for the main bathroom. Natural stone stars in both spaces, paired with terrazzo flooring and custom vanities.

The result is a home packed with character that effortlessly blends old and new - and Michael couldn't ask for more. "Georgie and her team quickly picked up on my vision and made it come to life. Giving them complete creative control after the initial brief was a fantastic decision," he says. "The stone floors and fireplace are two of my favourite features, and I love spending time in the kitchen. I wouldn't have this amazing home without the help of such wonderful designers."

GSID - Georgie Shepherd Interior Design, Beulah Park, SA; www.georgieshepherd.com.au. **The Building Company**, Glenelg, SA; thebuildingcompany.net. **Habitat Landscaping Services**, Adelaide, SA; 0410 883 743 or [@habitat_landscaping](https://www.instagram.com/habitat_landscaping).



THE SOURCE

Seek organic shapes and soft silhouettes to weave a sense of serenity through the home.



Produced by Sullivan Sylvester.

1 Italian terracotta pendant light, \$2499, Lighting Collective. 2 Barbyloom and teak dining chair, \$329, Living by Design. 3 EasyGroove panelling, \$35/m², Easycraft. 4 Dandelion jute rug (2.15m diameter), \$895, Armodillo. 5 Elvire freestanding bath, \$4959, Caroma. 6 Morgan & Finch 'Falcon' vase, \$2995, Bed Bath N' Table. 7 Amantii Inside Outside electric built-in fireplace, \$2540, Winning Appliances. 8 Sarah Ellison velvet armchair in Caramel, \$1595, Life Interiors. 9 Riva 1920 'Vivo' coffee tables, from \$1150 each, Fanelli. 10 Andaman Islands photo print by Sean Fennelly, from \$510, Modern Times. 11 Zaza Deep 2 Flex AB 3-seater sofa, \$5421, King. For H&G in Reg, see page 192. H&G