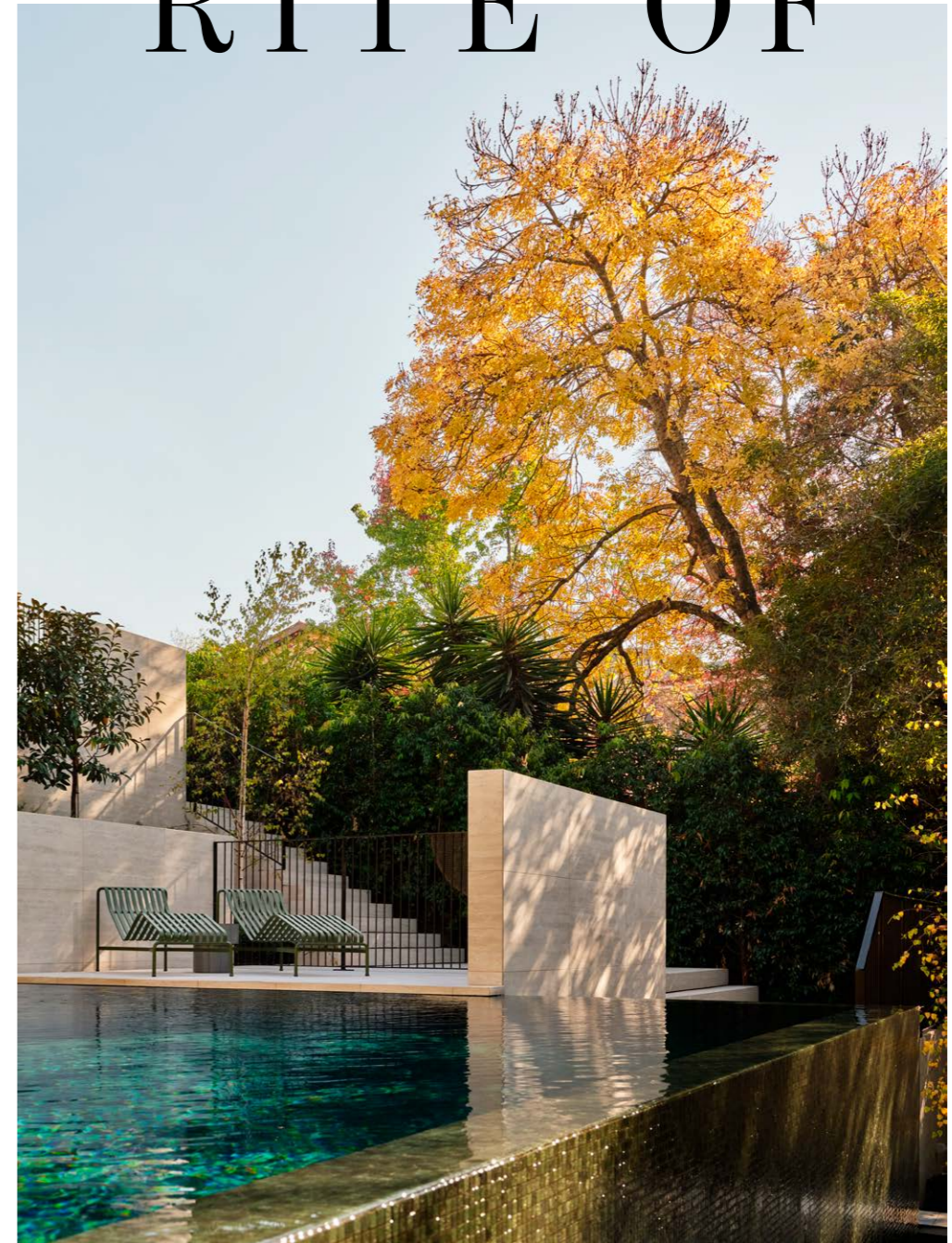


Balance was key to this Georgian-Revival revamp, with generous spatial planning, flexible spaces and a nuanced blend of classic and contemporary.



**This page** The original staircase was reconditioned with Natural Grey oak treads from Made by Storey and a traditional timber handrail with turned newel post. MDF Italia 'Le Banc' bench from Bachli Furniture. Vintage Italian Murano '52 Glass Petals' chandelier. River stone sculpture by Alex Seton. Woven artwork by Natalya Hughes from Sullivan+Strumpf. **Opposite page** An infinity pool merges visually with the landscape. Technifirma 'Thistle-down' non-slip pavers from Eco Outdoor. 'Palissade' cord chaise lounges in Olive from Hay.

# RITE OF



# PASSAGE

Words **STEPHANIE HOPE** Photography **ELISA WATSON** Styling **KARIN BOCHNIK**

**This page** The living space is part of what's called the Great Room. Walls painted Dulux Grand Piano. Blinds from Shadow Form soften the Colonial-style windows. Sofa, owners' existing. Ligne Roset armchair and foot stool from Domo. Saba Italia 'Fleur' armchair and 'Manhattan' coffee tables from Bachli Furniture. Wooden sculpture by Stefan Wirihana Mau. Bronze bowl from Curated Editions. Ceramics from Craft Victoria. **Opposite page** In the dining area, the table is from Jordan. Chairs from Zuster. 'Basalt III' pendant by Giffin Design. Alterfact object on table from Pépite. Curtains from Shadow Form.



**F**or architect Travis Walton, every renovation that crosses his desk provides an exciting prospect for meaningful change. Hitting the brief is just the beginning – he also seeks to create enduring spaces that can be enjoyed by future generations. “With our renovation work, we like to change the dynamic of the property,” he explains. “It’s about honouring the past while adding in the modern amenities so it can move forward. These days, there’s a real shift towards multigenerational living and family connection, with multi-use spaces to cover all eventualities now and in the future.”

The renovation of a 1940s Georgian-Revival-style home in Toorak presented an opportunity for Travis to achieve all of the above and more. Typical of a house of that era, the building had lashings of character on the outside, while inside, the series of small, boxy rooms lacked cohesion, light and flow. The steep location presented additional challenges. With the home recessed into the side of a hill, building out would create even more of a disconnect with the existing gardens. “The main entry was through a garage space and the landscaping, though generous, felt detached from the daily life of the home,” Travis explains. “But we, and the owners, knew we could make it work and so, from the very early days, the conversation centred on the best way to go about it.” »





These pages The kitchen mediates old and new with its panelled cabinetry, burnished brass hardware and Calacatta Viola stone from Artedomus. KB-ID Studio 'Core' stools and 'Medusa' vase from Curated Editions. 'Blue Pox' vase by Glenn Barkley from Sullivan+Strumpf. Sliding doors open the Great Room to the terrace. Technifirma 'Thistledown' tiles and chairs from Eco Outdoor. Table, existing. Walls in polished concrete render.

« The agreed approach involved reinventing the layout and working within the existing fabric as much as possible. The street-facing facade was preserved with reconditioned bricks and a new entry built around the established gardens. It leads to what is the first floor, where the bedrooms reside – each with their own ensuite for self-contained living. A generous primary suite offers a seamless flow from bed to bath to wardrobe, making an occasion of life's daily rituals.

From there, a new lift and traditional timber staircase deliver the owners to the lower level, where all internal walls have been removed and the rear extended out by three metres to create one light-filled 'Great Room' for the kitchen, living and dining areas. Expansive glazing connects this generous space with the entertaining terrace, which steps down the hill to an infinity-edge pool and further on to manicured lawns and layered gardens. "It creates this meandering experience," says Travis. "By working with the site's slope and opening up the rear, we've introduced continuity to what were once disconnected spaces."

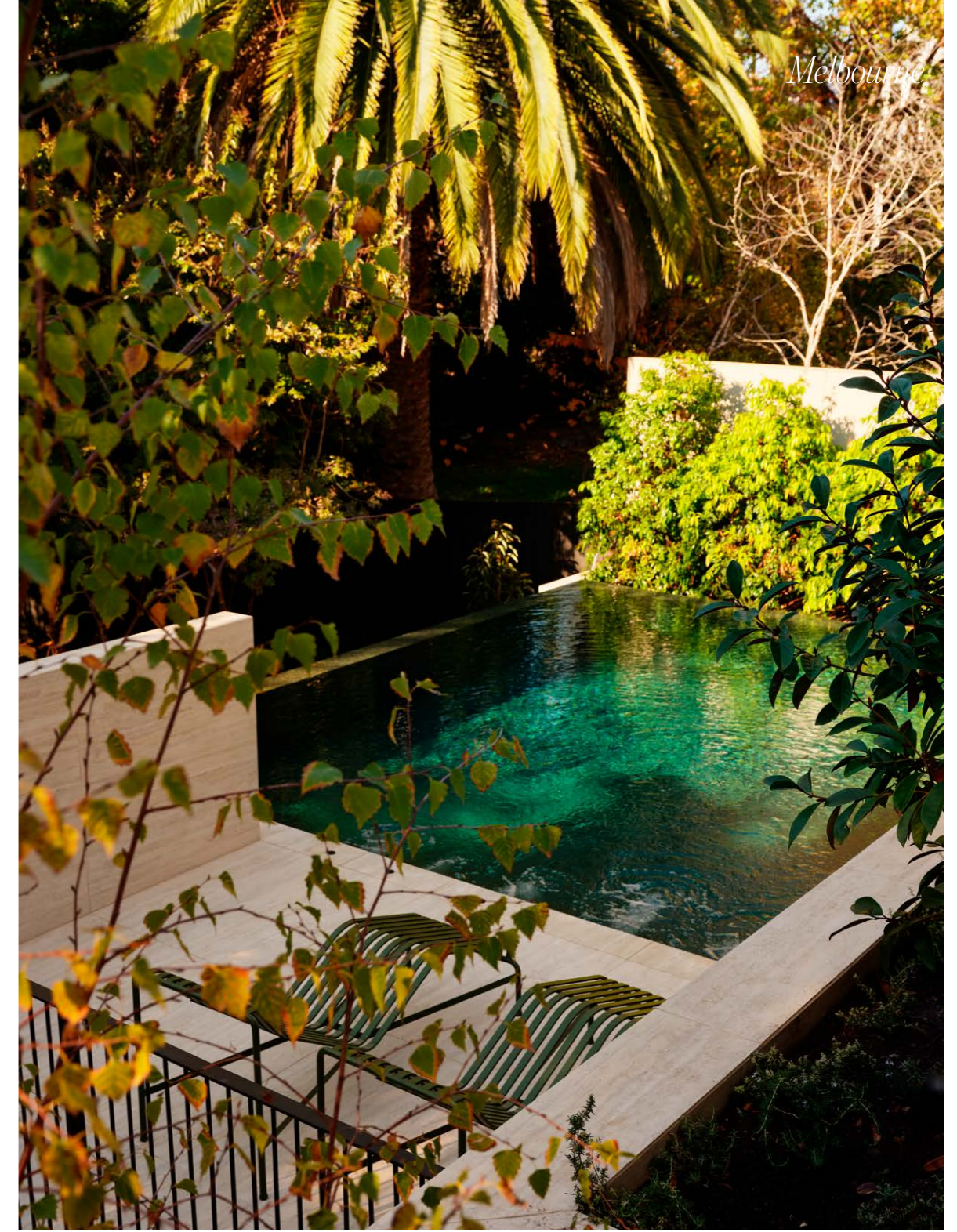
For the interiors, Travis sought to marry traditional details with contemporary gestures for a refined yet approachable effect. "We were interested in dissolving boundaries – between old and new, interior and exterior – and in celebrating the physicality of materials," he says. "The surrounding greenery also informed the tonal restraint and layered textures within."

Period details were retained, enhanced and, in some cases, reinstated or added, honouring the home's original character while providing a framework against which more contemporary details would comfortably sit. Wainscot panelling gives the upstairs entry a foyer-like feel, vintage lights add delicate embellishment, and Shaker-style cabinetry brings permanence to the new kitchen. In turn, the Great Room favours more simplistic lines and minimalist details. "We saw an opportunity to disconnect from the period detail at the bottom of the stair, which allowed us to go more contemporary, especially in a bigger space," says Travis. The material palette ties everything together. Warm neutrals, limestone hues, European oak and brass accents feel restrained, "allowing the landscape's greens to become a living layer within the interior experience," he adds. »





**This page** The study overlooks a Selenis stone-lined fireplace and tailored joinery, balancing gravitas with warmth. Ligne Roset lamp from Domo. Office chair from Bachli Furniture. Rug from Cadrès. Rina Bernabei ceramic plate and Tessy King vase from Pépite. Print by Bill Henson.  
**Opposite page** The gardens surrounding the swimming pool were designed by Hawthorn-based Nathan Burkett Landscape Architecture.



« Wide European oak floors in a mid-toned grey are neither too heavy nor too light, reflecting the natural light and adding to the overall feeling of calm and simplicity. In dramatic contrast, a richly veined Calacatta Viola marble gives off old-world vibes, making a sculptural statement in the kitchen benchtops and giving a moment of pause to the ensuite portal. Grigio Orsola marble brings softness and continuity to the bathrooms. “It has a little bit of movement to it, but not so aggressive that it’s distracting,” says Travis. “We’ve used it in different formats, from large tiles to mosaics, which gives that slight shift in design and textural variance.”

The finished home supports both quiet life and large gatherings, with its lower-level Great Room the social heart. Family connection and multigenerational living are well catered for. “This project demonstrates our interest in heritage reinterpretation, material integrity and dissolving boundaries between architecture and landscape – creating spaces that are elegant, purposeful and deeply liveable,” says Travis. “By attuning the architecture to the site’s contours and greenery, we’ve created a setting that feels both enduring and contemporary.” [traviswalton.com.au](http://traviswalton.com.au); [nathanburkett.com.au](http://nathanburkett.com.au)

Opposite page A portal of Calacatta Viola marble from Artedomus leads to the ensuite. Walls and floors in Grigio Orsola marble and vanity in Selenis stone, also from Artedomus. **This page (from top)** In the main bedroom, the 'Pianca' bed and side table are both from Collective. Brass wall sconce from Studio Henry Wilson. Vessel on bedside by Nicolette Johnson from Craft Victoria. Acrylic sculpture by Mikala Dwyer from 1301SW. // The walk-in wardrobe's joinery is American oak timber veneer that's been stained a dark walnut. Artwork by Michael Zavros.



**SPEED READ**

» Architect Travis Walton was tasked with the sympathetic reworking of a 1940s Georgian-Revival home, looking to subtly reinterpret its historical character. » Redefining the spatial planning opened the house up to the gardens and extended its possibilities for family living and separation of space. » A newly created Great Room is the beating heart of the home, encompassing the kitchen, living and dining zones, which open to a large outdoor terrace. » Period details work in harmony with contemporary amenities, and the materials palette is warm and tonal.

**5**  
SIGNATURE STYLE  
**KEY PIECES**



- 1 Mariza Galani 'IP20' wall sconce in Esoteric Bronze, \$1220, Emporean.
- 2 'Kingsley' bench-mounted tap set in Chrome, \$429.70, ABL Interiors.
- 3 'Estelle' upholstered dining chair in Soft Russet, \$820, GlobeWest.
- 4 Boden 'Soraya' ribbed glass vase in Amber, from \$210, GlobeWest.
- 5 'Atticus' coffee table with moulded solid-timber legs, POA, Fanuli.