





**A MODERN
UPDATE**

"When the homeowners purchased this beautiful 1892 Victorian home, it had only one small cramped toilet at the back, a long way away from the welcoming front entry. They wanted all three bedrooms to have an ensuite, with one doubling as a guest powder room, so they decided to renovate. The new design was based on maintaining the historic mouldings but incorporating the best in contemporary design. Each bathroom includes plentiful storage and modern, space-saving fixtures such as in-wall cisterns. The Carrara marble tiles and Dulux Lexicon White paint used in each space worked to create a spacious and contemporary feel, while mirrors are placed strategically to enlarge each space."

Designer: Toni Franchi Design
Builder: Tony Miller Builders Pty Ltd

EXPERT TIP

Utilising the same materials and finishes helps create a sense of continuity between spaces.

***We love** the way each space is given a pop of colour via plants or accessories.*



SHOP THE LOOK

- **Vanity unit and top** ADP MKII vanity with Formica Lime Woodgrain and white stone top
- **Basin** AXA square vessel basin
- **Bath** Kensington rectangular shower bath
- **Shower** Satinjet Escape MK2 adjustable shower rail and Teknobili UP mixer and diverter
- **Taps** Teknobili UP wall basin mixer
- **Wall and floor tiles** National Tile 450mm x 450mm x 11mm Carrara glazed tiles
- **Mirror** Reece magnifying mirror

- **Toilet suite** AXA Uno back-to-wall floor pan, Hideaway back-to-wall cistern, Hideaway round button, white glass flush panel
- **Heating** IXL Tastic
- **Accessories** Milli Glance towel rails, toilet paper holder, Nikpol Hollyhock nickel pulls, Mizu freestanding towel rack, Posh Solus towel rack

want more?

SHOP THEIR SHOWROOM

franchidesign.net
 301/220 Commercial Road,
 Prahran Vic
 0407 333 557
 0418 553 475 (builder)



JAZZ AGE MODERNE

1920s Deco style colours this welcoming abode

Having purchased a Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home, the owners wanted to amplify its features and add their personal signature to the horizontal planes of the residence. To do this, they enlisted the artistic finesse of Franchi Design.

The owners desired a welcoming home with a relaxed ambience for their family, entertaining areas for two creative chefs and offices for two doctors — a functional and fascinating library for him and an oriental retreat for her.

The six-metre-high foyer would dramatically introduce the interior design, starting with formal areas and leading to informal family, kitchen and meals spaces, culminating in a lush private garden created by Leaver Landscapes. The owners wanted a garden lounge for kids and TV and a “just-for-grownups” elegant snug room with a centrepiece fireplace for cosy winter evenings.

According to Toni, the creative force of Franchi Design, “Each client inspires the designer and for these clients, with their diverse interests, the interior design expresses their kindness, global awareness and cultural spirit. Their vibrant intelligence is epitomised in Jazz Age Moderne — a time of creative awakening to new technology, media and international cultures.”

“Bauhaus art historian Herbert Bayer described Jazz Age Deco as ‘at once traditional, innovative and anything but bland!’ This style is like Frank Lloyd

FRANCHI DESIGN'S VISION FOR A 1920S JAZZ AGE INTERIOR ENCAPSULATED A BACKDROP FOR THE CLIENTS' GROWING COLLECTION OF PAINTING, GLASSWARE, PHOTOGRAPHY AND SCULPTURE.



Lighting and rugs were the foundation pieces used to express the owners' flair.



Wright's international style," commented Toni.

Franchi Design's vision for a 1920s Jazz Age interior encapsulated a backdrop for the clients' growing collection of painting, glassware, photography and sculpture.

Lighting and rugs were Toni's foundation pieces to express the owners' flair. Custom Lighting sourced the Italian Murano glass wall lights, blown-glass teardrop pendants, gold-leaf sconces, and the starburst Temo entry pendant. Behruz Studio's hand-woven Tibetan rugs continue this artistry in a tribute to nature inspired by Monet's *waterlilies*, in colours of soft greens and purples.

The two-storey foyer and corridor introduce the jazz concepts of horizontal banding in tone-on-tone Dulux "Citrus Grove" striped with Zoffany Stripe wallpaper. The two-metre mirror rises over the Makassar ebony and African Green Bowenite stone floating bench and culminates in the pendant's dazzling explosion of Swarovski crystals.

Furnishings and décor throughout contrast cool silver metallics with vibrant colours. The lounge's velvet sofa is contrasted with InVogue's silver linen drapes and Garry Hogg's dove-grey metallic stripe paint. An aubergine glaze in the stairwell and TV niche by Practically Artistic continues the Waterlily carpet colour theme. Cromwell's stone and timber stands highlight sculptures and décor.

The clients wanted a 1920s New York jazz club theme with neutral tones for the formal dining and snug room. Casa Mia Deco chairs provide elegant seating at the Frank Lloyd Wright-styled Bolier dining table from Cavit & Co. ArtTops Joinery integrated an heirloom banquette into the ebony and mirror display wall. The snug room beckons relaxation in Oyster Grey leather club chairs that nestle between the Behruz "Dahlmanns Folded Sky" rug and Hermon & Hermon's Cobonpue



floor lamp. Leather and carpet perfectly match the polished marble plaster wall above the Pure Vision Real Flame fireplace. The extended fireplace hearth by Rolling Stone provides extra seating.

Jazz Age glamour is realised in the master bedroom, where Sgraffito silver-leaf feature wall and Asian artwork contrast with the African timber headboard with retractable lights and midnight-blue bedspread. With James Stephenson's artistry, the midnight blues were etched into the grooves of the silver-leaf wall.

The client's studio is a peaceful oriental reverie. White timber joinery, Asian décor and Seneca's

Elitis Silver Wave wallpaper form a calm surround for the room's artistic centrepiece, the Koi silk rug.

The colours and finishes, global timbers and stones, artisan paint finishes, antiqued metals, nickel and chrome are synonymous with Jazz Age design. This design is the perfect backdrop for dinner parties, intellectual pursuits and artistic expression and honours the joy of coming home. ■

FRANCHI DESIGN

Suite 301, 220 Commercial Road, Prahran Vic 3181

Mobile 0407 333 557

Website www.franchidesign.net

Photography Andrew Leckyw

The play of light and dark tones combined with the sophisticated furnishings, results in a home oozing with style.

CRYSTAL PENTHOUSE

Two apartments have become one magnificent penthouse, taking advantage of spectacular Melbourne views from every room



One of the stunning grand public areas features the custom gold leaf dining table.



Tasteful furnishings include musical instruments, antique clocks and eye-catching chandeliers.

Melbourne designer Toni Franchi was inspired by the international sophistication and cultural awareness of her clients. The family's taste was evident in their furnishings, including an antique grand piano, guitars, cello, computers, sports gear, TVs, stereos and an impressive library including history, philosophy, communication, and Deco artists Ruhlmann and Romain de Tiroff (Erte).

The design direction for this home would be urban Manhattan Deco, a light and dark design completed in ivory, silver, bronze and black expressed in onyx, glass, mirror, Makassar and jet-black timbers.

It is usually the views of a penthouse that initially attract a buyer, but undefined internal space can feel like an airplane hangar if there is no focus or flow. This design creates jewels along the path. The massive space is divided into small private and grand public areas, creating diversity. By sculpting the ceiling into a geometry of beams, coffers and a classical dome, the floor area remains open but with a subtle central axis from the front door crossed by two corridors.

The formal entry with its silver-leaf vaulted ceiling leads from the entry door and resolves in the spectacular pendant-lit dome, both finished in iridescent gold leaf and platinum leaf hand-crafted by artist James Stephenson. The first cross-corridor leads to private spaces, including the powder room, bathroom, master suite, family



The play between light and dark shades is evident throughout the home including this dramatic powder room.

room and sons' bedrooms. The second cross-axis begins at the dome that forms the hub of the grand room comprising the kitchen, dining room and lounge. The dome directs the energy of the formal entry and holds that focus with the energy of Toni's custom gold leaf spiral dining table, topped with a Deco-inspired platinum leaf-etched glass top.

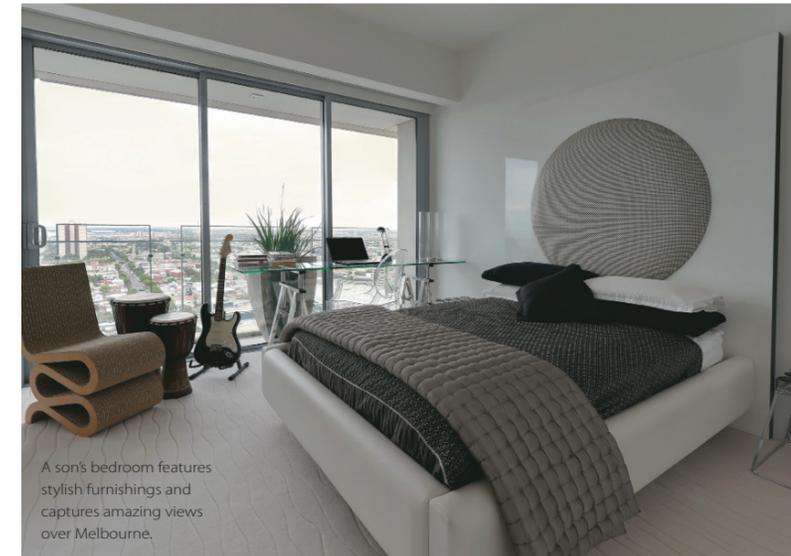
BY SCULPTING THE CEILING INTO A GEOMETRY OF BEAMS, COFFERS AND A CLASSICAL DOME, THE FLOOR AREA REMAINS OPEN BUT WITH A SUBTLE CENTRAL AXIS FROM THE FRONT DOOR CROSSED BY TWO CORRIDORS.

The play of light and dark was explored in the bathrooms and kitchen. The powder room, with its Omvivo black-glass washplane with mirror and Elitis shadow wallpaper is a small room made large by disappearing boundaries. The kitchen, completed in white Calacatta marble, accommodates all appliances with the added feature of a parson's console with barstools that has become the "Command Centre" home office, afforded views of the Botanical Gardens and Albert Lake.

The family room is the chill zone for the three sons. Furnishings include Momu sofas upholstered in Seneca salt-and-pepper fabric, a Cromwell club chair and a black diamond ottoman, which is the functional and contemporary centrepiece.



The breakfast bar boasts the best seats in the house, with views to the Botanical Gardens and Albert Lake.



A son's bedroom features stylish furnishings and captures amazing views over Melbourne.

Bespoke joinery was fitted to all bedrooms, evident in the magical huge TV hidden in a slide-out compartment behind the white onyx marble wall. The onyx was selected to emulate surrounding clouds but with an inward focus of a hearth that is both a work of inspiration and a conversation piece. Each slab was matched by mason Michael Jones to create a story of white clouds that seem to float across a 10m expanse of wall, banded by 12mm floating glass display shelves.

The charcoal silver sofas with their starry silver velvet Elitis cushions anchor the waves of the custom carpet. The coffee table, dining chairs and Yardley table, topped with a Philippe Starck mirror and Deco crystal table lamps, were masterfully built by artisan and Deco aficionado Colin Bainbridge as tributes to Ruhlmann furnishings. The grand piano invites performance in its niche of Makassar ebony-banded glass and Vargas glass bevelled mirrors.

Toni's penthouse design is both inspiring and comforting, making you feel transported, *sans souci*, to your private sanctuary. ■

FRANCHI DESIGN

Suite 301, 220 Commercial Road, Prahran Vic 3181
Tel +61 0 407 333 557 | **Website** www.franchidesign.net
Masonry Rolling Stone | **Built-in Joinery** Icon Builders
Lighting Custom Lighting | **Gilding** Practically Artistic
Bespoke furniture Bainbridge Furniture
Rugs RugsCarpetsByDesign
Photography Andrew Lecky



We love the unique ceiling design

EXPRESS TRANSFORMATION

"Although completed as part of the overhaul of the entire home, it's the kitchen of this South Yarra cottage which underwent the biggest transformation. Modern, elegant and welcoming was the brief from the socialite client, who wanted to transform a previously claustrophobic room into something special. We worked with builder Matt Strong on a unique creation reminiscent of an Art Deco-style Orient Express railway car. We used wallpaper and mirrors to create an infinity arch effect for the ceiling, while mirrored splashbacks add the illusion of space in the galley-shaped area. While it might evoke echoes of the past, modern features including Zebrino marble benchtops ensure the room is the height of fashion. The whimsical look is completed with red small appliances and pendant lighting. The kitchen flows through to the dining room, which features a Voyager Park wenge table, making it the perfect fit in a unique home."

Designer: Toni Franchi for Franchi Design



SHOP THE LOOK

- **franchidesign.net**
- **Cabinet doors** Duropal Icy White Illusion
- **Internal hardware** Blum soft close
- **Special inserts** Häfele Kesseböhmer Tandem pantry and half pantry
- **Handles** Nikpol brushed nickel
- **Benchtop** Zebrino marble
- **Splashback** Smoke mirror
- **Kickboards** Brushed stainless steel
- **Wall Smoke mirror**
- **Flooring** Choices Flooring wood vinyl planks
- **Lighting** Custom Lighting Irk Sunlight, LED downlights
- **Paint** Resene Black White
- **Windows** InVogue charcoal sunscreen blinds
- **Taps** Zip Hydrotap, KWC pull-out spray mixer
- **Oven** Siemens 600
- **Dishwasher** Miele semi-integrated
- **Refrigerator** Fisher & Paykel French door
- **Cooktop/hotplate** Siemens
- **Rangehood/canopy** Siemens
- **Sink** Franke 700w single stainless
- **Washing/drying** Miele stacking washer/dryer

EXPERT TIP

Mirrored splashbacks can make a real difference in small galley kitchens



want more?
SHOP THEIR SHOWROOM
301/220 Commercial Road,
Prahran Vic
0407 333 557



We love the unique ceiling design!

EXPRESS TRANSFORMATION

The kitchen underwent the biggest design change in this South Yarra cottage renovation. "Modern, open and welcoming" was the brief from Toni's socialite client, who wanted the claustrophobic room to be transformed into "dinner party special!" Franchi Design and builder Matt Strong created this unique interpretation of an Art Deco Orient Express railway car. Glass bead wallpaper with end mirrors create an infinity arch effect for the ceiling. Smoke mirror splashbacks subtly reflect the massive new window's garden view which adds spaciousness to galley design kitchen. Commercial Stainless cabinets gives it a restaurant vibe and the striped Zebrino marble benchtops ensure the room is fashion forward. The spark of whimsy is added with red small appliances and crystal pendant lighting. The kitchen flows easily from the Voyager Park dining table to the Entanglement outdoor wall art making a petite kitchen hugely inviting for entertaining and family." Designer: Toni Franchi for Franchi Design



SHOP THE LOOK

- 🛒 www.franchidesign.net
- 🛒 Cabinet Doors Duropal Icy White Illusion Uppers & Brushed Stainless Lovers
- 🛒 Drawers Blum Soft HD
- 🛒 Décor Cromwell Aus.
- 🛒 Handles Nikpol Nickel D
- 🛒 Benchtop Zebrino marble
- 🛒 Garden Art Entanglements
- 🛒 Splashback Smoke mirror
- 🛒 Kickboards Brushed stainless steel
- 🛒 Wallpaper Practically Artistic Zoffany Silver Glass Bead
- 🛒 Flooring Choices Flooring by Pughs in Driftwood Faux Timber Planks
- 🛒 Lighting Custom Lighting Irk Sunlight & LED downlights
- 🛒 Paint Resene Black White
- 🛒 Window InVogue Charcoal Silverscreen roller blind
- 🛒 Taps Zip Hydrotap & Franke pullout spray mixer
- 🛒 Oven & Rangehood Siemens
- 🛒 Gas Cooktop Siemens
- 🛒 Dishwasher Miele Stainless Steel
- 🛒 Refrigerator Fisher & Paykel French Door
- 🛒 Cooktop/hotplate Siemens
- 🛒 Grange Joinery Cutlery Trays, Kesseböhmer Tandem Pantry and Half-Pantry & bottle inserts
- 🛒 Sink Franke SS 700w

EXPERT TIP

Mirrored splashbacks can make a real difference in small galley kitchens



want more? SHOP THEIR SHOWROOM

Franchi Design
301/220 Commercial Road,
Prahran 3181 VIC
0407 333 557



We love the unique ceiling design!



EXPRESS TRANSFORMATION

The kitchen underwent the biggest design change in this South Yarra cottage renovation. "Modern, open and welcoming" was the brief from Toni's socialite client, who wanted the claustrophobic room to be transformed into "dinner party special!" Franchi Design and builder Matt Strong created this unique interpretation of an Art Deco Orient Express railway car. Glass bead wallpaper with end mirrors create an infinity arch effect for the ceiling. Smoke mirror splashbacks subtly reflect the massive new window's garden view which adds spaciousness to galley design kitchen. Commercial Stainless cabinets gives it a restaurant vibe and the striped Zebrino marble benchtops ensure the room is fashion forward. The spark of whimsy is added with red small appliances and crystal pendant lighting. The kitchen flows easily from the Voyager Park dining table to the Entanglement outdoor wall art making a petite kitchen hugely inviting for entertaining and family." Designer: Toni Franchi for Franchi Design



SHOP THE LOOK

- 🛒 www.franchidesign.net
- 🛒 Cabinet Doors Duropal Icy White Illusion Uppers & Brushed Stainless Lovers
- 🛒 Drawers Blum Soft HD Full Extension
- 🛒 Décor Cromwell Aus.
- 🛒 Handles Nikpol brushed nickel Square D-Pulls
- 🛒 Benchtop Zebrino marble
- 🛒 Splashback Smoke mirror
- 🛒 Kickboards Brushed stainless steel
- 🛒 Wallpaper Practically Artistic Zoffany Silver Glass Bead
- 🛒 Flooring Choices Flooring by Pughs in Driftwood Faux Timber Planks
- 🛒 Lighting Custom Lighting Irk Sunlight & LED downlights
- 🛒 Paint Resene Black White
- 🛒 Windows InVogue charcoal sunscreen blinds
- 🛒 Taps Zip Hydrotap & Franke pull-out spray mixer
- 🛒 Oven & Rangehood Siemens
- 🛒 Gas Cooktop Siemens
- 🛒 Dishwasher Miele Stainless Steel
- 🛒 Refrigerator Fisher & Paykel French door
- 🛒 Cooktop/hotplate Siemens
- 🛒 Grange Joinery Cutlery Trays, Kesseböhmer Tandem Pantry and Half-Pantry & bottle inserts
- 🛒 Sink Franke SS 700w

EXPERT TIP

Mirrored splashbacks can make a real difference in small galley kitchens



THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN

"Originally separated into three tiny rooms including a laundry, strip kitchen and an isolated dining room, this refreshing design is a far cry from the previous space. The small kitchen creates big impact with light colour, timber cabinets and efficient layout. The central location of the kitchen in the plan meant it had to be the 'jewel in the crown'. With modern lines and light colours in floors, walls and joinery, the space has a contemporary feel while maintaining the original 1889 features. The vaulted roof has been exposed and new beams installed for a beautiful architectural finish. Taking advantage of the unique 3.6m-high roof, the peninsula bench's central focus is the Lindsey Adelman light, a captivating and artistic element. The owners cook constantly, from cuppas to dinner parties, so ample storage and bright cleanable surfaces are essential for a kitchen that is always active and on display. Tall cupboards keep the space uncluttered while giving easy access to laundry, double pantry and clean stores."

Designer: Toni Franchi Design

Built by: Tony Miller Builders Pty Ltd



EXPERT TIP

A well-planned kitchen design can shine through in a small space.

We love the impact of the distinctive Lindsey Adelman light fitting combined with the high, sloping roof.



SHOP THE LOOK

- **Cabinet doors and panels** Nikpol Hacienda White woodgrain
- **Kickboards** Polytec Brushed Aluminium
- **Internal hardware** Blum, Hettich and Häfele
- **Benchtop** 20mm Quantum Quartz Ice White
- **Handles** Nikpol Guggenheim pewter
- **Splashback** Toughened glass non-green Ice White
- **Oven** Fisher & Paykel Paris
- **Cooktop** Siemens 4-Burner
- **Rangehood** Qasair
- **Dishwasher** Fisher & Paykel DishDrawers
- **Refrigerator/Freezer** Westinghouse SS French Doors
- **Sink** Franke Planar double sink
- **Taps** Armando Vicario TINK-D Kitchen Mixer
- **Flooring** Cerdomus tile, Stagepoint C1969, Limed timber-look tiles, porcelain 1000x250x11mm
- **Paint** Watty! Titanium White Washable Velvet, Resene Deux Concrete
- **Lighting** Lucretia Adelman 8 Bubble
- **Furnishings Décor** Cromwell Australia

want more?

SHOP THEIR SHOWROOM

franchidesign.net
toni@franchidesign.net
301/220 Commercial Road,
Prahran Vic
0407 333 557

rich with INSPIRATION

New York's Art Deco is at the core of designer Toni Franchi's incredible work

Toni's parents championed her creativity. Her father was a Madman, a Madison Avenue Advertising writer, and her mother was a writer and artist whose hand-crafted drapes, slipcovers and wall coverings created elegant backdrops to inspired dinner parties. These memories of New York Art Deco clearly inform her aesthetic.

As an interior designer and an architect, her first jobs with a builder, and then with architects Skidmore Owings and Merrill, gave her the technical background to seamlessly merge her interiors with the architectural framework. Combining her writing ability with her 3D training, she furthered her design skills as a museum exhibit designer, which led to her being head-hunted by international branding company, Landor, of San Francisco. They encouraged her to design fashion, graphics and architecture in branded identities interiors.

Toni spent 10 years travelling the globe to implement a multitude of branded interiors throughout Asia Pacific and Africa. Reminiscing, she said that while on a month-long trip through India she was queuing in an immense ticketing hall in Mumbai, and suddenly realised the interior space was one of her designs she'd completed a couple of years prior.

Toni saw her niche in creating an identity approach to residential and hospitality interiors, with Franchi Design achieving its first Melbourne commission in 2006. Toni's company has evolved into a dedicated design service in premium

residential, retail and hospitality design.

At Franchi Design a project starts with a "fashion inspiration image", followed by the "master concept phase" which defines the features of the project. This early commitment to a defined design is a more streamlined approach as opposed to traditional design development. Knowing the design destination means the client's feedback is more interactive.

For her own penthouse, Toni worked closely with trusted tradesmen and suppliers who confidently produced her vision. The Nepalese RugStar Splash 2 designed by Jurgen Dahlmanns from Behruz Studio, is always a talking point. Toni continues, "The Deco Asian concept was refined through confident fabrication with my trusted team from InVogue Blinds/Velvet Banners, Capocchi Antiques' French deco chairs, and Custom Lighting's crystal pendant.

Toni notes that trends in her work rarely come from her own field of endeavour. Fashion, jewellery, green technology, 1930s films, science fiction, and 3D imaging inspire her adventurous designs as she cherry-picks design eras in the same way a chef might add a new ingredient to a dinner entrée. The *James Bond* interiors, Hundertwasser's colours, Warhol graphics, and Lucite shapes of the '60s, along with the globe-trotting artefacts of the '70s and exuberant embellishments of the '80s, are all eras she draws inspiration from. Toni expects the future of interiors to emphasise layered



TONI'S ACCESSORISING GUIDE

- 1 Personalise with memorabilia and collectibles.
- 2 Don't go timidly — get the larger size!
- 3 Display multiples of the same object.
- 4 Test colours on a black background.
- 5 Express your values through books, cushions, lighting, rugs, art, plants and photos.
- 6 First imagine how your new room feels and then hit the shops!
- 7 The master bedroom is a place for dreamtime; encourage this with deep colours and soft textures.

geometries, higher contrasts, transparencies and more use of metallic finishes — designs that are now possible with advanced computer modelling.

Franchi Design's formula is "unique client + unique space = a dynamic design response". "Accommodating individual lives produces welcoming places," Toni adds. The direction of Franchi Design is genuine. "My vision is to work closely in one-on-one relationships with my clients, who very often become friends." Toni's warm personality is reminiscent of her beautiful work and her worldly perspectives reflect her daring designs. "Show care, be curious and involve the client and team in order to realise beautiful places with the best finishes possible." ■

FRANCHI DESIGN Suite 301/220 Commercial Road, Prahran Vic 3181 | Tel 03 9525 0415 | Fax 03 9525 0416 | Website www.franchidesign.net



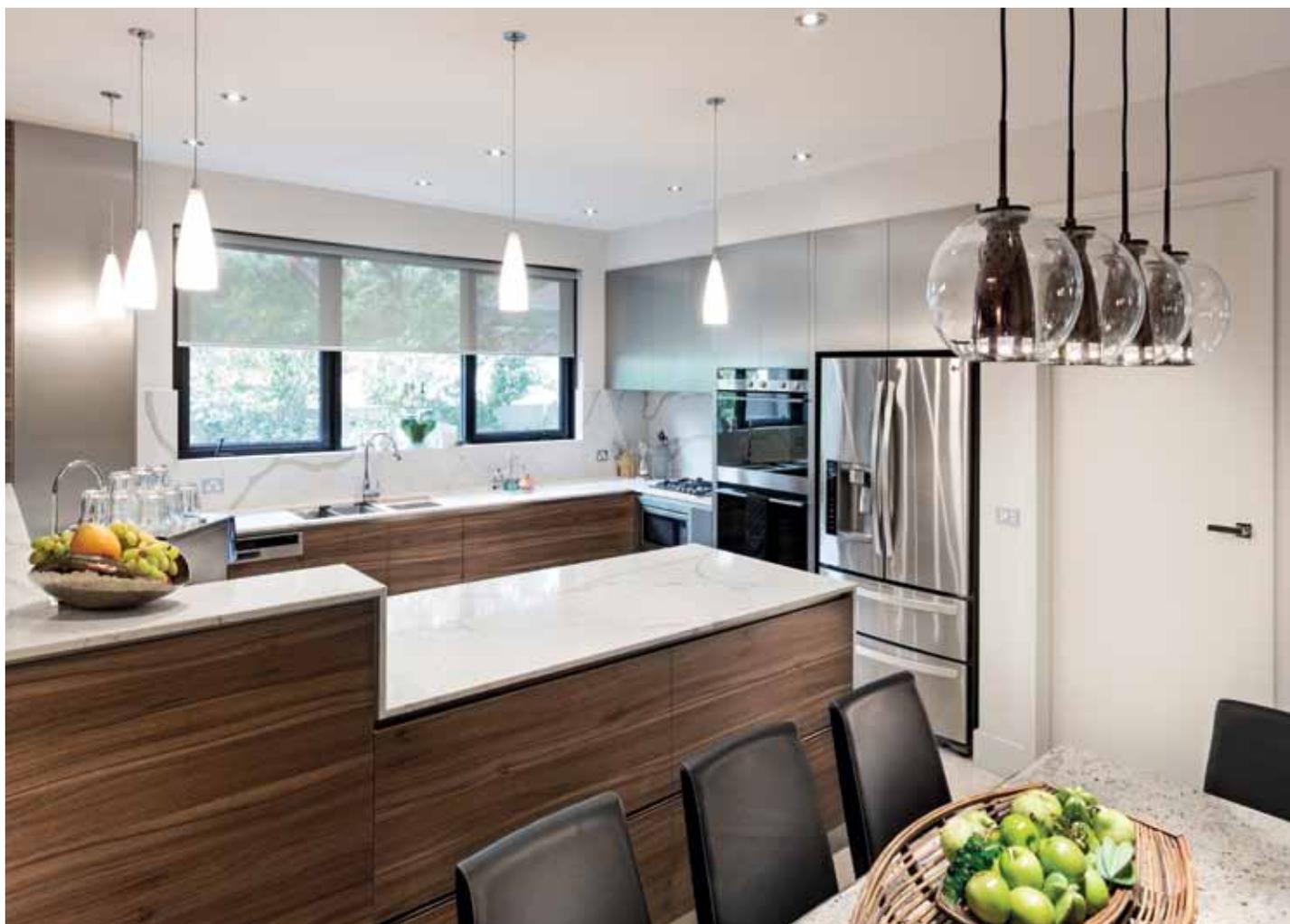
CENTRE STAGE

A combination of rich materials forms the foundation of this luxurious space





LUXE FACTOR



Photography Patrick Redmond

Your house should be a reflection of your style, and there's nothing better than coming home to a space that is truly yours. Working with Melbourne-based American interior architectural design firm Toni Franchey Design, the husband and wife who call this unique space home created a design that is opulent, stylish, and a reflection of who they are.

Toni was tasked with revamping the kitchen and living areas, which are generally considered the most important spaces within the home. Serving as the centrepiece of the design, the kitchen combines Talostone Statuario veined marble to create a signature look that's modernised with stainless-steel accents. Duropal timber cabinetry in Walnut Lyon brings warmth into the kitchen, contrasting with the richness of the marble benchtop. "These finishes were chosen to work as beautiful display furnishings facing the family room," says Toni.

Due to the open nature of the design, kitchen appliances were selected for their chic look and quietness. A Fisher & Paykel Paris oven, Siemens cooktop and semi-integrated dishwashers, soft-close hardware and Oliveri stainless-steel sinks harmonise beautifully.

The formal dining is steps away from the kitchen, which offers plenty of room for friends and family to enjoy meals together. Within the lounge and formal



Timber cabinetry brings an earthy element to the opulent space



Veined marble is an on-trend addition to the kitchen



ABOVE Metallic accents create an opulent living area

RIGHT The kitchen and dining areas are both stylish and well-lit thanks to the use of pendant lights

dining spaces, a mostly neutral palette is used, with metallic accents adding glamour. “The formal dining and lounge rooms are bracketed between the elegant neutral and metallic elements of the Real Flame fireplace, Eiffel coffee table, silk drapes and oval chrome pendant studded with crystals,” says Toni.

The end result is a space that ups the ante when it comes to luxury and glamour. “I love working collaboratively with my clients to co-create a modern look that fits the owners’ personalities and style of the home to create a unique tailored design.” **HD**
franchidesign.net

suppliers

- ❖ Cromwell Australia (cromwellaustralia.com.au)
- ❖ Grange Joinery (grange-joinery.com.au)
- ❖ Moorabbin Marble & Granite (moorabbinmarble.com.au)
- ❖ E&S Trading Cooktop (estrading.com.au)
- ❖ Custom Lighting (customlightingsolutions.com.au)
- ❖ Tsar Carpets & Rugs (tsar.com.au)





“I love working collaboratively with my clients to co-create a modern look that fits the owners’ personalities and style of the home to create a unique tailored design”
– Toni Franchey



This new outdoor space is now used for comfortable year-round alfresco dining and for post-work entertaining and relaxation. It's modern, elegant and, most of all, welcoming.

CITY HIDEAWAY

A chic urban oasis in the heart of Melbourne provides all the necessary elements for sophisticated outdoor relaxation and entertaining

Words Danielle Townsend / Photography Andrew Lecky



With avid interests in health, exercise, travel, art, music, fashion and theatre, this homeowner, living in the heart of Melbourne's entertainment district, is now discovering the city's wonderful array of galleries and eateries. Moving from a grand-sized home into a small inner-city residence, she expressed a need for her new abode to still exude all of the elegance of her previous one, with a tranquil hidden garden.

"We wanted the light open feel of a Japanese garden pavilion," says Toni Franchi of Franchi Design, who designed this garden and outdoor room. "The Orient Express railway cars of the Art Deco era and Balinese gardens were also my inspiration. I wanted the client to feel the comfort and peace of a first-class rail journey through an exotic landscape."

The homeowner desired her new outdoor space be used for comfortable year-round alfresco dining and for post-work entertaining and relaxation. "Modern, elegant and, most of all, welcoming was what this entertaining socialite whirlwind told me!" says Toni. Hence, she requested a large indoor/outdoor area that could host dinner parties and a continual stream of friends dropping by, plus two grown daughters who visit her regularly. "Although she was initially concerned that no one would visit her 'brick gingerbread house'... there's now an endless number of friends who are amazed at what has been done to modernise and streamline the property to fit her sophisticated life," explains Toni.

Based in a great location in the centre of South Yarra, the homeowner decided to take her antiquated post-war brick residence and transform it into an urban oasis — a chic city hideaway. But tree roots and overgrown roses made the existing backyard completely unusable. "It was a giant mess!" says

Toni of the site before she and Matthew Strong and his Leaver Landscape team took hold of it, transforming it into an inviting garden and outdoor room.

First, the property was levelled. "Then, with the help of Leaver Landscape, we created a bedroom terrace, entry verandah, outdoor room and wall art," says Toni. "The integrated indoor-outdoor design was planned from the interiors to the fence. We ensured art and views maximised enjoyment and functionality."

It was important to the homeowner that every room had a niche garden that provides four seasons of lush flowers through the year, using a variety of hardy Australian natives, fruit trees, international flowers and ground covers.

Her garden is now filled with environmentally considerate seasonal colour, including edible fruits such as apple trees, Meyer lemons, limes, raspberries, blackberries, mint and rosemary.

Meanwhile, for flowering and seasonal colour, gardenias, peonies, clivias, bromeliads, jasmine, violas, trumpet flowers, Japanese maples, camellias and rhododendrons were planted, along with clematis on the pergola.

The mixture of Entanglements wall art, jasmine, berries, fruit trees, clivias and bromeliads offers a burst of year-round colour.

Matthew also selected a range of hardy plantings such as yucca, monstera, agapanthus, giant bird of paradise and protea.

"The outdoor room looks good as you approach from the entry driveway, dining room, side garden and when looking into the main house," says Toni of her favourite aspect of the design. "Every seat offers a view... The space feels nurtured by greenery and completely fresh."

For maximum comfort, the outdoor room now boasts Thermoheat radiant heaters, louvre shutters and a fan for year-round alfresco entertaining. These elements, as well as the all-new LED lights, Entanglements garden wall art, National Tiles



"I wanted the client to feel the comfort and peace of a first-class rail journey through an exotic landscape."
— Toni Franchi



Weather Concrete heavy-duty cement-look ceramic tiles and Marco outdoor green seating fabric, all create a natural fit with the garden, so the homeowner and her visitors are comfortably surrounded by nature.

The natural brick of the retaining wall was maintained for added texture and whitewashed for soft light reflection into the space. The back fence was painted oyster grey-white for better reflection within the outdoor room. The existing brick fencing was painted in Dulux Stone, with clematis climbing on the pergola and jasmine and no-thorn blackberries over the bricks. Feature walls have lattice and an Entanglements back-lit metal sculpture of tree silhouettes that is softly lit with energy-saving LEDs. "The end view that you see from the entry always needs to be beautiful," says Toni.

An eco-friendly water-permeable resin-coated river pebble driveway was installed. It not only drains off water but also feeds the earth. Bluestone pavers were laid for the walkway, and rough-cut bluestone stepping stones add another natural touch to the space.

A small entry in the house leads to more light in the spectacular outdoor room. While this house was once small and dark, now

louvre bifold doors and skylights marry the indoor and outdoor areas and wash the home in soft light. "The contrast of a small, dark entry moving into a grand, bright space is a continuous joy for the homeowner and a delight to guests," says Toni.

This project was a dream come true, according to Toni. "We had cooperation and good communication between the builder, client and designer," she says. "From a good design, there are opportunities to enhance the final outcome. I am very grateful to the client and the team for the technical and creative work that produced this jewel. From a dull cottage, we have created a chic urban oasis." 🌿

Landscape design Toni Franchi Design

Landscape construction Matthew Strong and Leaver Landscape
Website franchidesign.net

OPPOSITE The outdoor room looks good as you approach. The space feels both nurtured by greenery and completely fresh.

TOP An Entanglements back-lit metal sculpture of tree silhouettes is softly

lit with energy-saving LEDs. **ABOVE** The garden provides four seasons of flowers year-round, using hardy Australian natives, fruit trees, international flowers and ground covers.