

Minimalism with Texture

Text
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Photography
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It's never easy making over old houses – reconciling past and present, current needs with future needs, competing generations, and ideal solutions with structural and budgetary realities. But that's the challenge of interior architecture.

In this case, "the clients," says Chris Lane of arnoldlane, "had bought an old bungalow in Double Bay. It was a perfect location, but it had poor bones and didn't get a lot of natural light. And it had a second storey addition from the 1970s which was poorly constructed and poorly supported which made dealing with the interior problematic."

The brief was to modernise the downstairs interior (and refurbish two upstairs bathrooms) "for contemporary living while fusing in some contemporary and classical influences" to create a formal living area, dining area and a food preparation area, along with a zone for the children to watch TV and play games. At the same time, the idea was to open up the back of the house to bring in light and make a connection to the barbeque area and back yard.

This required close collaboration with the structural engineers to get all the supporting posts concealed in a long joinery wall which runs from the main entry to the back door and which also now conceals the laundry, a WC, a cupboard and all the folds in the building. The existing drop ceilings had to be resolved to achieved one ceiling plane throughout. Hence, instead of the previous clutter of dark doorways, there is now a clear vista from the entry right through to the back yard.

The focus of this space is the six metre long Calacutta Oro marble bench which came in just two pieces and book-matched – that is, the grain is matched on front, top and sides. This, along with the timber panelling and herringbone floor provides some of the classical character to the space – an eclectic feel that is mirrored in the mix of furnishings.

"We aimed," says Lane, "to retain the existing design language of the bungalow and introduce these classical influences – a rich minimalism with texture. We used pure white to contrast against those finishes (panelling and flooring) and achieve that white space for living."



Design Practice arnoldlane
Design Team Christopher Lane, Kathy Arnold
Builder Lizton Constructions
Joiner Van & Sons
Engineer Brad Fong
Design Time 5 months
Construction 6 months
Total Floor Area 207m²

arnoldlane
(61 2) 8307 0212, arnoldlane.com

Furniture
All furniture is existing.

Lighting
All lighting is from JSB Lighting, except for the 'Romeo Soft s2' in the living room from Euroluce.
Euroluce (61 2) 9380 6222
JSB Lighting (61 2) 9571 8800

Finishes
'Escape Velour' carpet, in colour 'Espresso' in bedrooms, stairs and hallway from Supertuft. Laundry floor and guest WC has 'Stonehenge Savanna' tiles from Bisanna Tiles. Timber block, chevron-patterned parquetry is Blackbutt, colour 'Aged French Walnut' finished in satin and supplied by Timber Floors International. The 19mm, honed island bench is made from Calacutta ORO marble from MTP Marble. Kitchen bench finished in a quartz surface from CaesarStone. Splashback is 'Natural White' Starphire glass from Aussie Glass.

Aussie Glass (61 2) 9603 8245
Bisanna Tiles (61 2) 9310 2500
CaesarStone (61 2) 8339 7400
MTP Marble (61 2) 9660 8325
Supertuft (61 3) 9427 8600
Timber Floors International (61 2) 9363 0808

Fixtures & Fittings
All bathroom fittings from RogerSeller. Cooking appliances are Gaggenau and supplied by the client.
RogerSeller (61 2) 9332 4800
Gaggenau gaggenau.com