



# full of potential

The success of this modern Melbourne home makeover was due to an adventurous client and an architect with vision

**The Yatama House** in Melbourne began as an Archicentre design concept. Based on the success of this stage, the clients asked architect Mark MacInnis to carry out the project according to the report. The client recognised the architectural spirit of the existing home and was keen to explore its potential.

“The original home is of an era and materiality that is often misunderstood and dismissed by the general public. This era of housing finds its antecedents in the design work of mid-20th-century local modernists such as Graham Gunn, and then ultimately in the design work

of seminal international architects such as Rudolf Schindler,” Mark said.

Although the ideals of these sources were significantly diluted in the design of the original house, there was enough merit in the building to be reworked into a new design. The architect has succeeded in making the mid-20th-century modernists look new.

Changes to the brief significantly adjusted the original predicted timeframe. Many versions of the design were proposed and tested until the final answer was settled upon.

“Halfway through the design development stage of the project, the



THIS IMAGE The exceptional makeover at the rear of the property – it is built up around a central tree and it nicely draws in the natural leafy surroundings, including a low-water-consuming garden.

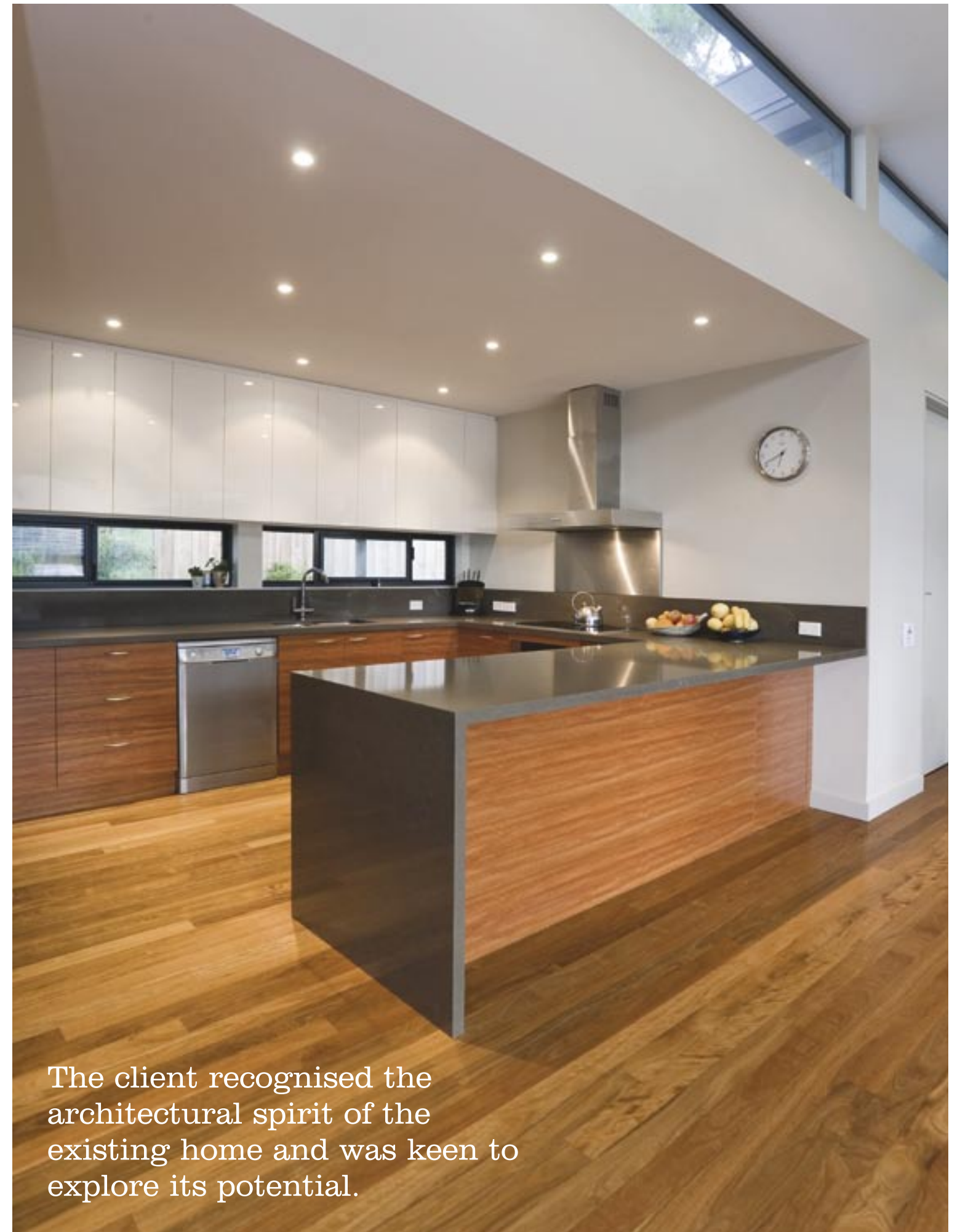




client chose to dramatically increase the budget almost three-fold. The central wing of the building was completely levelled and the two-storey section completely gutted. This allowed us to rework almost every room in the house, play with high ceilings and upgrade finishes. The budget was carefully monitored throughout the redesign process," Mark said.

"The main themes of the original concept are retained in the final design: open the house to its courtyards and gardens; modernise the house; play with light and shape to create open and exciting spaces; create outdoor rooms; improve environmental performance; and identify and enhance the underlying architectural themes of the house."

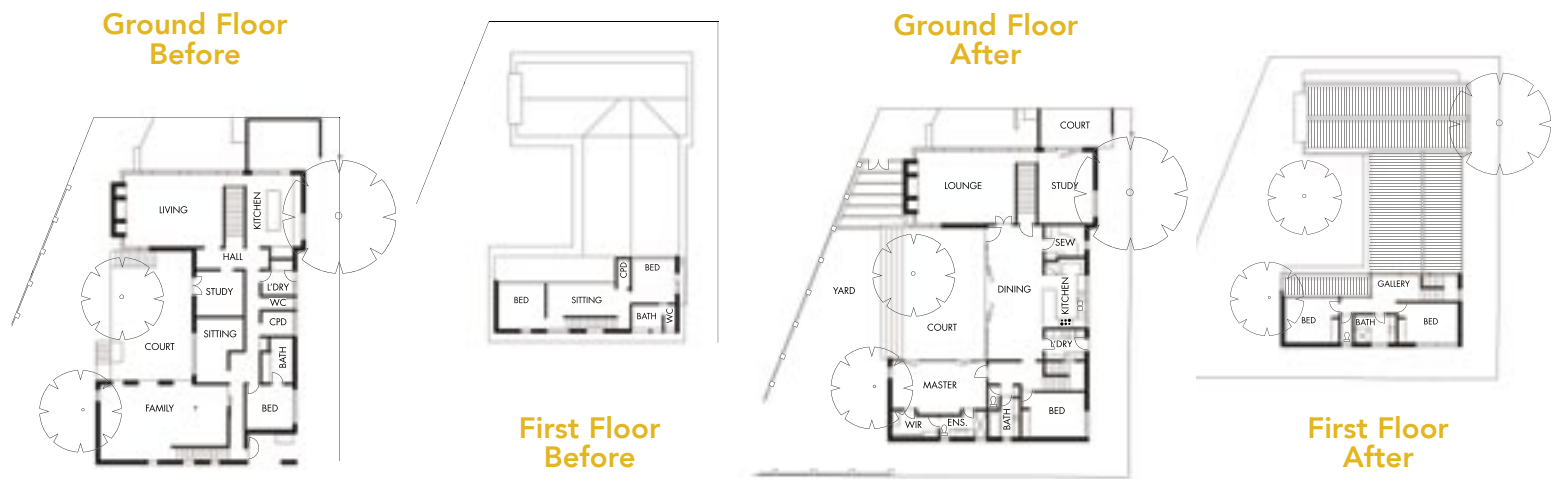
The renovation is also a nod to sustainability and offers good sustainability attributes. All windows were double-glazed and low-e glass installed







THIS IMAGE One of the bedrooms opens out to the outdoor area. OPPOSITE The lounge room on the ground floor is a light and bright space.



where appropriate, so the house now breathes well with openable highlight windows. Insulation throughout the home was upgraded to a high standard — the original house had none. Grey water diverters from the showers were installed, as were water tanks.

The makeover at the rear of the property is exceptional. Built up around a central tree, it nicely draws in the natural leafy surroundings, including a low-water-consuming garden.

The expansive design opens up the home and now offers a sense of space. This project is unique in that it demonstrates the wonderful potential offered by this era of building stock in Melbourne. Extensive changes were made by the architect, who executed them successfully.

PROJECT PARTICULARS

**This project was designed by:**  
MARK MACINNIS ARCHITECT  
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**Photography:** ???????

**This project was built by:**  
SCOTCO CONSTRUCTIONS  
**Tel:** 03 9580 3915  
**Licence number:** DB-U1423

**Flooring**  
**Kitchen/dining:** Tallowwood  
**Living/bedroom:** Carpet  
**Outdoor:** Sadler Stone Olive terrazzo

**Walls**  
**Kitchen/casual dining/dining/living/bedroom/stair:** pbd for all, Wattyl paints

**Outdoor:** Concrete block rendered in Wattyl — Chimea DTB  
**Kitchen**  
**Benchtop/splashback:** CaesarStone Mink  
**Cabinetry:** Tallowwood timber veneer (supplied by Briggs Veneers) to north wall and underbench cupboards and drawers and front of island bench, gloss painted (white) overhead cupboards

**Sanitary Fixtures + Bathroom Fittings:**  
**Master bedroom ensuite**  
**Basin:** Alape from Reece Waterplane  
**Toilet:** Caroma Opal toilet suite from Reece  
**Tiles:** Porcelain tile from Brighton Tile Gallery  
**Benchtop:** CaesarStone Glacier  
**Cupboard doors:** Formica Oyster Linea — grain to run horizontally  
**Windows + external doors:** Rylock windows — Metropolitan Bronze colour