

# The lion sleeps tonight

**An '80s renovation faux pas gets a dramatic makeover**  
By Marissa Saroca. Photography by Dianna Snape

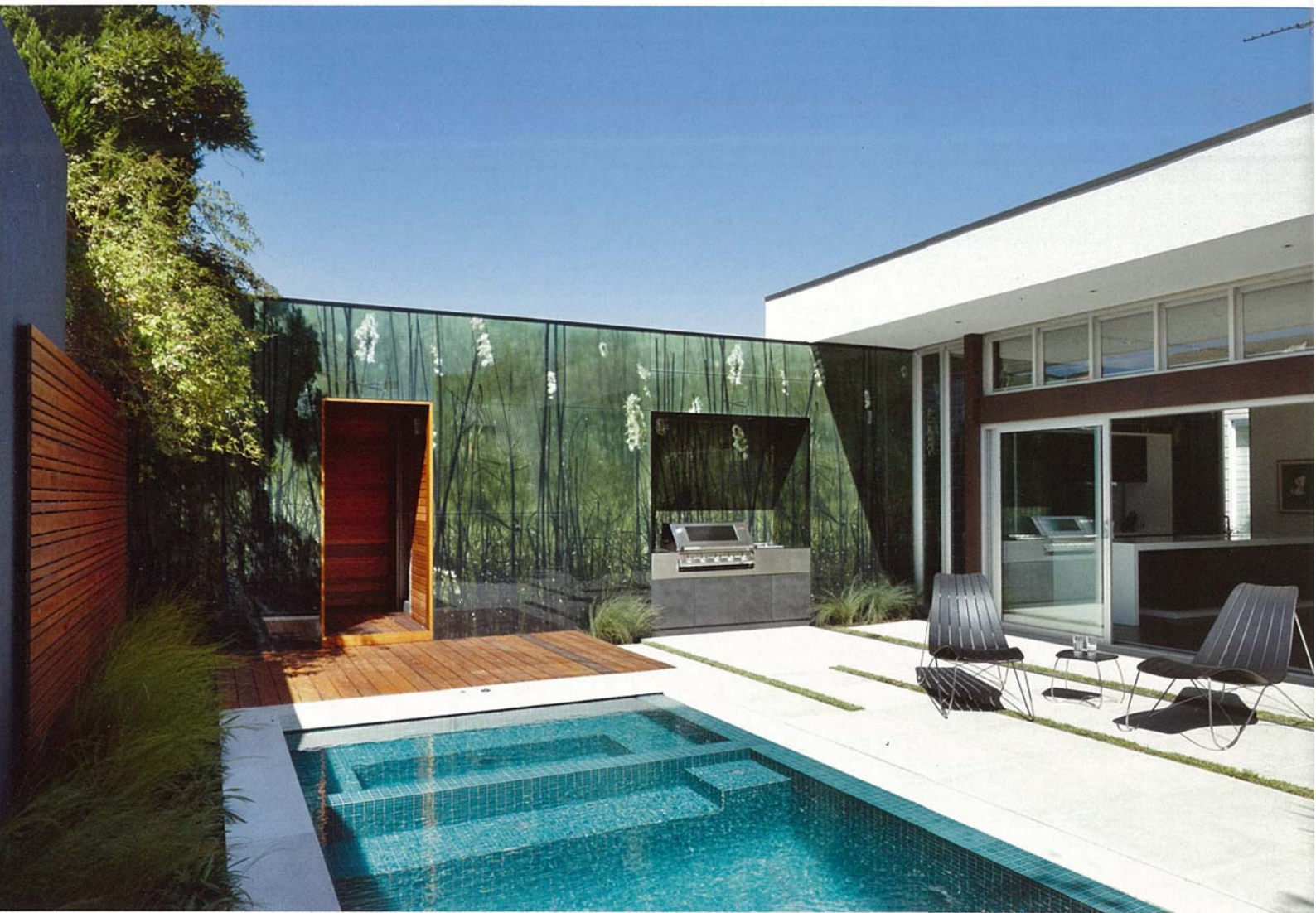


## ***The '80s certainly have a lot to answer***

for, and unfortunately renovations are no exception. This 1920s home was the victim of one such overhaul — the red-brick rear extension turning its back on the northern aspect, and the small backyard taken up almost entirely by a gazebo, spa and store room.

The owners were primarily concerned with creating a functioning family home that had generous entertaining areas and a better connection to the backyard. The rear extension was demolished to make way for a new kitchen, dining area, family room, with an adjoining kitchen, dining, family room, pantry, laundry and a sauna. The new renovations are separate from the existing double-storey home, ensuring plenty of light streams into the living area, with uninterrupted views of the lap pool and entertainment zone.

Not just content with having a more practical space, the owners wanted to add their own creative flair to the



*A major feat in both digital and glazing technology, this 15-metre-long uninterrupted wall is the highlight of this home's dramatic transformation.*

makeover. With an accomplished professional photographer for a father, it didn't take too long to decide to incorporate one of his images, but how?

Project architect Adam Grundmann of bg architecture envisaged a digitally imaged glass wall and approached Viridian Glass to explore the possibilities. Test prints were created

and tested on the glass and once that challenge was passed, work began to create the uninterrupted 15-metre-long wall stretching from the inside out. The result is truly breathtaking, with the magnificent feature wall creating a beautiful backdrop for the home's sleek, minimalist kitchen and expansive outdoor entertaining area.

Rigorous coordination was required between the team, including the builder, cabinet maker, glazier and digital printing company, because of the intricacies of the job. Coming together like pieces of a puzzle, any cutouts, movable parts, or joinery sections needed to be carefully calibrated for accurate installation.

Inside, the digital image is displayed on star-fire clear glass on a black melamine substrate, while outside the image was printed onto a thin DigiGlass film and laminated with a layer of white film between two sheets of toughened glass on a fibre cement substrate. Obviously, the exposure to sun was a consideration for the exterior wall, so the decision to proceed with the project came with a 20-year colour fidelity guarantee.





The actual artwork was a high-resolution image of a lion in the long grasses of Africa. A section was cropped and the colours and focus depth enhanced in Photoshop to ensure the image was not too pixelated when reproduced to scale. A dramatic feature of the home, the true-to-life landscape extends the area, helps create a tranquil suburban oasis and accentuates the natural scenery of an outside area with otherwise limited landscape possibilities.

The home has also been decked out with plenty of energy-efficient solutions. Viridian Low-E double glazing was used in the new living area in conjunction with highlight louvres designed to expel the heat during summer. Internal courtyards and windows create cross ventilation and take advantage of cooling sea breezes. Hydronic floor heating and a polished concrete slab make the most of the northern sun, providing a heat sink for winter months. A series of 20 solar electrical panels were installed, providing electricity that is fed back into the grid. Finally, a 10,000-litre water tank was installed under the front lawn to provide water for the gardens.

Inside, the kitchen is not to be dismissed. The CaesarStone benchtop in Snow is the perfect accompaniment to the feature wall and is right at home surrounded by high-end appliances, such as a Liebherr integrated fridge, Qasair rangehood, Miele oven and dishwasher, and AEG cooktop.

A seamless transition can be felt between the kitchen and courtyard — far beyond the glass wall spanning both spaces. Polished concrete and Anston pavers provide similarities underfoot, timber tones feature in cabinetry and outdoor cladding, while sliding doors along the length of the rear wall almost totally open up, leading to the oasis outside. And, like a true oasis, the path leads right to a luxurious body of water in the form of a feature lap pool.

Thanks to its sophisticated monochrome colour palette, clean lines, designer bathware and loads of light, the luxurious main bathroom rivals the striking kitchen in terms of form and function. Dark, moody tiles line the floor and feature wall and contrast perfectly with the crisp white walls and ceiling, creating an air of drama and instant modern appeal. A beautiful dark-grey

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marble vanity top with white veins, teamed with Wenge veneer doors, adds further interest and enhances the bathroom's sleek, hotel-style aesthetic.

Apaiser bathware has been chosen to complete the look, the smooth, organic lines of the Orbit basin and Haven freestanding tub softening the room's strong, bold lines. Add elegant tapware and a generous mirror which helps disperse light to all corners of the spacious room, and you have a lush, private sanctuary where the couple can rest, rejuvenate and indulge their senses.

Though the stunning glass wall is an obvious highlight of the renovation, all parties agree that



### **Project particulars**

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the relationship between the client, architect and builder was the absolute key ingredient to the success of this project, and the collaboration wouldn't have worked any other way.

And now that the noughties have made their mark on this vintage home, all that's left to wonder is what they'll think in 20 years ... **LKB**