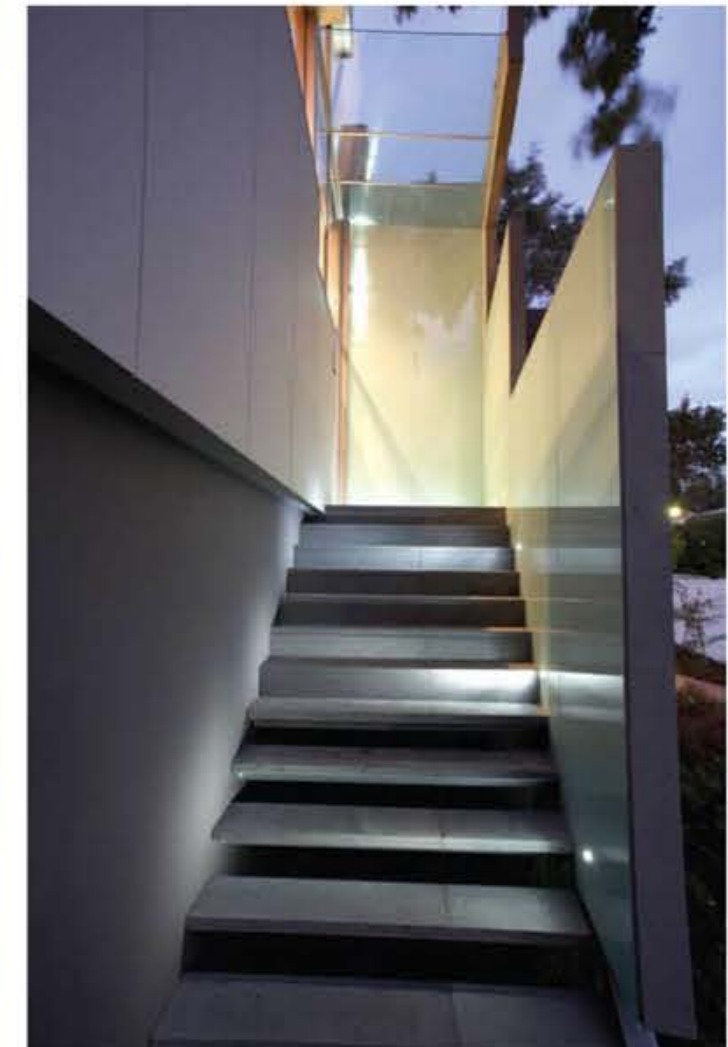




Located in Melbourne's leafy Eastern Suburbs this carefully crafted house sits on a high profile site on the Yarra Boulevard. The home recently won Best Interior Design and Best Use of Glass in the Building Design industries coveted BDAV Design Awards in 2008.



A DESIGN ICON

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A bold tapering shape with sculptured entry disguises the properties three storeys and locates the expansive living area on the middle level with entertaining deck.

The client brief was for the development of two dwellings on one lot. The homes were required to command an individual presence within the streetscape and stand alone as a single residence both physically and aesthetically when later sub-divided. The land area available to this residence was 372m² with a 1.8m easement running the length of the western boundary. The brief called for three bedrooms and two separate living areas. Over and above standard Rescode requirements, the residence required compliance with additional design guidelines for setbacks and site coverage enforced by local council. The design response necessitated a three storey residence where the upper storeys are accommodated within the bold tapering shape. The result is a site responsive home that makes a significant statement from any angle.

The entry to the home sits behind a stunning sculptured bluestone feature. Once inside, the horizontality of the timber battened fin exaggerates the length of the main living area and pierces the ceiling to create the upper storey balustrade. Running the entire length of the mid level is the main living area which is afforded framed views over Studley Park while still opening seamlessly onto the north facing entertaining area and swimming pool. A hidden doorway within the timber horizontal feature wall reveals the ascending staircase to the master bedroom above. Accommodated on the lower level is the double garage, two bedrooms and rumpus, which doubles as a theatre room and has external access to a private terrace.





The angular form of the bold tapered shape on the building's exterior is reflected in the plan layout and island bench of the kitchen. This splay allows for the concealed inclusion of a scullery. Occasional screening from the main living area is catered for with sliding silent glass screens.

The combination of exterior finishes, sculptured entry, subtle cantilevers and awnings soften the three storey proportions to the streetscape.

Sustainability is assured with careful selection of material and components such as thermally broken aluminium windows and 5000 litre water storage enabled for grey water and pool top-up. All other exterior products have been selected for their aesthetic appeal coupled with design and maintenance longevity.

The plan includes surprise elements such as the concealed butler's pantry and the hidden entry to the upper level bedroom. A neutral colour palette is employed throughout, with varying textures and high quality finishes defining the functions of the zones, creating a boutique-like feel throughout.

Considered space planning and orientation of furniture ensure that this open plan interior is thoughtfully zoned, and allows for the creation of intimate spaces. This is a well resolved interior which shows restraint and great attention to detail and won the judges at the Building Design Awards in 2008.

The project also won the Most Effective Use of Glass Award. Glass has been used in a purely decorative manner to line the walls of the entry, providing textural contrast and unexpected high reflectance levels. A simple and cleanly detailed glass roof above the entry is a feature, without being a distraction. The use of glass lends interest and gives a sense of lightness to the building.

This is a home that will outlast current design trends and will be a design icon in the area for years to come.

Vibe Design Group Pty Ltd
Phone: 1800 188 056
Web: www.vibedesign.com.au
Photographer: Robert Hamer



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