

RESTLESS LIVING

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PEAR TREE HOUSE

Prospect, Australia

In the inner north Adelaide suburb of Prospect, a 1890s Victorian cottage has been renovated and extended respecting its past while gesturing to the modern. The Adelaide-based boutique firm named Glasshouse Projects, led by the architect Don Iannicelli, was approached by clients who had a desire to make the most out of their limited site and address the original cottage's lack of openness.

"We wanted to ensure that a modern extension remained sensitive to the character of the original 1890 sandstone cottage. Cottages are a feature of this suburb, with a clear Victorian character prominent throughout Prospect's tree-lined streets", Don Iannicelli begins. "Sympathetic to the home's character and context, we achieved minimal impact on the streetscape, instead offering a rich palette on entry, flowing through to the rear. The veranda and façade were restored, whilst a contemporary interpretation of the picket fence – with raised height to provide greater privacy – is a considered throwback to the home's traditional entrance." Given the clients' fascination of architects like Mies van der Rohe, Nuetra and Koening, the design for the extension was





influenced by traditions of mid-century architecture. “Our focus was on rational architecture and the incorporation of stone, wood and concrete to create depth, richness and warmth. In a nod to the mid-century aesthetic, we focused on the simple geometry of rectangular shapes, reinforced with strong horizontal elements such as the floating linking roofs and oversized pavers, which further provided a visual linkage between the existing dwelling and the entertaining areas”, Don tells. With a limited 637 m² site, every design element counted towards the practicality and the effectiveness of the project. “We reconfigured the older part of the home and added a 300 m² extension complete with new master bedroom with en-suite, dining, kitchen, butler’s pantry, laundry, powder room, guest bathroom, study, pool and outdoor living area”, Don notes. With intersecting spaces and joinery as room divisions, Pear Tree House responds to the clients’ need for flow, light, and connectivity while also permitting them to work on their individual hobbies. Ample glass, an 8.5 m skylight running the entire length of the living space, and direct pool access from the roman bath-inspired en-suite create a continuous dialogue with the garden area throughout the project. “We love how this home is so unassuming from the exterior. Even though there is this subtle element of surprise as you enter and are funneled to the modern extension, you never feel out of place. Pear Tree House showcases a seamless transition between old and new”, Don ends.

Architecture by **Glasshouse**

Photography by **Art Department Creative**

