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# through the ages

It's hard to go past the grand beauty of a home from an era gone by, but what if you love modern architecture too? There is a solution.

**T**HE FACADES OF THE HOMES ALONG ROSE PARK'S tree-lined streets are rich in character and history. Sitting on a corner block, Sonia and Anthony Hunter's home is just that from the front, but venture towards the rear of the property and the home steps boldly into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

When the Hunters bought the property nearly five years ago, it was a slight downsize from their Hahndorf home, but perfectly suited to their family.

Sonia says it was very traditional, but there were points of interest that attracted her, especially the openness of the corner block. The 1905 Queen Anne villa had beautiful bones to begin with and they served as the foundation for a contemporary addition of more than 160 square metres.

Where the extension could have been brash and divisive, clever details have brought the old and the new together harmoniously. The original part of the home has been given just enough of an update to blend in, while still retaining the period features.











**Above:** The Hunters love the way their living area has so many zones everyone can retreat to when they need their own space. **Previous pages:** The rear of the home is sleek with clean angles and rich materials. **Opening pages:** The home's extension has been built to achieve the inside-outside feel; a side window opens fully to create an area for the family to sit and relax.

"Sometimes you can do too much to an old house and pare it back so much that you really have lost all the character," Sonia says.

The extension is eye-catching in its surroundings, but every detail was carefully considered. "It was risky really. We could have done something that just blended in, but for us, because it was on the corner, it had to have high impact."

The couple decided Glasshouse Projects were the ones for the job when they bought the home, which had a 1980s extension with sunken lounge at the time. Sonia says the biggest problem with the home was the fact that it didn't take advantage of the north south aspect, with just small windows at the back.

When creating the brief, the Hunters left much of the detail

in the hands of Glasshouse's founder, Don Iannicelli. "We didn't really tell him how we wanted it to look, but more how we wanted it to feel and how we like to live," Sonia says.

What eventuated was a casual, open area for the family to be together, but also be able to focus on their individual activities in separate zones.

A cushioned in-built bench beside a window is the perfect spot to enjoy morning sun with a cup of tea. A casual study nook is a great place for the Hunters' 19 and 22-year-old daughters to work on their laptops. The area adds interest in the otherwise sleek space; shelves display meaningful photos and trinkets.

Sonia's style is typically subtle and muted, so she's brought

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**Above left:** Skylights in the bathroom flood the space with natural light. **Above right:** The bedrooms sit in the original part of the home and have been decorated to reflect the home's character, but with a modern twist. Sonia Hunter chose dark hues with interesting texture for the cabinetry (**top left and top right**). **Opposite page:** While the extension exudes elegant modernity, original touches in the existing part of the house were preserved and accentuated with contemporary pendant lights.

aspects of that to the open plan living area. As the owner of Greenfield & Hunter, the interior products supplier works with so many different tastes every day that the constant inspiration can make narrowing down choices for her own home a difficult task. Above all, Sonia wanted a space that wasn't too complicated. "This is a very calming, easy place to live in."

Dark, cool colours dominate; the grey-tiled floor blends with a concrete bench running along one wall and cool brown cabinetry in the kitchen. The textured fireplace, clad in Apollo stone, juxtaposes with the rich hue of the timber on the verandah's ceiling.

"With modern architecture, you can't have it too clinical, you

need to add warmth – it makes it so much more interesting. I like that you can see this contemporary room and a very organic garden. It adds another dimension when you have that spilling inside.

A seam of windows runs around the top of the space, letting in even more light to brighten the area. The most has been made of the home's aspect through a series of stacked glass panels, which retract completely to truly create that inside/outside space.

An immediate point of interest is a gaping hole in the verandah roof. Sonia says it turns heads, but it's a design feature she loves. "It does allow a lot of light to come through," she says. "It's beautiful in winter because the sun comes through and you



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**Above:** The landscaping at the front of the home has been kept neat and simple to highlight the charm of the 1905 Queen Anne villa. **Right:** Warm and cool tones were mixed using natural materials. **Opposite page:** The interior and exterior blend seamlessly in the perfect display of an easy entertaining space.

find the slab heats up beautifully. The light filters through and it's just stunning; you never really have to put the lights on."

The family take full advantage of the outdoor area and its expansive seating space, warmed by the impressive fireplace.

The garden is Sonia's domain – the space is her sanctuary and, despite the property being just a few kilometres from the city and on a well-used road, there's calm and quiet. Although, things do pick up when the children wander past on their way to and from school, often in search of the family's dog, Max.

"Rose Park is like a village so all the kids go past in the morning and Max is a bit of a superstar. They all call out for him and say hello as they go past."

The back garden was given an Oriental feel with a rejuvenation by Yardstick Landscape Services. Japanese maple and ginkgo trees enhance the theme and squares of mondo grass interspersed between the pavers create clean lines and casual structure.

The garden is a place that Sonia loves to be, not only to enjoy the green space itself, but also the home she has inhabited and built upon. "We appreciate architecture. Some people can go their whole lives and not really look at their surroundings. It's exciting to be able to live in a building that's so different."



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