



Seventies

revival

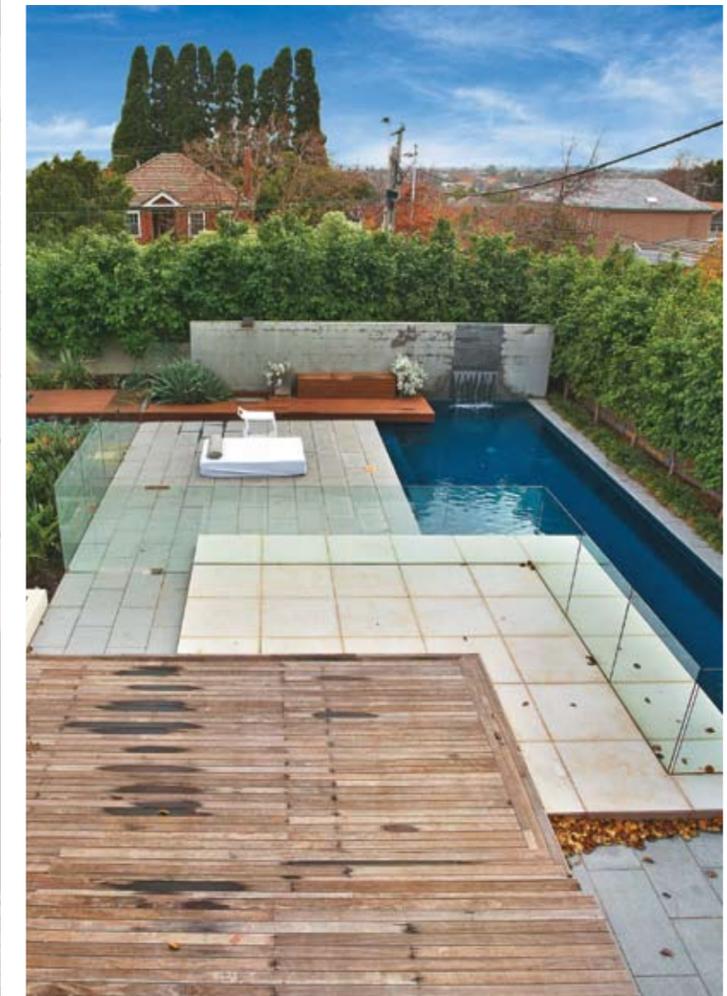
This renovation project needed to be timeless without being a cookie-cutter design

When homeowners John Roberts and Mimi Kwa moved into their new house on Chesterfield Avenue six years ago, the six-bedroom, four-bathroom home had been virtually uninhabited for almost a decade. There was a bat living in the lounge room, and no hot water, electricity or kitchen.

Left
The garden is a children's paradise from pool to playground and back again, and every Christmas there's cricket on the lawn.

Below
The view of the heated saltwater pool from the master bedroom balcony is soothing and tranquil.

John and Mimi have spent years meticulously renovating their home — forfeiting sleep, sanity, a social life and, at times, happy matrimony — in the name of two-pack finishes, deep baths, an open fireplace and a garden straight out of a luxury resort, all while producing and raising four children. The quest for an environment that offers optimum relaxation has been anything but relaxing but the result has most definitely been worth it.





Push-catch, handle-free doors are great for hiding appliances.

Mimi reflects, "We could always see the potential here. The renovation is almost completely cosmetic. Apart from turning one of the bedrooms into our walk-in wardrobe, we've kept the original bones of the house. It was built in 1971 for the Heinz family by Sydney architect Kenneth Woolley. He only ever did two houses in Melbourne so it's pretty special."

Despite this, it has still been a major overhaul — every centimetre of the 1600m² property has undergone improvement. Mission Brown brick walls have been plastered over, bathrooms re-tiled and reconfigured, new cabinetry installed, and floors sanded. And that's not to mention a 40m wall erected along the rear of the property and several 10-tonne truckloads of soil brought in to level the yard.

The transformation from disaster zone into an ultra-modern family retreat has been painstaking but rewarding. You would be forgiven for thinking it was a brand-new contemporary home.

The owners approached the project in a number of unique ways. In the kitchen they chose to combine a wood-grain laminate with a white two-pack finish on the cupboards and went for a stone splashback to match the benchtops, creating a calm and seamless work space. In the bathrooms they replaced the bright blue and orange '70s mosaic tiles with grey and white marble.

"I remember I was fretting about bathroom



The triple-glazed floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding doors to the lounge room deliberately bring the outside inside.

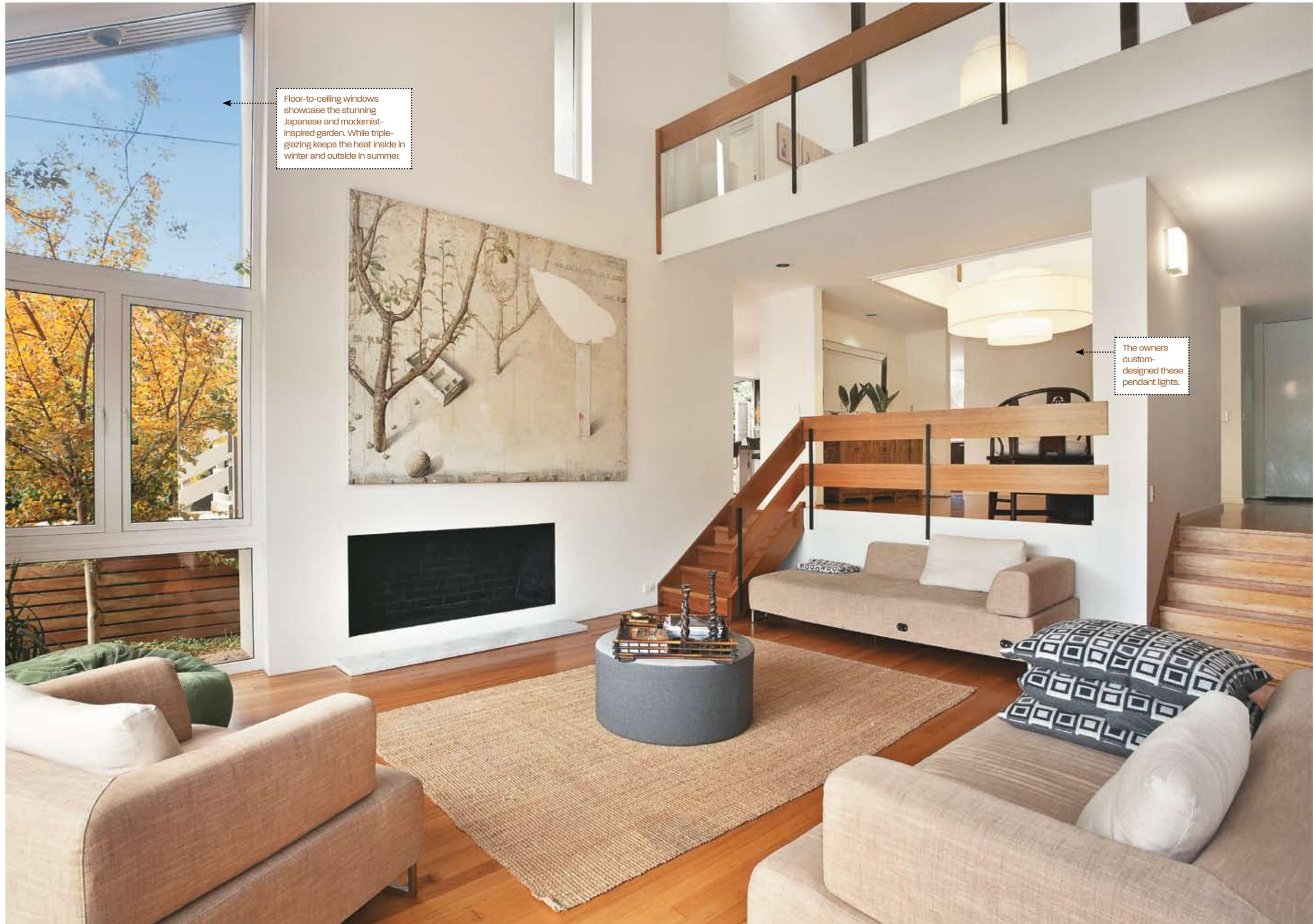
tile choices and I realised that a friend's house was designed around the same era and so quickly went around to check out her tiles. I instantly realised her grey and white Alabascato marble look would be perfect for our bathrooms and fireplace hearth," Mimi says of maintaining the home's historical beauty.

The triple-glazed floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding doors to the lounge room deliberately bring the outside inside. They showcase the couple's stunning Japanese and modernist-inspired garden complete with heated saltwater pool, playground, expansive lawn, fruit trees and tiered paved areas that tie in perfectly with the internal house design.

Structurally, the couple says they didn't really need to do much at all... but cosmetically they are not hesitant to mention they had to do absolutely everything. Rendering, plastering, painting, sanding, tiling, etc — you name it. The whole house has been re-plumbed and re-wired,

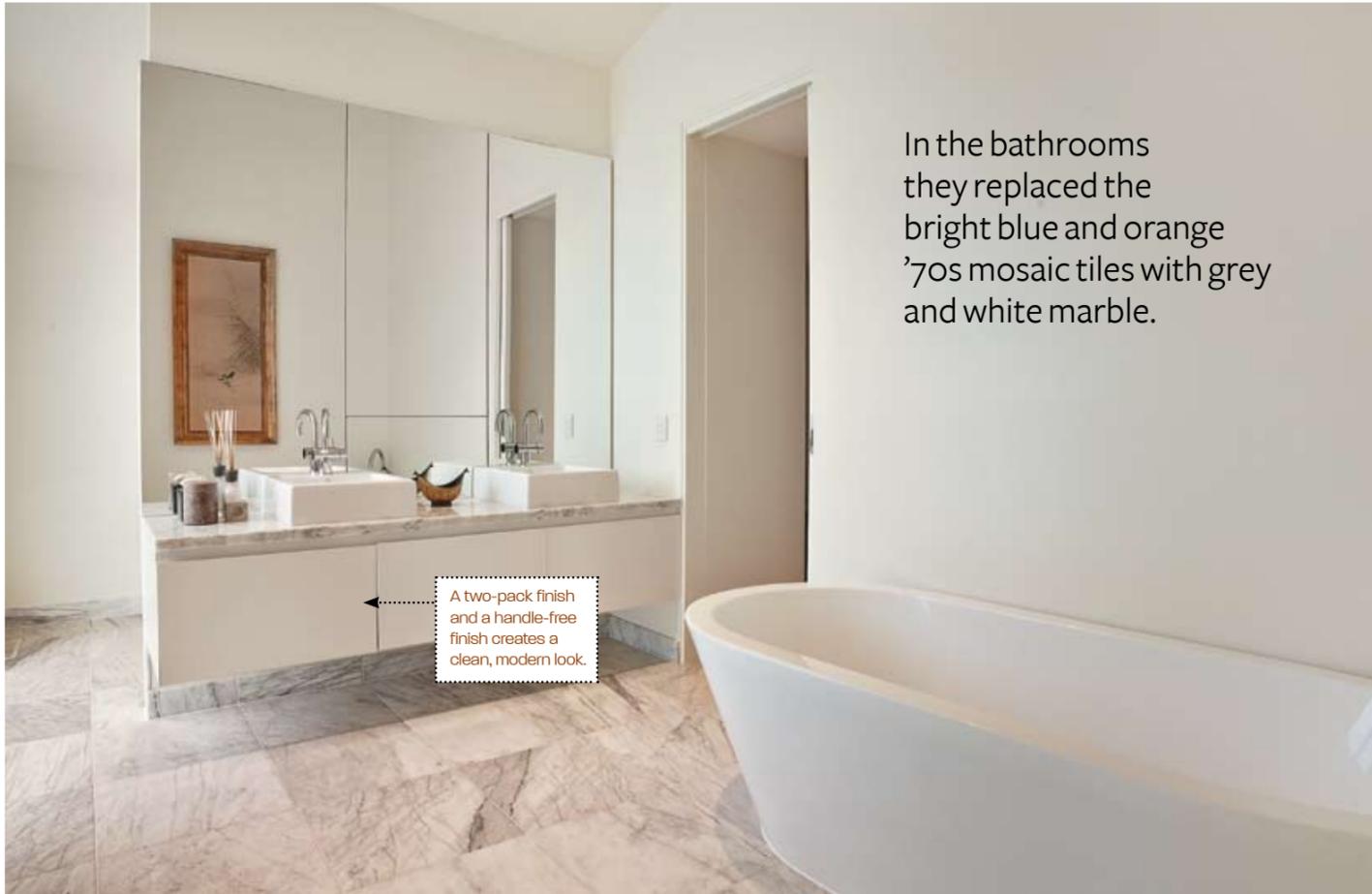


before



Floor-to-ceiling windows showcase the stunning Japanese and modernist-inspired garden. While triple-glazing keeps the heat inside in winter and outside in summer.

The owners custom-designed these pendant lights.



In the bathrooms they replaced the bright blue and orange '70s mosaic tiles with grey and white marble.

A two-pack finish and a handle-free finish creates a clean, modern look.



project particulars

The project was designed and built by TIGEROY PTY LTD (OWNERS) in conjunction with BG & MJ CLEARY BUILDERS
3 Chesterfield Avenue, Malvern Vic 3144
Tel: 0412 534 574

FLOORING

Original Tasmanian oak floorboards throughout, lightly sanded with a matte natural finish

WALLS

Antique White USA low sheen and matte throughout

KITCHEN

Benchtop: CaesarStone
Splashback: CaesarStone
Cabinetry: Dupopal Havana Maple and Dulux Lexicon half-strength two-pack paint
Appliances: Kleenmaid and LG

BATHROOM FITTINGS

Cabinetry: Oakwood Kitchens

Basin: Reece
Tiles/walls and floor: Alabascato marble
Sanitary fixtures: Reece
Taps: Reece
Shower/bath: Reece

WINDOWS + EXTERNAL DOORS

Glass: Euro Windows double- and triple-glazed
Frames: PVC

OUTDOOR

Roof: Boral low-profile tiles
Decking: Merbau
Landscaping: Designed by Steve Taylor and installed by Ashtown Landscapes
Screening: Waterhousia
Furniture: By owner

Accessories: Art by owner and courtesy of Scott Livesey Galleries
Lounge room artwork: Courtesy of the artist and Scott Livesey Galleries/Thornton Walker, *The Usher II*, 2005-08 oil and collage on canvas, 200 x 250 cm

Above

The use of mirrors gives the illusion of space to the bathroom.

Opposite top

The artwork's colour scheme complements the soft timber floors.

Opposite bottom

Under-the-bed storage reduces clutter, maximising living space.

and of course, the kitchen is brand new. In fact it's basically a whole new home that manages to retain its classic '70s charm.

"We love the handle-free look. It's very retro and modern all at once. We have very much tried to be sympathetic to the original architecture and era of the house," Mimi shares.

The floorplan flows considerably well in this house — from the *Brady Bunch* children's bathroom to the master bedroom with dual-access walk-in robe and ensuite, and the kitchen and living areas which all have multiple doors leading outside. This is a true family home in every sense of the word. **R**

