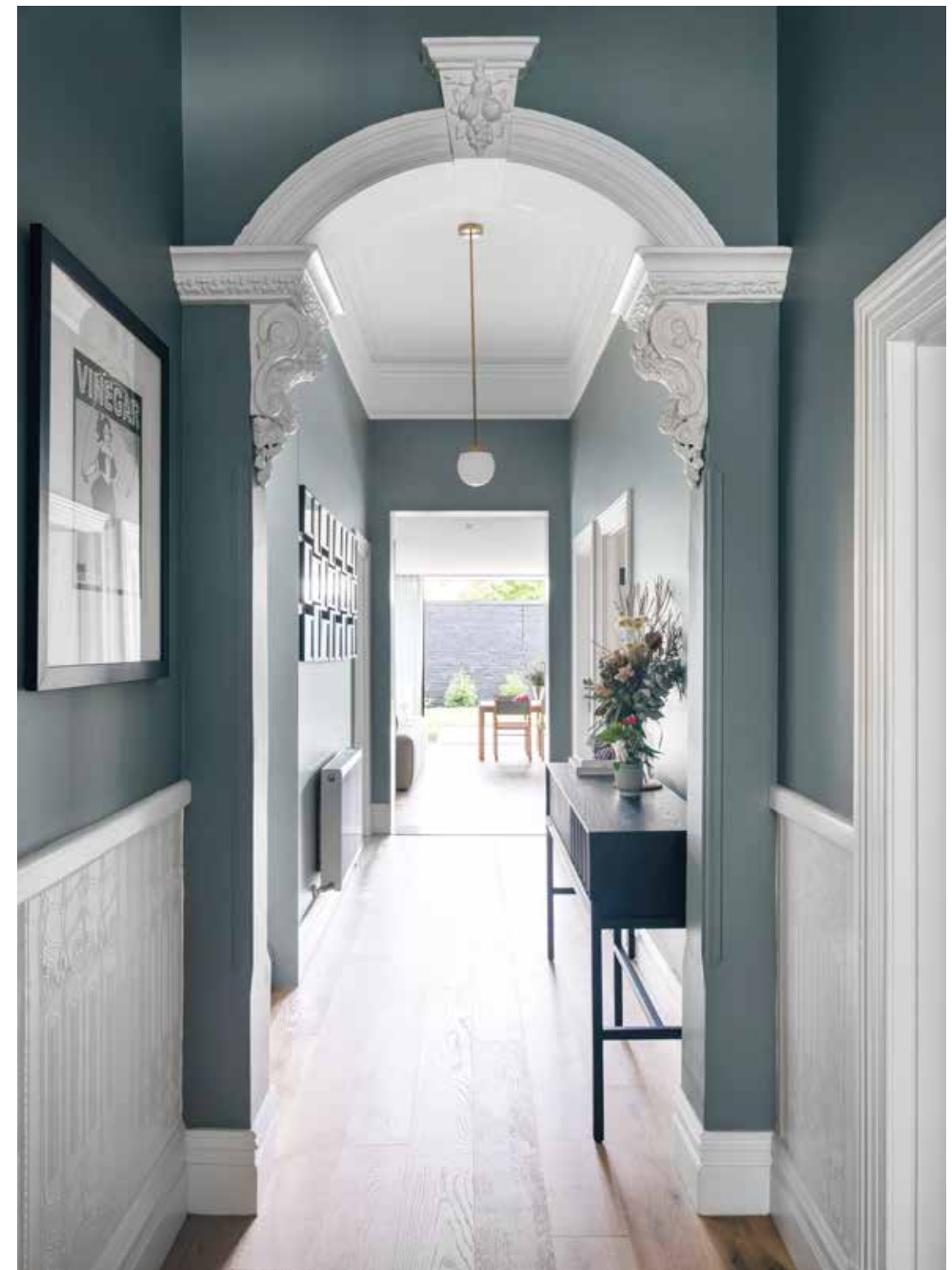


STREET ENTRANCE French bulldog Louis Henri sits on the porch of this newly renovated Federation-style home in Melbourne. Architect Nathanael Preston of Preston Lane selected grey Dulux Tristan paint for the exterior and Dulux Natural White to highlight the heritage details. A lovely old Magnolia tree provides dappled shade. **HALLWAY** Dulux Timeless Grey coats the walls of the hallway, which leads out to the new rear extension and back garden. Contour console, Zuster. Line pendant 01, Snelling.



CALM & COMPOSED



A measured approach to this HOME EXTENSION sees both old FEATURES and new additions celebrated and light flow prioritised.

STORY *Stephanie Hope* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Adam Gibson*

H&G PRESTON LANE ARCHITECTS

KITCHEN/DINING White benchtops and cabinetry and engineered oak floors provide a fresh, neutral backdrop for the Jordan 'Brooklyn' stools and chairs and 'Huxley' table, and the *Angry Sands* Indigenous artwork by Goompi. Benchtop and splashback in Caesarstone Empira White. Franke 'Active Neo' mixer and 'Cetinox' stainless steel undermount sink.

While on walks through inner-city Melbourne with their two children and French bulldog Louis Henri, Joel and Paula would often admire the heritage homes they passed and make a mental note of their favourite streets. "We love the area and local community, and always thought it would be wonderful to live in a family-sized home in Richmond," says Joel. As luck would have it, a property came up for sale on one of the very streets they'd hypothetically earmarked, and the couple snapped it up quick smart. It had the old Federation style they'd long admired, including soaring ceilings, ornate archways and a beautiful old Magnolia tree out the front. "The position of the house on the block was also perfect for making full use of the space, which is so important in the inner city," Joel adds.

But the home, which had been renovated in the late '70s, wasn't suitable for a family of four. "Two bedrooms were not adequate for us and the central bathroom felt like a public toilet (all white subway tiles)," says Paula. "Due to the slightly sloping block, there were too many steps in the backyard, and with the existing established trees, there was little room for our sporty children to play."

The couple asked Nathanael Preston of Preston Lane Architects to add another level upstairs and rethink the interiors to better suit their needs. "In creating this extra space, our key focus was always to maintain a connection with the sunny northern aspect," says Nathanael. "We kept the upstairs extension to the rear of the house, and introduced a small but important courtyard space ▶



KITCHEN *design notes*

JOINERY Two-pack cabinetry in a satin-gloss finish in Dulux Natural White and V-groove cabinetry in Dulux Black by Yarrabank Builders.

BENCHTOPS & SPLASHBACK Caesarstone Empira White.

FLOORING Oak engineered flooring, Arbre.

TAPWARE Franke 'Active Neo' mixer.

SINK Franke 'Centinox' stainless steel undermount sink.

APPLIANCES Miele double oven and cooktop. Qasair 'Westmore' rangehood. Liebherr refrigerator.

FURNITURE Jardan 'Brooklyn' bar stools.

KITCHEN A black butler's pantry was designed to keep the family's built-in appliances out of sight, including a fridge, ovens and wine storage. Shallow cupboards behind V-groove panels painted Dulux Black serve as a second pantry for dried goods. **DINING** The family enjoy meals overlooking the garden and pool. A built-in bench seat comes in handy when entertaining. **GARDEN** A Hay 'Palissade' low lounge chair and ottoman can be glimpsed outside.

between the old and new sections, with a northern window that floods the living space with mid-morning sun."

He also added a slender void above the kitchen, with a high window that tracks sunlight into the area. It doubles the height of the space, and helped satisfy Joel and Paula's request for a light and bright kitchen. White benchtops, satin-finish cabinetry and oak engineered floors were chosen for the same reason, with a built-in bench seat that defines where the dining zone begins.

For contrast, Nathanael introduced an all-black butler's pantry in the corner and shallow storage concealed behind a wall of V-groove panels to keep the clutter away. "We love having the built-in appliances away from the eye," says Joel. "The kitchen remains highly functional for a family, but ready for guests to drop by for a drink at short notice."

The black is repeated in the living space, where a blade wall reads like a column and helps the family's TV blend into the background. Then again in the study, a wall of black bookshelves and dark walls painted Dulux Domino create a cosy, library feel. "Sitting in this dark space helps draw the eye outside, through the beautiful old heritage window to the magnolia tree," says Nathanael. "It's always good to have different lights and moods in a house."

There's a clear delineation between the old and new sections of the home, with period details punctuated by white paint and the surrounding plasterwork painted grey in reference to the home's age. Nathanael managed to convince Paula and Joel to claim the original front living room, which features a stunning pressed metal ceiling, for their bedroom. "It's the best original room in the house, with a day seat looking out to the garden and that incredible ceiling. Why shouldn't they be in there to enjoy it?" was his reasoning. Meanwhile, their children, Isabella, 14, and Fletcher, 8, rule the upstairs roost, with a second living space dedicated for their use.

Outside, a pool wraps around the east side of the house, making clever use of a tight space while leaving room for a generous lawn area for the kids. "The pool is spectacular and provides a lovely outlook from the main living area," says Paula, who admits both adults and children benefit from its inclusion. "The kids are often upstairs enjoying their friends' company separate to the adults, who are usually around the pool or kitchen island bench."

Design and building team Architect & interior designer Preston Lane Architects; prestonlane.com.au. *Builder* Yarrabank Builders; yarrabankbuilders.com.au. ▶

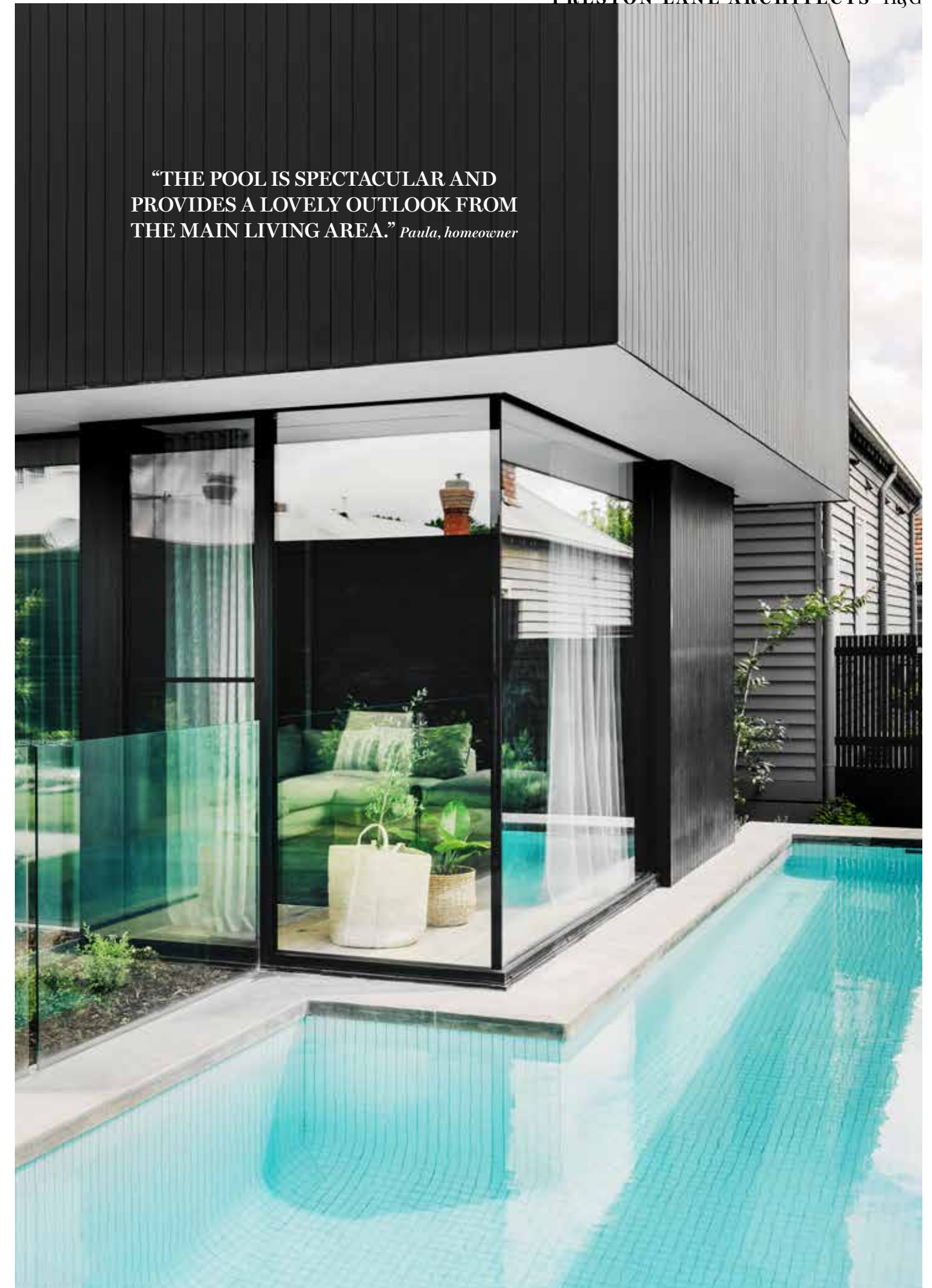
"IN CREATING THIS EXTRA SPACE, OUR KEY FOCUS WAS ALWAYS TO MAINTAIN A CONNECTION WITH THE SUNNY NORTHERN ASPECT." *Nathanael Preston, architect*



LIVING Recessed windows framed by Lovelight curtains open the home up to the views and sunlight. A blade wall painted black adds a graphic element to the space. Hudson sofa and Otis coffee table, Jordan. Rug, Armadillo. **POOL** The pool wraps around the house and can be viewed from inside. Exterior cladding and brickwork painted Dulux Colorbond Night Sky. ▶



“THE POOL IS SPECTACULAR AND PROVIDES A LOVELY OUTLOOK FROM THE MAIN LIVING AREA.” *Paula, homeowner*





MAIN BEDROOM Instead of bulky, built-in joinery, Nathanael designed a custom wardrobe for Joel and Paula's bedroom that feels like a piece of furniture. Brooklyn chair, Jordan. Line pendant 06, Snelling. Walls painted Dulux Timeless Grey Quarter. **ENSUITE** A custom vanity is topped with New York marble from CDK Stone. Fabe OX wall tiles, Artedomus. Kovo porcelain floor tiles, Tiento. Tapware, Astra Walker. Lighting, Ross Gardam. **POWDER ROOM** The composition of objects gives the downstairs powder room its wow factor. Falper Lavamani wall-hung basin and Milano basin mixer, Rogerseller. New York marble splashback, CDK Stone. Ceto wall light, Ross Gardam. Wall painted Dulux Domino. ▶



STUDY Designed like a library, the study features custom shelving and a ladder by Preston Lane with walls painted Dulux Domino. Otis desk and Mina executive chair, Jordan. Armchair, Owners' existing. Turn Parallel pendant 02, Snelling. Lighthouse artwork on shelf by unknown artist.
BATHROOM Kovo porcelain wall and floor tiles, Tiento. Astra Walker toilet and 'Icon' tap and shower fixtures. Lucciola wall spot, Mondoluce.
STAIRS A skylight and porthole window light the stairwell, which is painted Dulux Natural White.
COURTYARD A garden space between the old and new sections of the house brings in much-needed light.
POOL Joel says the pool "provides so much happiness for the kids". H&G

