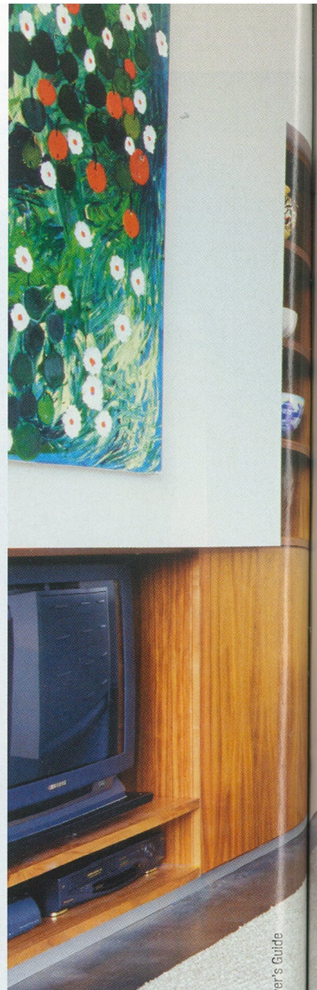


A FAMILY WITH TIES

"In our old house the kids' bedrooms were above the living area, so as they got older, it got noisier," says owner Louise Timms. "This time we wanted Jack and Patrick to have their own area. Sophie, who's studying at university, needed to have a bedroom with her own ensuite and space for her work desk, computer and television. We also wanted a communal living area with a big kitchen."

The Timmses chose Jerry Wolveridge as the architect. They'd seen his work in magazines and had a good experience explaining their needs to him. The design he submitted was ideal, he fitted all their wants in on only 160 square metres of land. "It's perfect for us," says Louise. "Even the kitchen was designed so that reasonably short me could reach everything with ease. Plus it's simple to maintain, with the modern clean-lined finishes we love." ▶

Artwork above *The Blackfella Garden: Bush Apple* by Nancy Stokes. For stockists see Buyer's Guide

COMFORT LEVELS

Louise and Peter retained some of the furniture from their previous house including these armchairs. They've been recovered in Designers Guild Moskaya Red by Gordon Mather Industries, who also sourced the sofa, side chairs, ottoman and rug.

Fits like a glove

With three older children, a small plot of land, and an active love of the outdoors and entertaining, this family couldn't buy an off-the-rack house. Luckily, they found an architect who was perfect at tailoring his designs

STORY **JUDY OSTERGAARD** PHOTOGRAPHY **SHARYN CAIRNS**

> “The first floor is devoted to the living areas, with kitchen, living and dining areas”
>
> **Jerry Wolveridge** architect

BIG, BOLD AND BRILLIANT

“The living areas are built around a private north-facing deck. It’s both a hideaway and provider of natural daylight into the house,” says Jerry. The light is softly bounced around this level by the polished concrete from Alternative Surfaces underfoot and smooth kitchen surfaces such as the Merletto benchtops from Stone Italiana (opposite). Dulux Pear Ash on both ceiling and walls creates a smooth line soaring upwards. The oak dining table is from Zacher Antiques, with chairs from Tait Enterprises. For stockists, see Buyer’s Guide.

When the Timms family began to look for land in inner-city Melbourne, they had a list of needs. It had to be near sporting facilities, parks and bike tracks, and close to public transport and schools. Eventually they found a site at the end of a cul-de sac with views across a park.

It was small, but perfect for this outdoorsy family. They called in their architect, Jerry Wolveridge, who set about creating a home that could fit three older children, two busy parents, and five active, bustling lifestyles.

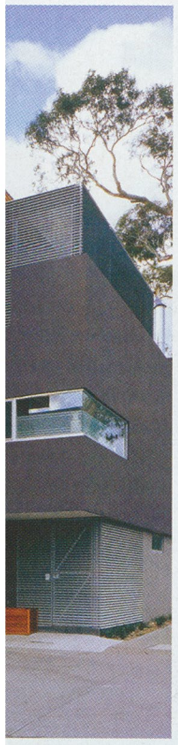
“The logical sequence of accommodation was to provide two bedrooms for the boys, with their own private space to hang out in at the ground level,” explains Jerry. “There’s also space for sporting equipment on this level and parking for two cars. The first floor is devoted to the living areas, with kitchen, living and dining areas denoted by changes in the roof levels. Then the main bedroom and Sophie’s room are on the top floor.”

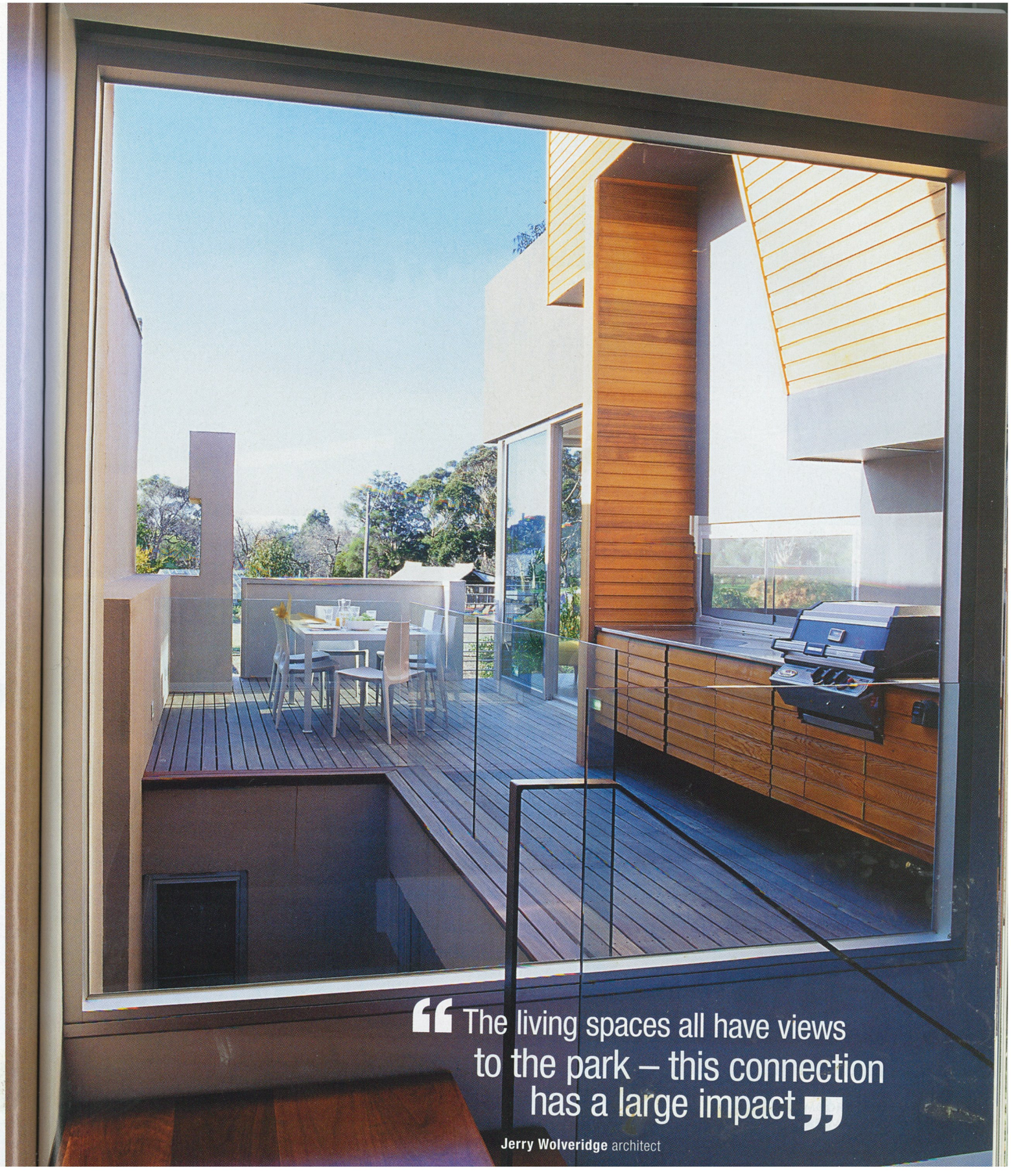
The broad spaces of the central living area provide a range of options for family get-togethers and parties – be they grown-up or kid-based. This floor’s open-plan design is divided into ‘rooms’ by the use of differing ceiling heights.

Niches cut into the walls add a sculptural element to the room and break up the long expanses of white, while the bulkheads in the ceiling also conceal the ducting for heating and cooling.

The kitchen’s island bench top is just the thing for serving when Louise entertains buffet-style, but is most often used for casual family meals and breakfast. In summer, guests can wander out to the protected north-facing deck to gather round the built-in barbecue.

Finally, the family can enjoy formal dining around an antique oak table surrounded by high-backed chairs. On one wall Jerry created a niche that is the perfect size for a treasured Chinese cabinet. Two framed prints on the adjacent wall continue the oriental theme of this area, which is the ideal place for special family celebrations. ▶



RESORT-STYLE ROOMS

"The living spaces all have views to the park – this connection has a large impact on the spaces' quality, which the family enjoys," says Jerry. The main bedroom is designed to mimic a luxury suite with its own tea room and study, ensuite and outdoor shower. Its crisp lines carry on into the ensuite, with a Merletto reconstituted stone benchtop from Stone Italiana holding twin Liano basins from Caroma. Peter and Louise need never get in each other's way during the morning rush. The private decks are protected by aluminium screens, allowing the family to look out unobserved. Externally the mesh mixes with rendered masonry and shiplapped western red cedar cladding, for a distinctive look. Above the park, the central deck allows family and friends to relax and enjoy a barbecue while listening to the sounds of a lazy weekend below. The Thali anodized aluminium table and light grey Bellini chairs are both from Space Furniture. H&G