

habitus[®]

living in design

24

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Why not play a little?*



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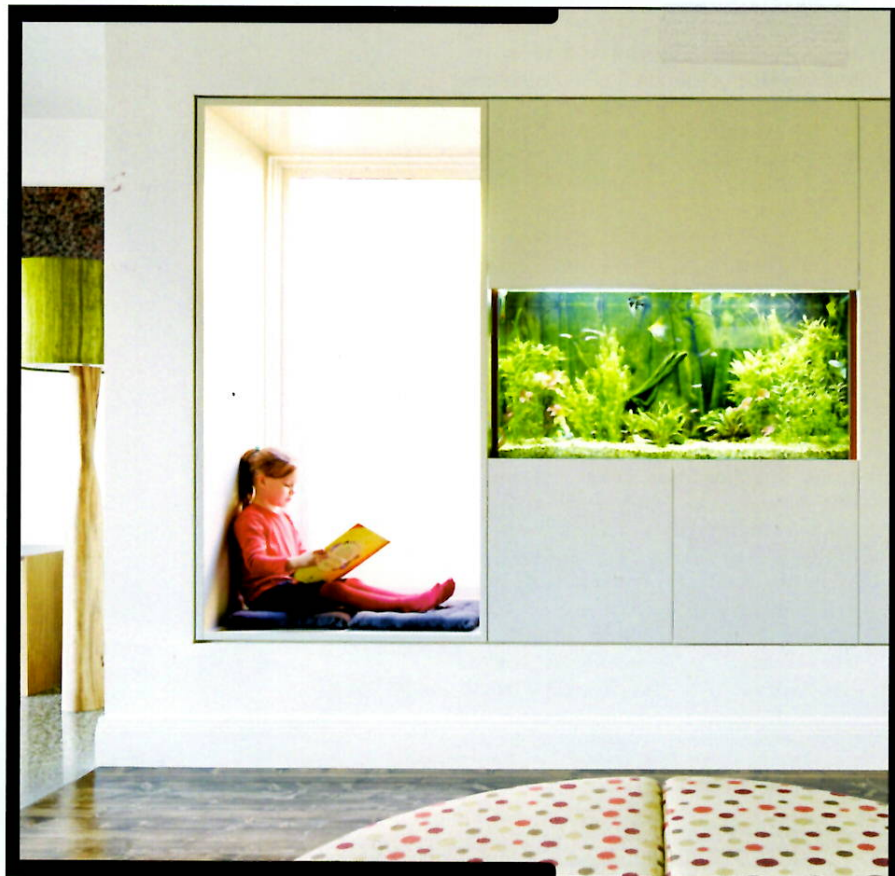
Tucked in the corner

This family home located in Thornbury, an inner northern suburb of Victoria, belongs to a suburb full of early 20th Century houses; a federation aesthetic that I have always loved. And as both architect and resident, I was passionate that the character of this nearly 100-year old house would remain intact – we also did not want to change the local streetscape. Rather we sought only to build a contemporary renovation that suited the needs of our growing family.

While the space required a basic open plan design, we didn't want to create just a simple open box, instead we sought to design spaces with defined areas of functionality. The north-facing design encompasses the kitchen as the hub, which also incorporates a large island bench and a dining area that receives a large amount of natural light. We situated the living area to the east, which is protected from the sun. This area includes a playroom for our small children, which also houses a recessed fish tank in the wall surrounded by storage cupboards.

We designed the rear of the home to include passive solar design; we wanted to block out the summer sun while letting in the winter sun, allowing us to heat up the polished concrete slab, and release heat into the home when needed most in winter. The windows are double glazed with low-e glass. The walls and ceiling are also constructed from the highest r-value insulation possible. The exterior was clad in solid timber Spotted Gum vertical planking that softens the sharp angles of the house's rear and keeps within our palette of natural materials. We wanted to showcase how a home can be solar passive in a functional sense, and also be visually appealing.

Mathew Duignan



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