

CIRCULAR KEY

Reflecting the natural world into the interiors, a deep, spherical pool anchors a well-rounded home renovation that embraces the curve.



Photographs DEREK SWALWELL Words CARLI PHILIPS

This page The wall of the new pavilion curves around the centrally located pool. "The facade features a classic Palladian motif but we wanted to make it look like a large, one-storey scale wall rather than a double storey," says architect Patrick Kennedy. Opposite page In the sitting room of the renovated old wing of the home is an Artek 41 'Palmio' armchair by Alvar Aalto from Anibou, Akari 'UF3-G' floor lamp by Isamu Noguchi. Painting by Paul Boston from Niagara Galleries.





This page Custom dining table by Lowe Furniture from Hub. Sculptures on table by Euan Heng from Niagara Galleries. 'Gala' chandelier by Rich Brilliant Willing from Living Edge. Opposite page The green-hued stairs lead to the second storey where there is a large study, parents' zone and deck. Timber floor sculptures by Jo Wilson sit in the passageway to the kitchen and dining area in the new pavilion. Shimmering reflections from the swimming pool can be seen on the ceiling.





Melburnians love to talk about the weather. The propensity to have four seasons in one day, the cold snaps, the big chills, the cool changes, the humidity, the unrelenting heat. It all makes having a pool rather a sensitive operation. A generous, glittering expanse may be ripe for summer, but at the start of autumn refreshing aqua can quickly turn into an eyesore of murky, layered debris.

For their renovation, homeowners Sheree and Jonathan Burge were adamant they “didn’t want the standard paradigm of a pool collecting leaves in the backyard for a large portion of the year and not being appreciated”, recalls architect Patrick Kennedy of Kennedy Nolan. Instead, they wanted a pool in the heart of the property. “I am always trying to put people’s swimming pools in the middle so for me it was great,” says Patrick, who had managed to persuade only two clients to do this in the past.

The concept works well in Melbourne if done sensitively, he says. “We have hot summers but long, coolish winters so the pool needed to be something more than just to swim in. It needed to have another role that was something you could passively enjoy. So for this house we created a circular shape that doesn’t look like the typical backyard swimming pool but has a deep, pond-like effect. It is not a big site so placing it centrally was always going to be very impactful.” Further enhanced by olive-green mosaics, it is inspired by the “calm river water” of the nearby Yarra River and Merri Creek waterways.

Not only decorative, its positioning between a new pavilion extension on one side and an existing heritage Edwardian house on the other (renovated to encompass three children’s bedrooms and a sitting room) had functional passive solar principles top of mind too: cross ventilation, evaporative cooling effects and multiple garden aspects. Its orientation required careful consideration bearing in mind Australia’s stringent standards when it comes to domestic environments and their proximity to water. Adhering to regulations



This page In the sitting room, newly created in the existing house, is a Ligne Roset ‘Togo’ armchair and ottoman from Domo with a Resident ‘Offset’ side table from District. Custom cabinetry designed by Kennedy Nolan and built by Overend Constructions. *Dog Leaning Over Fence* by Noel McKenna from Niagara Galleries. ‘Mori’ pendant light by Rich Brilliant Willing from Living Edge. *Opposite page, from top* An Arabia teapot and a limestone vase by Den Holm sit among other pieces on the kitchen shelves. On the bench are two framed artworks by Euan Heng from Niagara Galleries. ‘Gala’ chandelier by Rich Brilliant Willing from Living Edge. ‘Knot’ dining chairs by Normann Copenhagen from District. Table by Lowe Furniture from Hub.



while creating a pure, sculptural element was challenging but overcome by ringing a monolithic, concave white brick wall around the perimeter with one steel screen door disguised as an operational gate, securely fastened with a protective mesh insert and opening into the hallway. Cut into the facade is a set of playful yet neat, modern Palladian-style geometry: window portholes, hoop flip mullions and arched openings. Juxtaposed on the other side of the masonry wall is the first-floor balcony clad in charred timber.

Fern-hued stairs in the new pavilion lead to the second storey which is outfitted with a large study, deck and adults zone. But Patrick dismisses the staircase as a feature, likening its colour to a “neutral of the environment because of its connection to the natural world.” It’s not a “green-green that’s synthetic or chemical: it works with the muted background palette. It has a lot of personality but is not a particularly difficult or dominating colour to live with.”

The lounge and dining area in the new wing is feathered with soft, circular silhouettes such as the frosted spherical-drop pendant, round-edged table by Lowe Furniture, orb-like suspended fireplace from Oblica and bespoke daybed upholstered in Kelly Wearstler’s ‘Graffito’ fabric. While the kitchen is used regularly, it is softened with subtle textures, tonal hues and curved forms such as the edge of the island bench, the tubular rangehood and uninterrupted tiled surfaces designed for continuity.

Added calm comes via the ever-changing light that throws shimmering watery reflections onto the lounge ceiling. “Kennedy Nolan offered the concept of a pool essentially within the lounge space, which we loved. It has acted exactly as we had hoped,” says Sheree. kennedynolan.com.au

This page, from top In the new pavilion’s sitting room is a ‘Ploum’ sofa by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Ligne Roset from Domo. Custom daybed designed by Kennedy Nolan and upholstered in ‘Graffito’ fabric by Kelly Wearstler from Elliott Clarke. ‘Bathyscafoc’ suspended fireplace from Oblica. Painting by Kevin Lincoln from Niagara Galleries. An arched doorway leads into the ground-floor powder room. *Opposite page* ‘Moss’ rug from Loom Rugs in the new pavilion’s sitting room. ‘Akar’ pendant light by Isamu Noguchi from Luke Furniture.



SPEED READ

» Locating an outdoor swimming pool at the centre of this home renovation by architect Patrick Kennedy created more than something to swim in. » The pool offers passive solar benefits and throws light into the interiors. » It is set between the existing Edwardian house, reworked to encompass three children’s bedrooms and a sitting room, and a new pavilion extension outfitted with kitchen, dining and living areas on the ground floor. A large study, deck and parents’ zone are on the second storey. » The pavilion’s curving double-height facade hugs the pool and its rounded windows set the scene for similar shapes on furniture and lighting.

