



The exterior brickwork was laid and then individually tapped with a mallet to create a unique 3D-wall effect that complements the warehouse feel

MADE TO ORDER

With its nod to mid-century architecture and a dash of industrial style, this modern family home is a glass-fronted beauty

■ WORDS / Emma Wheaton
■ PHOTOGRAPHY / Rebekah Jewell

The spectacular double-storey void has 5m-high floor-to-ceiling glass windows



Accent pieces such as the black geometric stools and the clustered bauble lighting bring modern style to the all-white kitchen



Back in 2004, *Grand Designs UK* featured a house called the Sugar Cube — a modernist structure with lots of glass and a stunning double-storey void area. The owners of this modern Melbourne home adored the UK project so, with the help of Canny Architecture, they drew on the Sugar Cube for inspiration for their own dream home.

Homeowners Kara and Lloyd have two young children and a pet cat and wanted a stylish house that was open plan and child-friendly without compromising on design. “We wanted the house to reflect us and the way we live,” says the couple.

Set on a gently sloping rectangular block, the home is designed to capture the morning sunlight but protect against the hot westerly afternoon sun. The open-plan living and kitchen area is downstairs, connecting spectacularly to the outdoors with the double-storey glass wall and screen. The house has three bedrooms and three bathrooms, along with a study, large garage, gym and kids’ “snug”.

Lloyd’s love of warehouse conversions and Kara’s appreciation of mid-century architecture are alluded to throughout the house and there are plenty of industrial finishes such as steel and dark tiles. A bold

We love

The Lump Sculpture Studio screen on the second-storey void window — the style fits the home perfectly and, with sunlight, it creates an interesting pattern of light and shadow

- HOUSE: Melbourne Modern
- LOCATION: Balwyn North, Vic
- COST: \$1.2M
- DATE COMPLETED: August 2012



Design tip

If you are fond of more than one design style, consider how elements of each can work together to create a fantastic, unique structure

The industrial warehouse feel of the home extends to its exterior with recycled bricks individually and painstakingly arranged and knocked manually with a mallet to create a unique textured and aged look

The strong black-and-white palette allows for Kara and Lloyd to easily introduce and change colours via their furniture and artworks as their tastes change over time





Colour was introduced via this yellow and gold mosaic tile feature to draw some contrast between colour palettes within the home

monochromatic palette accentuates the modern and industrial feel further and was intentionally chosen to act as a blank canvas for changing colours and tastes in furniture and furnishings. Darker shades used in the floors and ceiling produce a moody atmosphere and accentuate the white tones in the home, creating contrast.

The industrial warehouse feel of the home extends to its exterior with recycled bricks individually and painstakingly arranged and knocked manually with a mallet to create a unique textured and aged look. "Stepping stones across a pond make you feel as though you float into the home," says Janine Carter, interior designer for Canny Architecture. This entrance to the home is unique in itself and is a fitting introduction to the house, setting the tone for the rest of the property and its many bespoke features.

"The bridge connecting the two zones of the house overlooks the double-height windows and void area and is truly breathtaking and unique in its design"
— Mary-Ann Woff

The first floor has two distinct areas for children and adults, connected ingeniously via a bridge. It's a highlight of the house, as Mary-Ann Woff, head architect at Canny Architecture, says, "The bridge connecting the two zones of the house overlooks the double-height windows and void area and is truly breathtaking and unique in its design." The master bedroom or "adults' retreat" is expansive with a tea and coffee station, en suite and decked balcony area looking over the city, plus a spacious and elegantly designed walk-in robe.

Lloyd is passionate about fitness and motorbikes, which led to the inclusion of a fireman's pole that connects the master bedroom directly to the gym. The gym also features strategically placed picture-frame windows that create a focal point of the motorbikes in the garage while working out.

"The fireman pole from the master bedroom to the gym, with views to the garage, makes for a fabulous, enviable 'man cave'," says Janine. Personal elements such as this were important to the homeowners, who desired a house that reflected their personalities and the way they like to live. "We didn't want to play it safe or build something for resale purposes," says Kara.

The double-storey void the couple loved so much about the Sugar Cube house is an idea that has been adapted brilliantly for their own home and one that has become a favourite feature of this house, creating a lofty, light-filled living space. "The main living area has beautiful light at all times in the day. In the morning, the sun comes through the Lump screens, dappling the

Strong contrasts and bold prints maintain the modern style in the master bedroom



Point of View
"Every aspect of this home has been built and designed with purpose."
— Mary-Ann Woff



Kara and Lloyd have two young children and a pet cat and wanted a stylish house that was open plan and child-friendly without compromising on design

sunlight and giving [the space] a magical feel,” says Kara. Such large windows meant the orientation of the house had to be carefully considered with regard to heating and cooling the home, points out Mary-Ann. Achieving a six-star energy rating, the house features double glazing on all windows, LED lights and a waffle pod slab to reduce heat and energy loss.

Another aspect for consideration was privacy. The house was cunningly positioned so that private spaces are completely concealed from the street and the design was also carefully considered so that overshadowing of neighbours’ houses wouldn’t be an issue.

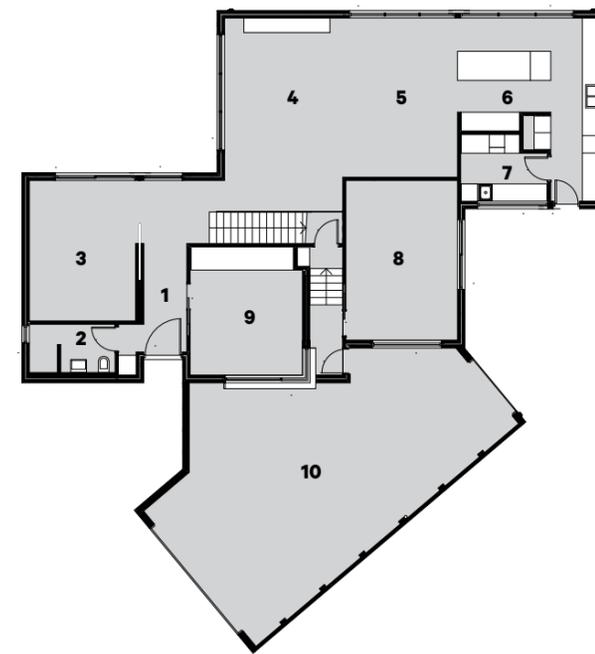
The floating, folded staircase and glass balustrade is a special feature of the home, its steel form accentuating the nod to industrial style. It was an engineering feat in itself, with strict safety regulations having to be thought through. The result is exceptional, worth the effort and a favourite aspect of the house for Kara.

No family member was left out of this personalised home design. While the kids

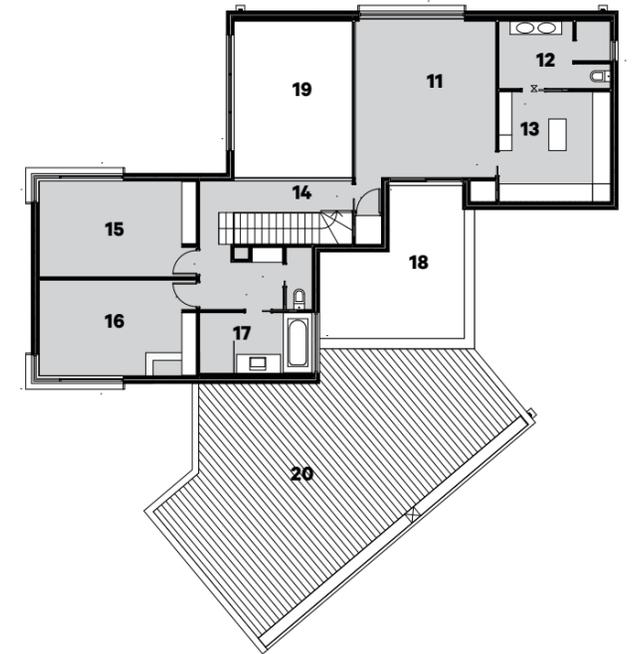


and parents each have their own zones, the family cat has a special custom-designed and -manufactured cat door in the laundry door. Visitors have been catered for as well, with the study capable of being converted into a guest bedroom and the adjacent bathroom also doubling as a powder room complete with hidden shaving cabinetry and a shower tucked neatly behind the yellow mosaic tiled wall.

This is a beautiful and meaningful family home that has individual spaces as well as a large, open and airy living area that connects to the outdoors for spending time together. It is rich in careful detail and has a style and design that enables each family member’s character to shine through — whether through an art piece, a strategically placed window, opulent walk-in wardrobe or a fireman’s pole. 🐾



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

LEGEND



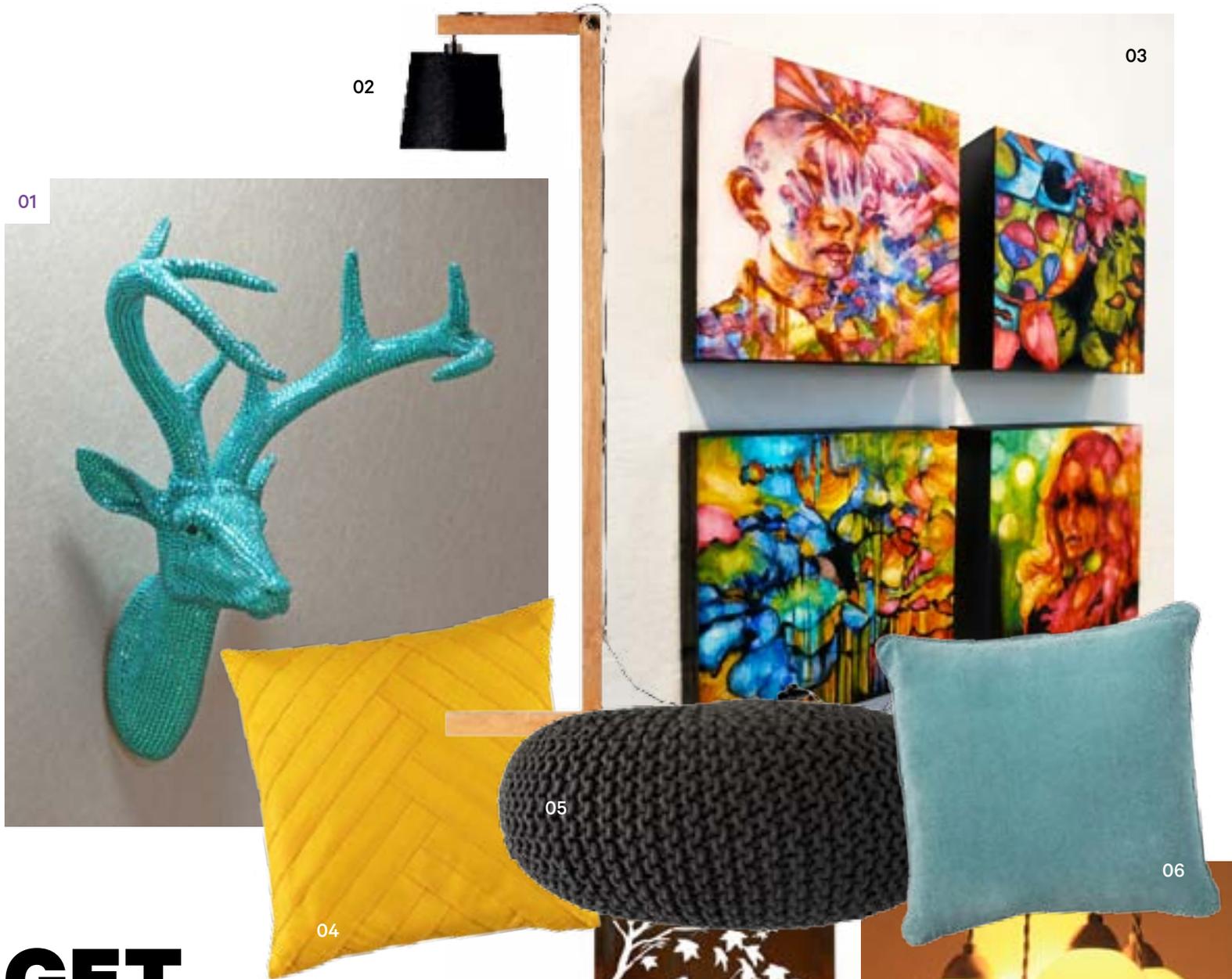
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|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 Entry | 6 Kitchen | 11 Master bedroom | 16 Bedroom 3 |
| 2 Powder room | 7 Laundry | 12 Ensuite | 17 Bathroom |
| 3 Snug room | 8 Gym | 13 Walk-in robe | 18 Deck |
| 4 Living room | 9 Guest bedroom | 14 Gallery | 19 Void |
| 5 Dining room | 10 Garage | 15 Bedroom 2 | 20 Roof |

PROJECT TEAM

- ARCHITECT Canny Architecture
- BUILDER Canny Builders
- INTERIOR DESIGNER Janine Carter, Canny Architecture (03 8532 4444; canny.com.au)

- STRUCTURE Joiner GMD Architectural Joinery (03 9357 7670) Stairs Going Upstairs (03 9706 3537; goingupstairs.com.au) Metal window screens Lump Sculpture Studio (lump.com.au)
- FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS Furniture Jimmy Possum (02 9318 2233; jimmypossum.com.au) Furniture & lighting Cult (1300 768 626; cultdesign.com.au)

- Lighting About Space (03 9417 4635; aboutspace.net.au) Sculpture Lump Sculpture Studio (lump.com.au)
- SERVICES Plumber J A Brown Plumbing (0438 188 137) Electrician Concept Electair (0439 966 007) Audio visual The Bose Store, Camberwell (03 9882 6997; thebosestore.com.au)



GET THE LOOK

Vibrant art, homewares and patterns transform an otherwise minimalist palette

- 01** Star Studded Stag in aquamarine from **Arthouse**. arthouse.com
- 02** Wooden floor lamp from **The Design Hunter**. thedesignhunter.com.au
- 03** Small Art Pieces by Art of April White from **Lennox Street Studios**. artofaprilwhite.com; lennoxstreetstudios.com
- 04** Tango cushion cover in yellow from **Lorraine Lea**. linenparties.com
- 05** Madrid ottoman in charcoal from **Kush Living**. kushliving.com.au
- 06** Velvet two-toned cushion from **Zanui**. zanui.com.au
- 07** Liquid Amber wall art from **Entanglements**. entanglements.com.au
- 08** Ostrich seven-egg pendant from **Cornerlight**. cornerlight.co.uk

