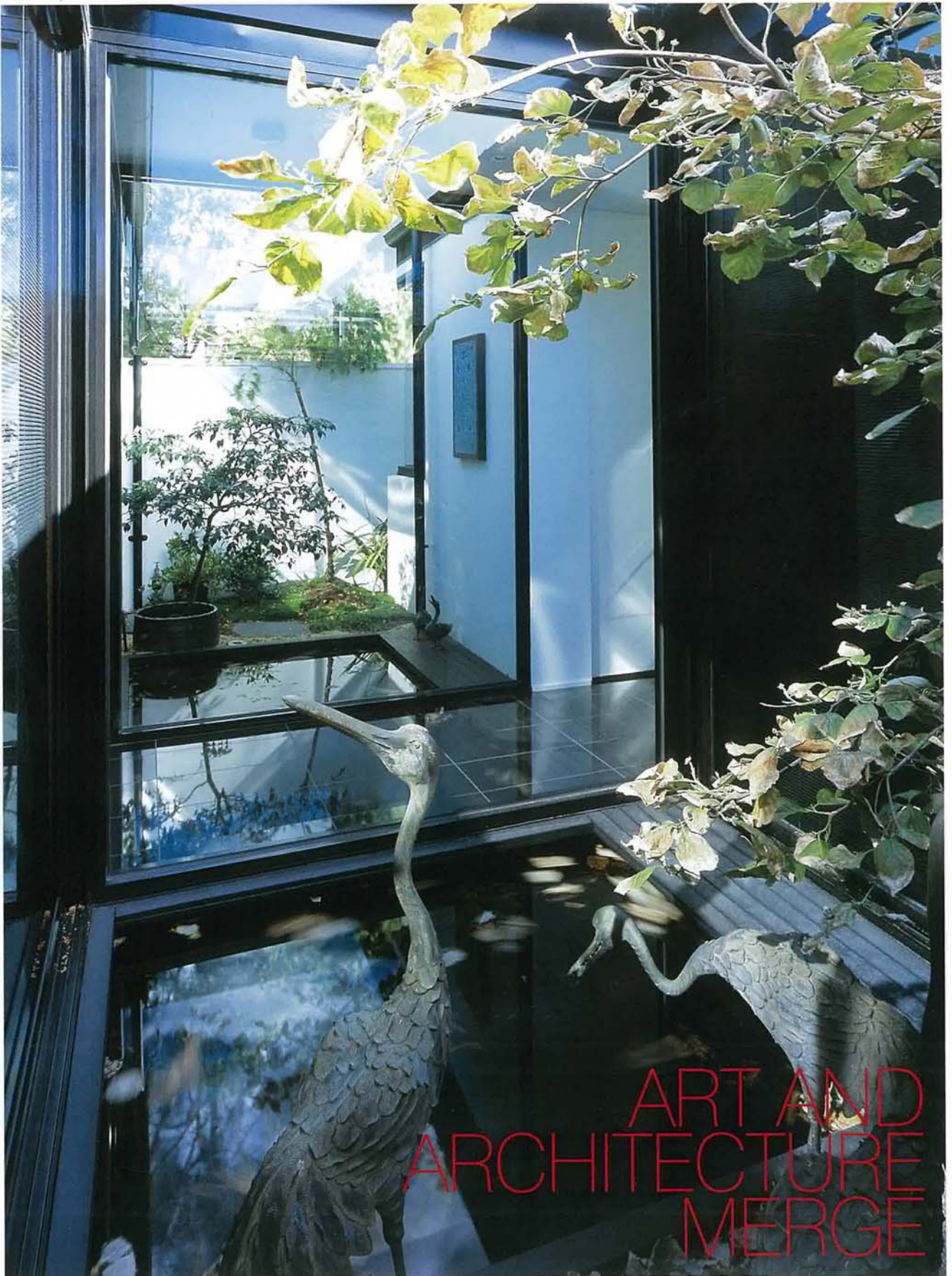


This page This house was designed to be a live-in gallery, with sculptures, paintings and tapestries around every corner.

Custom Homes



team behind residence had a challenge — to design a space of architecture that resolved the additional living needs of their elderly but adventurous client, while also providing an appropriate atmosphere for displaying her impressive collection of art

The culmination of an intensive design process, this home was designed with art in mind. With the client a collector of fine art, including large tapestries of renowned Australian paintings, the home needed to provide a canvas for the collection, while creating a series of comfortable living spaces with a simple, stylised décor. It does this successfully, balancing the requirements of a complex brief with a range of aesthetic, pragmatic, environmental and contextual issues. This has resulted in an architecture that not only displays the client's art but enhances its appreciation and provides an integrated and interactive relationship to it.

The 220m² dwelling comprises two living spaces, kitchen, study, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a laundry. They are planned within four primary zones: first, a formal zone consisting of formal living area, study and library, where spaces are subtly delineated by floating walls and elevated floor planes; second, an open-plan informal living/dining/kitchen



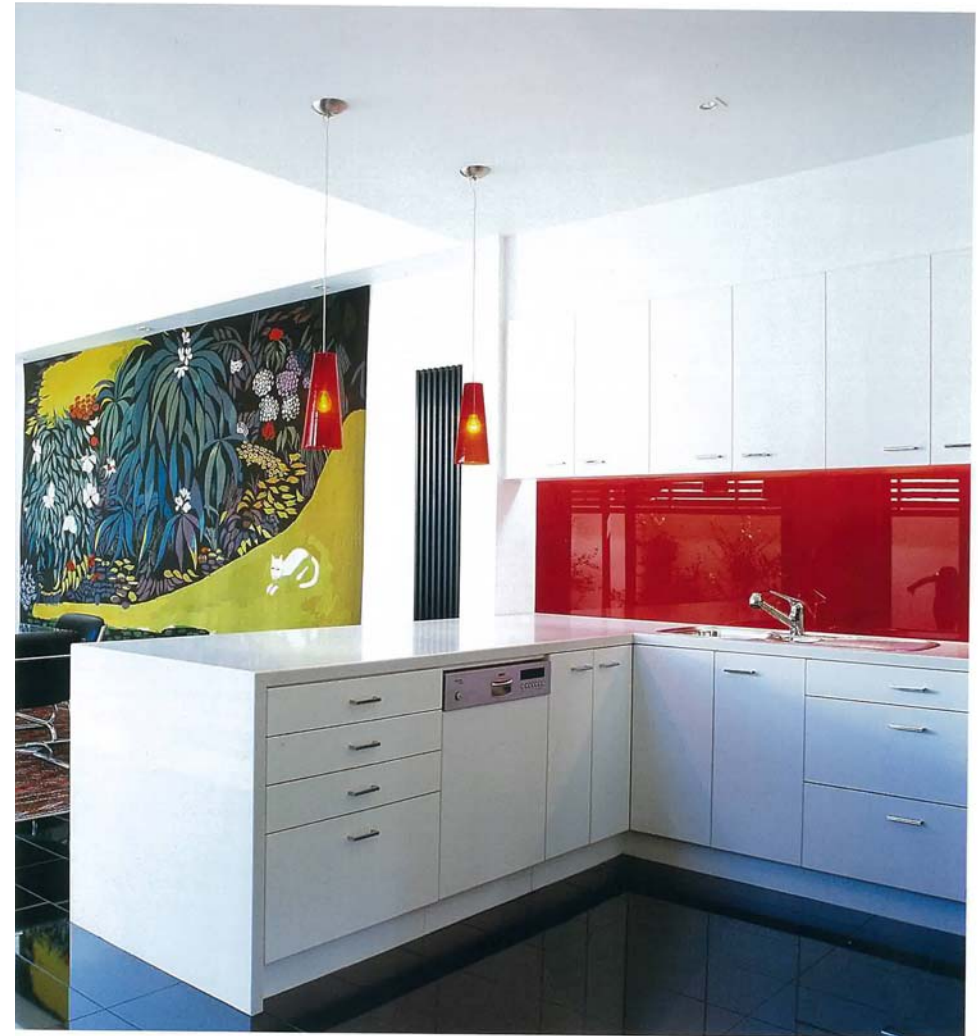
and opposite page The use of art and architecture buffered the client to feed both these needs when designing the house. The design varies within each specific zone and colours and subtle details are indicative of a room's function and purpose.

area; third, a guest bedroom zone that can be partitioned off by a hidden cavity sliding door; and, finally, a private zone for the two main bedrooms, which is accessed between two secluded courtyards via a transparent "bridge". A two-car basement garage is located under the front living area and study with access via a ramp from street level.

Conceived specifically to display and enhance the appreciation of each piece of art in the house, the interiors and, ultimately, the exterior of the house are products of the spatial

requirements of each item of artwork. As such, the dwelling represents an assimilation and integration of art and architecture. The house not only provides well-considered locations and vantage points for viewing the art, but takes the further step of making the pieces part of the journey of discovery as one moves through the dwelling.

Inspiration for the design wasn't hard to find. The elderly and adventurous client, with a love of fine art and contemporary architecture, was the main source. Also, highlight colours



within the tapestries and artworks provide the inspiration for the use of colour within the dwelling.

For example, the sculptured red volume of

the powder room marks the transition between the formal and informal living spaces. On this curvilinear element hangs the large tapestry, Nebuchadnezzar, by Arthur Boyd, from which

The narrow city fringe influenced the linear planning of the design with numerous axes that focus views to strategically placed artworks, which entice one to further explore the house.

the use of red is inspired. On the opposite wall of the courtyard garden is the tapestry White Cats Garden. This artwork's location was selected on the basis of its predominantly green colour, which provides an abstract artistic reinterpretation of the outdoor courtyard garden opposite.

Generally elsewhere, white walls, ceilings and joinery provide a neutral environment where the vibrant artworks take centre stage.

Designing the architecture around the art was a challenge but a satisfying one. Internal →



spaces are carefully crafted around the art works — from the subtly angled wall of the formal living room, where Ned Kelly acknowledges guests at the front entrance, to the undulating ceiling levels that are precisely designed to fit specific artworks like a glove so they read more as theatrical backdrops to each room.

Located in a quiet street in inner-eastern suburban Melbourne, this home has a pleasant outlook across parkland to the west with the length of the site orientated to the north. The narrow city fringe site influenced the linear planning of the design with numerous axis that focus views to strategically placed artworks, which entice one to further explore the house.

The super-sized picture window that occupies most of the house's west-facing street elevation had the potential to impact heavily on the energy-efficiency of the house, but the provision of fully retractable external louvres allows the owner the flexibility of adjusting the building envelope to suit the afternoon weather conditions, as well as providing for privacy or views out to the parkland when desired. **ML**

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Above The picture window was designed by the team to be able to be controlled by the owners for lighting and privacy reasons. All internal and external rendering was completed by Unitex Granular Marble. **Left** All visitors to the home will have immediate contact with the artwork, starting with the painting hanging in the foyer.