

# Outside the square

..... Clever design is about ingenuity and flair. Denise Ryan spoke to five architects who push the boundaries

SOMETIMES IT'S not enough to have impressive designer credentials. The client is looking for much more — an architect who can interpret their personality, interests and sensibility. Someone with the personal touch.

The design should not only reflect a client's aspirations, but do so despite constraints such as the site, heritage considerations and the budget.

In a Toorak house by Carabott Holt Architects and a Richmond residence by Jackson Clements Burrows, the architects met their clients' briefs with ingenuity and flair.

Both homes were on a narrow block, and the latter address came with a heritage overlay.

Rob McGauran, Simon Thornton and Michael Rahill also faced similar demands. To build a rear studio in Albert Park, architects McGauran Giannini Soon had to factor in period considerations. A pergola-style count house proved a challenge for Simon and Freda Thornton Architects. And architect Michael Rahill's kitchen came with a theatrical flourish that more than met the hopes of the owners.



## The art lover

The design for a new Toorak house was influenced by the owner's extraordinary collection of large tapestries (there's even a striking example visible from the street), so architect David Carabott decided gallery-style walls were needed to showcase the works. He conceived the interior as a large white canvas.

A 300-year-old Chinese door is the starting point for a journey through this linear house, which reveals art works en route. The flow between rooms which includes three bedrooms and bathrooms, is enhanced by full height sliding doors and white walls.

Splashes of red around the front door and a red, curved powder room — which the owner dubbed the "womb" room — are the exception. The house says David Carabott