

realiving

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO RENOVATING P119

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I N T O

T H E

L I G H T

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After 70 years in the shadows, this mid-century home in Melbourne has been brought into the light – and the present – with a sympathetic renovation



Private oasis Floor-to-ceiling windows between the living room and pool area let in an abundance of light, leaving the interior zones sun-drenched and airy. A Ligne Roset 'Togo Fireside' chair from Domo and a Hay 'Don't Leave Me' side table from Cult ensure poolside relaxation is on the cards. Through the hallway you can glimpse the internal courtyard, complete with potted plants, Knoll armchairs and a Knoll coffee table, both from Dedec. The courtyard is protected by the house from the potentially blustery Melbourne weather. →



HIDING BEHIND UNDERGROWTH, at the end of a cul-de-sac, this mid-century gem was just waiting to be discovered. Interior designer Chelsea Hing's client was walking around Melbourne's Bayside area one night when he stumbled upon this uninhabited house. Untouched since the 1950s, the interior was a time capsule of mid-century style. Floral wallpaper and shag pile carpets filled the rooms. Captivated, the client saw beyond the dated design to the potential this home had and, after tracking down the owner, he bought it.

MODERNISING It took four years to bring this relic into the modern day. "We had to have an extra level of sensitivity to retain some of the natural integrity of the house," says Chelsea. Instead of completely gutting the structure, she and her team increased the amount of natural light let into the house and made the layout flow by delineating zones.

CENTREPIECE One of the most interesting features of the home is the internal courtyard – a lush, private outdoor area that serves as a focal point for many rooms. "All of the living areas circulate around this internal courtyard," explains Chelsea. Sadly, many pieces of joinery were against the windows, blocking the view. "The biggest change we made was liberating all of the windows overlooking the courtyard from any form of obstruction, which then throws more light into all the areas," she says.

IN THE ZONE While mid-century design heralded a new age of open-plan living, the original house was a little too open. Without separate zones, the space had no flow and lacked function. "We designed a fireplace to separate the living and dining areas," Chelsea says. The end result is a house that feels open but still maintains a sense of privacy and movement. ■



meet the designer

Chelsea Hing, founder and director of interior design studio Chelsea Hing.
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Green peace Modernising this home meant the shag pile carpets were replaced with engineered timber floorboards from Royal Oak Floors and the wallpaper replaced with Resene Alabaster paint. Reflecting the leafy vistas showcased through the large windows, Chelsea added pops of green into the living room with the mid-century chrome-frame armchairs, upholstered by Camm Upholstery in Kvadrat Raf Simons fabric in Pilot, and the striking Vermont Green marble from Apex Stone on the new fireplace room divider. Painting (opposite) by unknown artist. →

Old and new Chataway focused on mixing mid-century classics with contemporary showstoppers. She says the Eero "On the Beach" sofa from Saarinen gives the room flexibility and fluidity. "It has a '60s sort of spirit and serenity," she explains. Metal and glass are used throughout the room, from the Eero Aalto "Alvaro" coffee table from Ikon, to the 1971 "Big" side table from Cof and the Finn Juhl "Four Knave" from Denmark. "We wanted to avoid mid-century cliché. That's why we've used reflective finishes where we can bounce light around," says Chataway. »

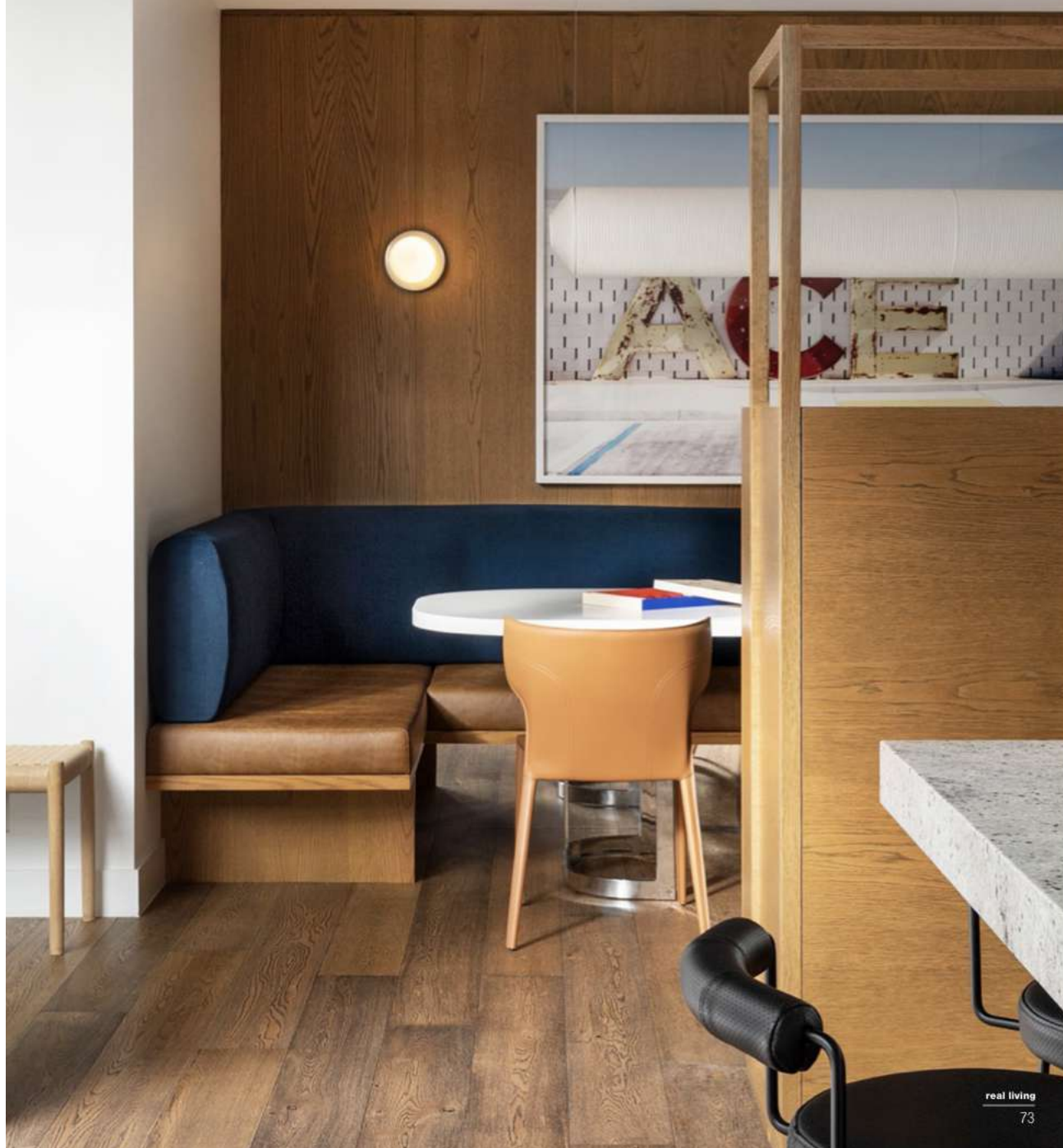


3 ways to bring contemporary chic into a mid-century home

- 1 Select mid-century pieces that are still in production today, then mix them with fresh new releases that embody a more contemporary style.
- 2 Open up spaces while respecting the original design. This will strike a balance between maintaining the spirit of the house and modernising.
- 3 Mid-century style was revolutionary in its extensive use of open-plan design but modern families also want elements of privacy. Strike a balance by focusing on delineating different zones.



Wood works Soft curves and natural materials, such as wood, are classics of mid-century style. This is showcased in the breakfast nook (below), where American oak crown-cut timber veneer joinery adds warmth to the space. James Geer's *Ace* print from his Mid Century Series hangs on the wall. **Separate zones** Chelsea's ultimate goal with the kitchen (opposite) was to keep it open while still separating it from the dining area. An important part of this was making sure people could still see over the joinery. Instead of building it up to the ceiling, this added privacy but didn't cut the flow. Snoopy table lamp from Living Edge. →





Mix and match The house's formal dining area (above left) is complete with a home bar – a mid-century trend that's come back into fashion – complete with stunning glassware. In the breakfast nook (above right), the mid-century look is mixed with contemporary items like the Tekiø horizontal pendant light from Ajar. To create cohesion between rooms, Chelsea used the same table lamp, Oluce's 'Atollo', from Euroluce, in both the dining room and main bedroom (opposite).

Relaxation station The large contemporary artwork, *From the Outside* by Australia-based Galliano Fardin, makes a big statement in the main bedroom. The painting's warmer hues complement the brass finish of the Oluce lamp and contrast with the cooler tones of the bed linen and walls. The walls were painted in Resene Alabaster and the cornices and ceilings in Resene Half Alabaster to lighten up the spaces. "We whitewashed all the walls and opened up the spaces but retained the spirit of the house," explains Chelsea. The end result is a seamless blend of decades, incorporating the very best of mid-century and contemporary styles. →



Icons only The central courtyard created the perfect scene to use furniture designed by one of the greatest icons of mid-century decor, Richard Schultz. The 1968 chair and dining table for Florence Knoll, from Dedece, are part of the design collection at New York's Museum of Modern Art.