

VOCAL AUSTRALIA LIVING CULTURE

EXTRAORDINARY AUSTRALIAN
kitchens & bathrooms



A FEAST OF
INNOVATION
AND DESIGN

CAST IN STONE

Grand visions of European landscapes and heritage buildings have grounded this Melbourne home's monolithic calm and elegance.

BY ANNEMARIE KIELY PHOTOGRAPHED BY TIMOTHY KAYE
STYLED BY MARSHA GOLEMAC

THIS PAGE in the kitchen of this Toorak home, island in Vagli marble from Artedomus, produced by Stone Elegance; oak veneer cabinetry produced by Shadowline Joinery; windows from Innovative Aluminium; curtains from Lovelight.





THESE PAGES in the dining area with a view of the kitchen, custom New Volumes Wyrrie table by Nick Rennie from Artedomus; Cassina Capitol Complex chairs, enquiries to Mobilia; Say Yes pendant light by Studioepe for Baxter, enquiries to Space Furniture; Dagg vase (on table) from Rosenthal. In the kitchen, splashback and rear wall in Vagli marble from Artedomus, produced by Stone Elegance; oak veneer cabinetry produced by Shadowline Joinery; Wolf oven and Gaggenau rangehood, enquiries to Winning Appliances; Assemble tapware from Astra Walker; Kristina Dam Studio Opal bowl and Bloomingville Deco vase (on island) from Designstuff; floor in Grigio Orsola Acid Etched limestone from Artedomus, installed by Borgia Marble Installations.

WITH MELBOURNE IN LOCKDOWN,

Lauren Tarrant swivels to the streamed capture of her home – “an ode to marble ‘crafted’ in collaboration with Conrad Architects”. Her phone’s eye frames up the inscrutable walled frontage of her Toorak property.

ARCHITECT PAUL CONRAD’S rigour reveals in Tarrant’s walk-and-talk which, commencing at a gatehouse contrived for the stress decompress, releases into an open garden room that signals the emotive slip into sanctuary. The build of expectation betrays no hint of the private world beyond.

“I wanted my home to feel bright, solid, grand, timeless and have stature,” she says of a hankering for gravitas on a site with a two-level slope. “I am the happiest person in the world when I am in Europe roaming through beautiful old buildings and absorbing their detail. I wanted a modern version of that heritage and there is something about Paul’s work that condenses it and something about marble that communicates it.”

Conrad later recalls the written specificity of Tarrant’s brief; one tabling with magazine tear sheets of a modern European museum and a pool projecting over an Italian landscape. The non-negotiables were living spaces looking over water to wider Melbourne, a surface toughness for daughters Bella-Dita and Mila, and a fitness facility for her husband Chris, a former Australian Rules footballer who remains corporately connected to his old club Collingwood and co-manages property developments with his wife.

Both she and Conrad concertedly designed for the space between matter and mind, concurring on the flip of the conventional residential plan with the lift of further living space and study to level four and the drop of all bedrooms below street level — a logical descent in body and mind at day’s end.

At the sight of the cellar, the question of a single supplier of stone arises. “Well,” she sighs, in flag of a long story made short. “I know travertine is coming back, but it’s porous and I like a cooler base, so I approached Artedomus to suggest options not seen in every second fit-out and Yas [Behar of Artedomus] came back with Grigio Orsola — a cloudy grey-stone made leathery like travertine when acid-etched.

“And then, I started googling stonemasons around the world,” Tarrant adds, in reference to the cellar shelves, the powder-room basin and a plinth, at stair base, supporting a sculpture by denHolm. “I found this particular shade of Dedalus on a favourite Belgian architect’s social media account and got Yas to track it down, but, of course, the quarry had closed. Undeterred, she scoured the globe and voila!”

Calling marble the material witness to time and place, Tarrant says that Covid has reinforced the soul-salving benefits of living with light and earthy textures; a sentiment with some echo of Eleanor Roosevelt’s belief that the pessimist’s stumbling block is the optimist’s stepping stone or entire shelter, as the effervescent Tarrant was determined to have it. laurentarrantdesign.com conradarchitects.com

As featured in the November/December 2021 edition of Vogue Living.



THIS PAGE in the office, custom desk designed by Lauren Tarrant Design; Husk chair by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia, enquiries to Space Furniture; Tube chandelier pendant light by Michael Anastassiades, enquiries to Mobilia; 1970 table lamp by Giotto Stoppino for Valenti Luce from Castorina & Co.; *The Libertines* artwork by Loribelle Spirovski from Metro Gallery.

THESE PAGES in the living area, West modular sofa by Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti and Minotti glass coffee table, enquiries to Dedee; Utrecht armchairs by Gerrit Thomas Rietveld for Cassina, enquiries to Mobilia; Minotti marble coffee table, enquiries to Dedee; Baxter Tebe side table from Space Furniture; Tom Dixon candleholders (on top shelf, from left), enquiries to Dedee+; brass water tower VII by Kenny Yong-soo Son from Modern Times; resin bowl (on centre shelf) from Dinosaur Designs; Mia ceramic object (on bottom shelf, from left) by Katarina Wells, *Flower Head* sculpture by Bettina Willner, and *Solcare* vessel by Ella Bendrup, all from Modern Times; marble sculpture from *The Cool Hunter*; Menu *Echasse* bowl (on coffee table) from Designstuff; *Onishi* vase 20.112 by Kerry Levy from Modern Times; *Charade* studded vase (on shelf beside fireplace, from left) from *Coco Republic*; *Rising Spheres* and *Quartz Curve* ceramic sculptures by Bettina Willner from Modern Times; oak veneer cabinetry produced by Shadowline Joinery; Ortal fireplace from Oblica; fireplace surround in *Vagli* marble from Artedomus; rug from *Halcyon Lake*.





THIS PAGE in the main ensuite, Assemble tapware from Astra Walker in Eco Brass; vanity sink in Vagli Oro marble from Artedomus, produced by Stone Elegance. **OPPOSITE PAGE** in another view of the main ensuite, bath from Stonebaths; Grigio Orsola Acid Etched limestone wall and floor tiles from Artedomus.

STYLE AGENDA

The VL edit

A curated hit list inspired by the practical yet polished hubs of this home.



FROM LEFT Dita No Back stool, POA, from Grazia&co; graziaandco.com.au Calacatta Vagli marble, POA, from Artedomus; artedomus.com Canvas three-piece dinner set in Coast, \$86, from Robert Gordon; robertgordonastralia.com Assemble Dial wall set in Aged Brass, \$1096, from Astra Walker; astrawalker.com.au Aalto vase in Linen, \$289, from Iittala; iittala.com.au 90cm Classic freestanding cooker with induction cooktop, \$8690, from Smeg; smeg.com.au

COMPILED BY SANDY DAO