



*Calypso*





## DESIGN

A Cape Dutch inspired home, that features a distinctive gable wall, soft recycled brick exterior with an exposed pitched ceiling, typical of South African architecture. Natural materials are implemented throughout the home to maintain a raw and unique feel combining recycled brick on the exterior, steel and timber window frames, exposed Blackbutt timber rafters and struts, stone corbels and exposed raw concrete flooring in the living areas. With the existing entry and front rooms restored to highlight their federation and Edwardian characteristics whilst not conflicting with the new Cape Dutch designs to the living areas and first floor studio.







## KEY ELEMENTS

### Exposed recycled brickwork

In the demolition of the existing building we saved and stored the reclaimed bricks on site, with a team of labourers cleaning the mortar off them for weeks we were able to reuse them in the external brick walls, large gable and parapet. Not being overly precious about what bricks we used, we were able to create an aged uniqueness to the walls in-artificially, by utilising bricks that had been exposed to chimney soot, pale paint colours and lime coatings over the past 80 years. In the brick cleaning, the walls were not washed with the conventional harsh pressure cleaner, rather by hand, thus, retaining their overall character.

### High raked ceilings to the living areas

The raked ceilings of the living area have exposed "v grooved" ceiling panelling. Rafters and struts using Australian Blackbutt timber were hand crafted to form the exposed roof webs with dual struts.

### Sandstone Corbels

The dual struts have concealed up lighting and sit on sandstone corbels that were derived from the original foundations of the home, dug up from the demolition of the rear of the building and with little prior stone mason experience were hand crafted by us.

# KEY ELEMENTS

## Internal wall finishes

In keeping with the Cape Dutch style we applied a loose and textured old style of lime bagging technique. Challenging with modern WHS regulations regarding the use of lime in construction.

## Floors

Refurbishing the existing Baltic flooring with its years of character, we then carried a raw concrete floor into the living areas. Without an extensive polish we were able to maintain a uniform finish that was not too sleek against the other natural material elements used.

## Windows

### Windows-Existing

To the existing face of the home the floor to ceiling double hung windows and beautiful bay window to the master bedroom were too powerful to replace, therefore, a restoration was undertaken.

### Windows-Timber new

New timber windows were manufactured for the extensions other than the first floor windows, with numerous quality window companies not willing to create the custom raked, parallelogram windows, we challenged ourselves to make them. A risk that proved rewarding, with good function and design.







### **Steel Doors to living room**

These large bespoke custom twin double doors were hand made out of steel and finished in matt black. They set off the living areas creating a large transition between in and out. And bring the element of iron to a masonry and timber construction.

### **Kitchen**

Satin shaker cupboards, stainless steel benchtops, subway splashbacks, handmade encaustic floor tiles

and a custom American White Oak bench. The kitchen was sunken down enabling the bench to be a working height from the kitchen yet the bench slides out to form a sitting height for dining.

### **Stairs**

We constructed, in house, the Tasmanian Oak Staircase, prepared off site and installed with closed risers, concealed stringers and without any visible fixings.

### **Balustrades**

Again, manufactured and welded by us, this matt black balustrade and handrails complements the steel living room doors. With no bottom rail, the balustrades were doweled into the floor adding to the floating effect of the first floor counter level.

## KEY ELEMENTS

### Bathrooms

Sunken solid round bath with elegant glass mosaics created a stylish ensuite. A claw foot bath and over cooked Green glazed terracotta skirting tiles gave the main bathroom its character.

### Walk in Robe

With practical and functional cabinetry, the room was given its impact with the barn style sliding door, constructed by us on industrial rollers and rail. We sourced the timber that had been recycled from an old shed on the grounds of the now Homebush Olympic stadium to create this bulky and raw, yet operable component. Complemented by the mirror we made to match.

### Library and Cellar

The library was created out of what would typically have been the formal lounge room near the entry of the house. The ornate pressed metal ceilings were restored and against all rules, painted in a deep black, a risk that surprisingly looks great. With extensive manual labour we excavated beneath the library and constructed a Wine Cellar, complete with stairs and a large operable trap door within the library floor.

### Hard and Soft Landscaping

**Restorations** to the original sandstone front entry, new crisp white retaining walls and copper spouted water feature to the rear. Joined with Himalayan white sandstone pavers and stairs throughout. All of which comes to life by the green foliage of the new garden, inspired by the building it surrounds and the formality of a Cape Dutch Garden and the softness of a French Country garden. Complete with a Citrus Espalier in a copper trough within the rear external wall.





## FROM OUR CLIENT

Stuart, Thank YOU for the beautiful house you have built for us, your patience, and your willingness to educate us on the subtleties of building a house, for working carefully and creatively around every problem and for engaging with the dream build we embarked on this year. The outcome has absolutely surpassed my expectations, the quality is superb, and the detailing on every part of the house is quite amazing, you are all craftsmen, and my only regret is that the process is nearly over and we won't be seeing as much of you and your wonderful team! We will miss you.

It is a pleasure to live in, and I will think of you all every time I look at the brickwork, or the chimney, or the gorgeous overhang you built, and not forgetting the masterpiece, the ensuite door. The house has so much provenance and character which you have added to immeasurably, we feel really lucky to live here.

Thank you and thank all your team.

Lesley & Jon



## A PROJECT TO BE PROUD OF...

We are immensely proud of this home, the challenges we faced and the outcome we have delivered to our clients.

I thank my team for their tenacity, our contractors for their patience and persistence, the architects Eugene & Henke for their talents and most importantly Lesley and Jon our clients, for selecting and believing in us, their passion to have the home they have dreamed of, their risk against uniqueness and giving us the opportunity to build such a beautiful home.

Kind regards,  
**Stuart Skeoch,**  
Builder



**Expression Constructions - Quality Renovations & Extensions**

**Ph:** 0433 745 575    **ABN:** 24134 990 883    **Builders License No.** 212 672C

**[www.expressionconstructions.com.au](http://www.expressionconstructions.com.au)**