

# CIRCULAR KEY

Reflecting the natural world into the interiors, a deep, spherical pool anchors a well-rounded home renovation that embraces the curve.



Photographs DEREK SWALWELL Words CARLI PHILIPS

This page The wall of the new pavilion curves around the centrally located pool. "The facade features a classic Palladian motif but we wanted to make it look like a large, one-storey scale wall rather than a double storey," says architect Patrick Kennedy. Opposite page In the sitting room of the renovated old wing of the home is an Artek 41 'Palmio' armchair by Alvar Aalto from Anibou. Akari 'UF3-G' floor lamp by Isamu Noguchi. Painting by Paul Boston from Niagara Galleries.





This page Custom dining table by Lowe Furniture from Hub. Sculptures on table by Euan Heng from Niagara Galleries. 'Gala' chandelier by Rich Brilliant Willing from Living Edge. Opposite page The green-hued stairs lead to the second storey where there is a large study, parents' zone and deck. Timber floor sculptures by Jo Wilson sit in the passageway to the kitchen and dining area in the new pavilion. Shimmering reflections from the swimming pool can be seen on the ceiling.





**M**elburnians love to talk about the weather. The propensity to have four seasons in one day, the cold snaps, the big chills, the cool changes, the humidity, the unrelenting heat. It all makes having a pool rather a sensitive operation. A generous, glittering expanse may be ripe for summer, but at the start of autumn refreshing aqua can quickly turn into an eyesore of murky, layered debris.

For their renovation, homeowners Sheree and Jonathan Burge were adamant they “didn’t want the standard paradigm of a pool collecting leaves in the backyard for a large portion of the year and not being appreciated”, recalls architect Patrick Kennedy of Kennedy Nolan. Instead, they wanted a pool in the heart of the property. “I am always trying to put people’s swimming pools in the middle so for me it was great,” says Patrick, who had managed to persuade only two clients to do this in the past.

The concept works well in Melbourne if done sensitively, he says. “We have hot summers but long, coolish winters so the pool needed to be something more than just to swim in. It needed to have another role that was something you could passively enjoy. So for this house we created a circular shape that doesn’t look like the typical backyard swimming pool but has a deep, pond-like effect. It is not a big site so placing it centrally was always going to be very impactful.” Further enhanced by olive-green mosaics, it is inspired by the “calm river water” of the nearby Yarra River and Merri Creek waterways.

Not only decorative, its positioning between a new pavilion extension on one side and an existing heritage Edwardian house on the other (renovated to encompass three children’s bedrooms and a sitting room) had functional passive solar principles top of mind too: cross ventilation, evaporative cooling effects and multiple garden aspects. Its orientation required careful consideration bearing in mind Australia’s stringent standards when it comes to domestic environments and their proximity to water. Adhering to regulations



This page In the sitting room, newly created in the existing house, is a Ligne Roset ‘Togo’ armchair and ottoman from Domo with a Resident ‘Offset’ side table from District. Custom cabinetry designed by Kennedy Nolan and built by Overend Constructions. *Dog Leaning Over Fence* by Noel McKenna from Niagara Galleries. ‘Mori’ pendant light by Rich Brilliant Willing from Living Edge. *Opposite page, from top* An Arabia teapot and a limestone vase by Den Holm sit among other pieces on the kitchen shelves. On the bench are two framed artworks by Euan Heng from Niagara Galleries. ‘Gala’ chandelier by Rich Brilliant Willing from Living Edge. ‘Knot’ dining chairs by Normann Copenhagen from District. Table by Lowe Furniture from Hub.



while creating a pure, sculptural element was challenging but overcome by ringing a monolithic, concave white brick wall around the perimeter with one steel screen door disguised as an operational gate, securely fastened with a protective mesh insert and opening into the hallway. Cut into the facade is a set of playful yet neat, modern Palladian-style geometry: window portholes, hoop flip mullions and arched openings. Juxtaposed on the other side of the masonry wall is the first-floor balcony clad in charred timber.

Fern-hued stairs in the new pavilion lead to the second storey which is outfitted with a large study, deck and adults zone. But Patrick dismisses the staircase as a feature, likening its colour to a “neutral of the environment because of its connection to the natural world.” It’s not a “green-green that’s synthetic or chemical: it works with the muted background palette. It has a lot of personality but is not a particularly difficult or dominating colour to live with.”

The lounge and dining area in the new wing is feathered with soft, circular silhouettes such as the frosted spherical-drop pendant, round-edged table by Lowe Furniture, orb-like suspended fireplace from Oblica and bespoke daybed upholstered in Kelly Wearstler’s ‘Graffito’ fabric. While the kitchen is used regularly, it is softened with subtle textures, tonal hues and curved forms such as the edge of the island bench, the tubular rangehood and uninterrupted tiled surfaces designed for continuity.

Added calm comes via the ever-changing light that throws shimmering watery reflections onto the lounge ceiling. “Kennedy Nolan offered the concept of a pool essentially within the lounge space, which we loved. It has acted exactly as we had hoped,” says Sheree. [kennedynolan.com.au](http://kennedynolan.com.au)

**This page, from top** In the new pavilion’s sitting room is a ‘Ploum’ sofa by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Ligne Roset from Domo. Custom daybed designed by Kennedy Nolan and upholstered in ‘Graffito’ fabric by Kelly Wearstler from Elliott Clarke. ‘Bathyscafoc’ suspended fireplace from Oblica. Painting by Kevin Lincoln from Niagara Galleries. An arched doorway leads into the ground-floor powder room. **Opposite page** ‘Moss’ rug from Loom Rugs in the new pavilion’s sitting room. ‘Akar’ pendant light by Isamu Noguchi from Luke Furniture.



## SPEED READ

» Locating an outdoor swimming pool at the centre of this home renovation by architect Patrick Kennedy created more than something to swim in. » The pool offers passive solar benefits and throws light into the interiors. » It is set between the existing Edwardian house, reworked to encompass three children’s bedrooms and a sitting room, and a new pavilion extension outfitted with kitchen, dining and living areas on the ground floor. A large study, deck and parents’ zone are on the second storey. » The pavilion’s curving double-height facade hugs the pool and its rounded windows set the scene for similar shapes on furniture and lighting.



# Interior Design Awards 2019

Portraits **KRISTINA SOLJO**  
Words **GAVIN KIRK**

Selected from an astonishing array of submissions, the recipients of this year's **BELLE COCO REPUBLIC INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS** represent a thrilling cross-section of Australia's immense design talent.

#### BEAUTIFUL BREW

Adopting materials inspired by centuries-old Japanese techniques, the ethereal composition of Sydney cafe Edition Coffee Roasters garnered Best Hospitality Interior for design practice Amber Road in the 2019 Belle Coco Republic Interior Design Awards. Photograph by Prue Ruscoe.

David Flack  
FLACK STUDIO



INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS  
**WINNER**  
*Belle Coco Republic Interior Designer of the Year*

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS  
**WINNER**  
*Best Residential Bathroom CAULFIELD NORTH RESIDENCE*

**MELBOURNE-BASED INTERIOR** architecture and design practice Flack Studio demonstrated they're an ongoing force to be reckoned with at this year's Interior Design Awards. For the impressive line-up of projects presented to the judges, traversing residential, commercial and hospitality categories, founder and director David Flack has been awarded 2019 *Belle Coco Republic Interior Designer of the Year*, and Flack Studio was awarded Best Residential Bathroom Design for its Caulfield North residence. David explains that the Caulfield North client's brief was for something sophisticated and timeless, while still maintaining grunt. Answering this call, Flack Studio's signature manoeuvring of materiality and a fastidious eye for detailing came into full effect. Inspiration for the design was drawn from fashion, art and the home's original architecture, resulting in a daring, high-energy space. Flack Studio's glowing Fitzroy residence was one among the body of work considered for the award. See it on page 152. Congratulations to David and the Flack Studio team. [flackstudio.com.au](http://flackstudio.com.au)



PROJECTS BY  
Flack Studio



PHOTOGRAPHS: SHARIN CHURNE (HAWTHORN RESIDENCE, CASTORINA & CO.), ANSON SMART (CAULFIELD NORTH RESIDENCE, SANDY BAY RESIDENCE)

This page, clockwise from top left Interior architecture and design firm Flack Studio delivered to the panel of judges a stand-out selection of projects across residential, commercial and hospitality categories. Hawthorn residence living room. The bathroom at Caulfield North residence won Best Residential Bathroom. Hawthorn residence kitchen. Sandy Bay residence. The design of Fitzroy's Castorina & Co. complements the Italian furnishings on show. Fashion, art, design and the home's original architecture inspired the Caulfield North residence project.

Rachel Nolan  
Patrick Kennedy  
KENNEDY NOLAN



INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS  
**WINNER**  
Best Residential Kitchen  
CAROLINE HOUSE

**THE KITCHEN IS VITAL** to a home – used at all times of the day and by all members of the household. Receiving the gong for Best Residential Kitchen Design, Patrick Kennedy and Rachel Nolan of Kennedy Nolan explain the approach for their Caroline House project as an aesthetic expression which is both clearly that of a kitchen but also a passive, gentle background to the open-plan arrangement of the home. They explored the elements that make up a kitchen and softened them or reduced them to a texture. The home's island bench is modelled as a curving form which relates to the overall geometry of the house and makes it seem less dominant in the space. Further, the tonal materials – small-format glazed baguette tiles and lined cabinetry – are consistent with the master palette. Continuous tiled surfaces break down the articulation of separate elements, including the rangehood tubes, while judicious integration of kitchen elements reduces visual noise and resolves in a peaceful kitchen design that doesn't attempt to conceal its essential use. Kennedy Nolan's Caroline House was also a finalist in 2019's Best Residential Interior category, see page 160. [kennedynolan.com.au](http://kennedynolan.com.au)

**TRANSLATING THE OWNER'S DESIRE** for a spa-like space with gym functionality, and a nod to an Australian vernacular, lead designer Anna Trefely of Esoteriko conceived polished but simple interiors for Shelter in Sydney. The vision was to combine four distinct but interlinked wellness streams under one roof: ice baths, sauna, gym and juice bar. Housed within a former restaurant in the back lanes of Double Bay, the space was reborn in a palette of pale pink-tinged timbers, finished stainless steel, polished concrete floors, fresh grey and white painted walls, hand-cut snowy white tiles and generous slabs of warm orange granite. A play of light and shade and reflection is seen throughout the raked shed-like structure, including the naturally illuminated entry and juicery with its communal wooden table and built-in bench, draping greenery and eucalypt plantings. Moving further into the interiors, the semi-industrial ambience intensifies into the darkening and more intimate spaces of the gym, sauna and ice baths. Rather than fixed walls, screens delineate zones, keeping the sense of space without the loss of privacy. Visit [homestolove.com.au/belle](http://homestolove.com.au/belle) to view Shelter by Esoteriko. [esoteriko.org](http://esoteriko.org)

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS  
**WINNER**  
Best Commercial Interior  
SHELTER



Anna Trefely  
ESOTERIKO

Sarah-Jane Pyke  
& Juliette Arent

ARENT & PYKE

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

**WINNER**

*Best Residential Interior*  
UNDER THE TREE

**FOR JULIETTE ARENT AND SARAH-JANE PYKE** of Sydney interior design studio Arent & Pyke, the fiddle leaf fig that rises up the light well of their Under the Tree residence could be seen to represent the organic nature of the project, which grew and branched out over six years, and for which the design duo have been awarded Best Residential Interior. Joining the project towards the end of the boundary-pushing build – boasting a robust palette of sandstone bricks, bagged brickwork and polished concrete – Arent & Pyke layered the home with warmth, personality and intimate spaces. The light well and its fig formed the centrepiece for this open-plan family hub. To the front is the original timber cottage, now stained black, while the rear addition encompasses three brick volumes decreasing in width like a telescope tube towards the galley kitchen and courtyard. The raw palette received a softening layer that allowed the original qualities to show through, with lighting integral in achieving this delicate balance. Colours charged with the same task are earthy and warm – from mustard to forest green – and textures range from abaca rugs, wool and bouclé to Belgian linen and cowhide. Visit [homestolove.com.au/belle](http://homestolove.com.au/belle) to view Under the Tree by Arent & Pyke. [arentpyke.com](http://arentpyke.com)



**STUDIO PARTNERS AND SISTERS** interior architect Yasmine Ghoniem (pictured) and landscape architect Katy Svalbe make up Sydney-based design practice Amber Road. For this year's awards, Amber Road presented a suite of projects that demonstrate bold, confident use of colour spanning the full spectrum, including Sydney's Collectionist hotel. To recognise this superb body of work, Amber Road has been awarded Best Work with Colour, while Yasmine was awarded Best Hospitality Interior for the design of Edition Coffee Roasters in Haymarket, Sydney. At Edition Coffee Roasters, the cafe emanates traditional Japanese rural life, existing in stark contrast to its modern surrounds. This notion was developed by applying materials inspired by centuries-old techniques including *shou sugi ban*, a method of preserving timber by charring it; *sharasu kabe*, a unique raked wall plaster made from volcanic soil; and *zaisu*, Japanese seating typified as a chair with no legs. As a result, the highly textured yet all-black palette is forever in flux, deviating from inky indigo to warm browns depending on available light. Visit [homestolove.com.au/belle](http://homestolove.com.au/belle) to view Edition Coffee Roasters and selected works by Amber Road. [amberroaddesign.com.au](http://amberroaddesign.com.au)

Yasmine Ghoniem

AMBER ROAD



INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

**WINNER**

*Best Hospitality Interior*  
EDITION COFFEE  
ROASTERS

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

**WINNER**

*Best Work with Colour*

Dylan Farrell

DYLAN FARRELL DESIGN

INTERIOR DESIGN  
AWARDS

**WINNER**

*Emerging Design Star*

**SPARKED BY THE OWNERS' DESIRE** for a cosmopolitan, ultra-modern interior within the voluminous spaces of the harbour-facing home they were enamoured with, the Sydney Contemporary Perch project by Dylan Farrell Design is one of the alluring projects presented to the judges which saw Dylan become the deserving winner of Emerging Design Star. Sited atop a dramatic ledge overlooking one of Sydney's magnificent waterways, the interiors of the seven-bedroom home – the living room of which graces the cover of this issue – were inventively stripped back, reconfigured and punctuated by saturated hits of colour. To begin to tame the cavernous spaces and to paint a sense of warmth and architectural rhythm, Dylan opened up a series of four timber-framed passageways leading to the dining/kitchen space and the flanking family and living rooms, and between the kitchen and back hallway. While natural materials and inventive nods to nature abound, vivid colour was used to temper the earthy palette and to enliven the spaces, providing the once rambling architecture with a sense of liveliness, curiosity, comfort and cause. See Sydney Contemporary Perch on page 184. [dylanfarrell.com](http://dylanfarrell.com)