

RENEWED SPIRIT

Solving problems created by a jumble of modernist and patrician design has brought this Melbourne home and its residents into the now.

BY ANNEMARIE KIELY PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK SWALWELL



THIS PAGE in the kitchen of this Melbourne home, custom-sprayed Qasair Albany rangehood, enquiries to Winning Appliances; Wolf cooktop, enquiries to Winning Appliances; Vola tapware from Mary Noall; sculpture by Vera Möller from Sophie Gannon Gallery; Dioscuri pendant lights from Artemide; floor in classic vein-cut travertine from RMS Natural Stone.



THESE PAGES in the main living area, existing Queensland walnut cabinetry; vintage Tulip table by Eero Saarinen for Knoll, enquiries for reissue to Dedee; Gubi Coco dining chairs from Cult; *Shinki* bowl by Makiko Ryujin; carpet from Halcyon Lake; existing chandelier; Larrakitj memorial pole by Nongirrna Marawili; *Untitled (BB)* (2021) artwork by Huseyin Sami; *Gonna be a hot one - a nice place to rest* (2020) artwork (in room beyond) by Cameron Gill.

WHEN BROUGHT ON BOARD TO RENOVATE

a three-level house by the late Melbourne modernist Theodore Berman, Kennedy Nolan architects confronted a curious contradiction of mid-century style and a “patrician” planning that accounted for servants.

“CONCEPTUALLY, OUR ASPIRATION for this project was grounded in the elevation of an eroded and imperfect 20th-century aesthetic with a strengthening, and in some cases correction, of an established planning principle,” says practice co-principal Patrick Kennedy. “We find it useful to look at projects like these as a series of problems to be solved, or a suite of optimisations to be achieved.”

And the key optimisations — over three levels of a freestanding brick home in which a family of six had lived for five years — boiled down to extending the rich materiality of the original interior, claiming outside space for the inside realm and structurally reordering rooms to fit with modern family life.

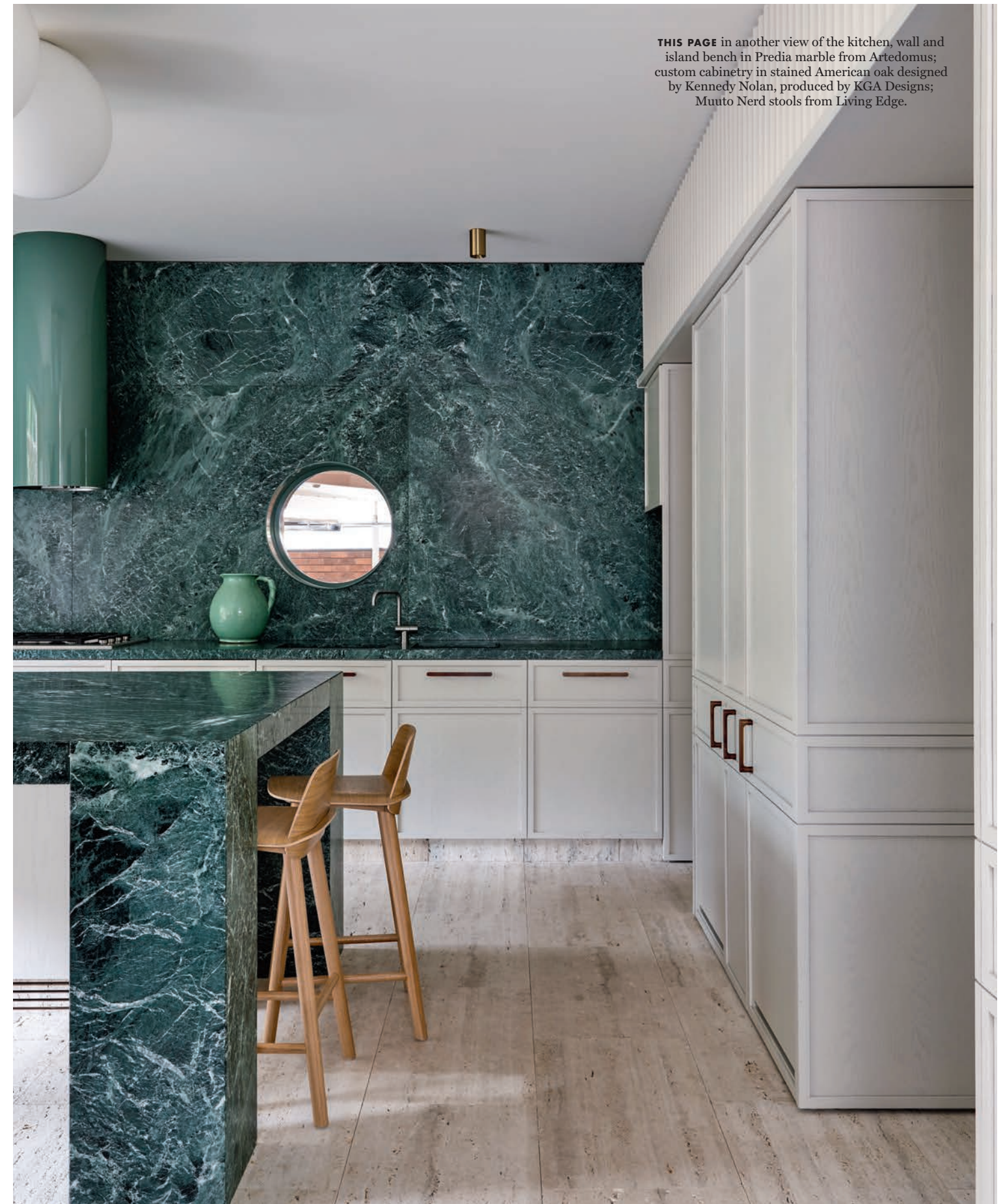
First order of business was the ground-floor kitchen, a nostalgic relic that did not function for four robust children aged under 10. It begged new efficiencies, a brighter aspect and a lot more elbow room, which was made by the integration of an adjacent meals area and a former maid’s room. Kennedy Nolan kept the palette consistent with the overarching aesthetic by referencing a modernist masterpiece — Mies van der Rohe’s Barcelona pavilion.

“Materials were chosen to honour its modernist heritage but also for longevity and robustness — a combination of Classico raw travertine with the intensely deep tones of Verde Alpi applied in varying scales to heighten the overall textural experience and create a visual hierarchy,” explains project architect Adriana Hanna. “We used a range of slabs and large-format tiles, crazy paving and mosaics, laying Palladiana style as per Carlo Scarpa’s technique for the Olivetti showroom in Venice.”

Opting for dynamic forms that generously express their function, the team detailed the rangehood as large sage-green exhaust tubes, and made a stone monolith of the island bench to serve as both the source of gourmet creation and a gathering point for family and friends.

Evincing the modernist’s penchant for pink stone and warm walnut timber, the upper-level master suite pays a restrained homage to the original wall-to-wall palette but counters the former cramped functionalism of the 1960s with a luxury of space. Kennedy Nolan tapped into the era’s optimism and innovation with spouts made to Arne Jacobsen’s design for Vola in the 1960s and lighting styled with a similarly exploratory spirit by Ollie Wilcox’s Lost Profile Studio.

As Kennedy quips about period housing and the homage, “mid-century is so hot right now”, but in terms of pushing amenity and function for the modern family, he’s all for pre-empting the next mid-century mark. kennedynolan.com.au



THIS PAGE in another view of the kitchen, wall and island bench in Predia marble from Artedomus; custom cabinetry in stained American oak designed by Kennedy Nolan, produced by KGA Designs; Muuto Nerd stools from Living Edge.



THESE PAGES in the main living area, sofa produced by Camm Upholstery via Simone Haag; original table, designed for the home's first owners; Bertoia Diamond chairs by Harry Bertoia for Knoll from Dedecce; *Untitled artwork* by John Nicholson from Sophie Gannon Gallery.



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ADRIANA HANNA

THESE PAGES the main garden
and the exterior of the home.

THIS PAGE in the first-floor landing, existing Murano glass chandelier; artwork by Gunter Christmann; carpet from Halcyon Lake. **OPPOSITE PAGE** in the powder room, vanity in Predia marble from Artedomus with American walnut panels; Vola tapware from Mary Noall; Lost Profile Studio Distance wall sconce from Est Lighting; existing Calacatta marble floor.



THESE PAGES in the main bathroom, Carrara penny round marble tiles, floor tiles and bath surround in Norwegian Rose marble from Artedomus; cabinetry in Dulux Primal designed by Kennedy Nolan, produced by KGA Designs; Vola tapware from Mary Noall; towel rails from Astra Walker.

STYLE AGENDA

The VL edit

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



FROM TOP KV1 mixer, POA, from Vola; en.vola.com Predia marble, POA, from Artedomus; artedomus.com Lost Profile Studio Colossal wall light in Brass, POA, from Est Lighting; estlighting.com.au Juniper Berry candle, \$135, from Loewe; loewe.com Carrara marble white penny round mosaic tile, \$34.95 a sheet, from National Tiles; nationaltiles.com.au Linen napkins in Pine, \$65 for a set of 4, In Bed; inbedstore.com Classic 60cm 4-burner gas cooktop in Stainless Steel, \$1390, from Smeg; smeg.com.au



COMPILED BY SANDY DAO