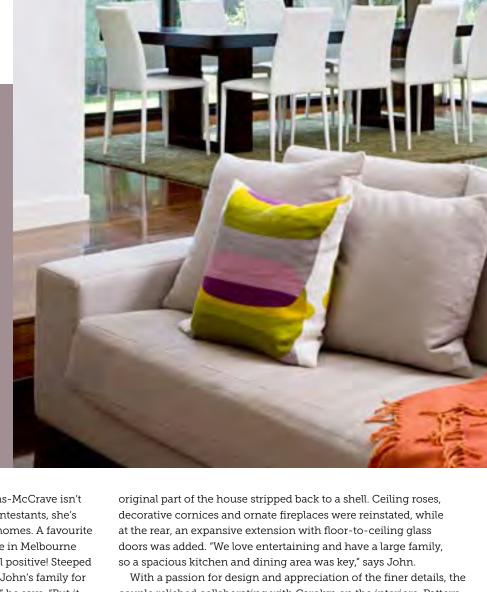


Dining & living (right)

An eye-catching, oversized pendant light from Richmond Lighting is teamed with a bespoke timber table and sleek white dining chairs from Dare Gallery. The living area is furnished with a Jardan sofa and colourful striped rug (pictured, page 173) – for similar, check out Armadillo & Co. Polished blackbutt timber floors, laid throughout the home, help to ensure a fluid connection between the old and new parts of the home. >



WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER Carolyn Burns-McCrave isn't imparting her style know-how to *House Rules* contestants, she's helping her clients create warm and welcoming homes. A favourite project is this striking 1900s three-bedroom home in Melbourne that has undergone countless makeovers – not all positive! Steeped in personal history, the house has been in owner John's family for generations. "It's something of a family heirloom," he says. "But it was in poor condition due to various building misdemeanours performed by my well-intentioned grandfather!"

John, a builder by trade with his own firm Leone Constructions, and his wife Larissa, a business manager, hatched a plan to transform the ramshackle cottage into a dream family home. On the wishlist was a home office, an open-plan living zone and dedicated coffee bar. CBG Architects drew up the design concepts and Carolyn helped infuse the home with elegance and drama.

Maximising light and space were priorities, as were rectifying decades-old rising damp and sub-floor issues, which saw the

With a passion for design and appreciation of the finer details, the couple relished collaborating with Carolyn on the interiors. Pattern and texture were introduced through bold wallpaper and slick joinery at the front of the house, while a neutral palette was preferred for the extension. "John and Larissa embraced all my suggestions," says Carolyn. "I was so excited when they agreed to some of my more adventurous ideas!" Cases in point – the butter-yellow wallpaper in the powder room (page 171) and the oversized pendant light in the dining zone (above). "Playing with scale and pattern creates interest – and great talking points for guests," says Carolyn. "When I walk through the front door I still can't believe what we've achieved," comments John. "It's so welcoming and elegant."





(opposite & this page, top & bottom left) John's office is a vision of masculine sophistication. "I love the way it's turned out – it's one of my favourite rooms," he enthuses. Expansive American oak shelving stained in Feast Watson Black Japan is teamed with a monolithic bespoke timber desk and white Moooi 'Paper Chandelier' light from Space. A vintage *Tintin* poster over a restored Victorian fireplace brings a blast of colour to the otherwise neutral room. On the wall, black 'Pacific Breeze' grasscloth wallpaper from Baresque adds a tactile touch.

Powder YDDM {above} Carolyn encouraged the couple to make some bold decorating choices. Here, wallpaper by Osborne & Little makes a statement and ties in with the home's period details. >

