



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DARREN JAMES

Arts, crafts and survival skills



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PROPERTY WRITER

It's got style, space and an abundance of natural light – all the lifestyle ingredients for a modern family. Yet this red brick arts and crafts-style house harks back to the first quarter of the 20th century and the golden era of the grand home.

This property, like many in the area, was once converted to flats, but it escaped the tide of demolition and development in the 1960s and '70s and has survived into a new century.

The facade has a central section with bay windows and painted shingles beneath the gabled roofline. On the lower level the windows have decorative arches with two square windows on the first floor.

The entry is from the side into a security porch with original and well-preserved tuck pointing. From the porch an entry hall opens into the living room.

The house was renovated and extended in the past decade. Today it includes a formal sitting room, informal living and dining, marble kitchen, powder room, four bedrooms, study, and a superb ensuite.

"If I could take the house with me I would," says the vendor, who has enjoyed life here for more than two years.

All the rooms are large and inviting. Downstairs, wide oregon floorboards reclaimed from an old factory give the place character.

A modern colour scheme uses Armani grey walls and white ceilings to create a soothing interior. The high ceilings feature decorative plaster work.

In the sitting room at the front of the house a generous bay window overlooks the front garden and parkland across the road.

The adjoining powder room is simple with a plain white marble bench above a timber cabinet.

The informal living and dining room has a built-in wall of storage beneath the windows. A partial wall provides privacy from a galley-style kitchen, but it is also open to the room with a white marble benchtop that doubles as a breakfast bar.

The double doors at the end of the kitchen open to a large timber deck that is easily seen from the kitchen, making it ideal for children playing or for outdoor entertaining.

Upstairs are three generous bedrooms, a large green-tiled bathroom with marble benchtop and a powder room.

The main bedroom wing is the big surprise. Accessed via a large walk-in-wardrobe, it occupies the front central section of the upper floor. A bay window has the latest dark sheer curtains, and double doors on either side of the room are made of bevelled glass in white timber frames. On one side, the doors open to a study with a wall of bookshelves. On the other side is an attractive ensuite with grey-green tiles and Japanese influences. **ehw**

At a glance

439 St Kilda Street, Elwood

BEDROOMS Four

BATHROOMS Two

LIVING AREAS Formal and informal

THE REST Large, solid home with interesting period features, high ceilings, waxed timber floors, marble kitchen, open fireplace, two powder rooms, study, walk-in wardrobe, large rear timber deck, evaporative and reverse-cycle cooling, automatic gates, off-street parking, close to shops, parklands and all of Elwood's attractions

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