

Flying COLOURS

The alluring palette and standout design in this Melbourne home are complete triumphs

EXTERIOR
'We spent a long time figuring out the areas the family would live in and how we could inject light into them,' says the designer Yasmine Ghoniem. 'Now every room in the extension offers garden views.'

Landscaping, Blackbird Horticulture. New Volumes Cove **chair;** Echo High **table;** both Thomas Coward at Artedomus. Luciano **wall light.** Sphera. Stack **tumbler,** Studio Dokola

PHOTOGRAPHY Anson Smart

WORDS Keith Flanagan

KITCHEN

'Instead of customary floral inlays, we chose coloured glass ribbons,' says Yasmine of the breakfast niche's tinted windows, a twist on the traditional leaded light windows found in similar period residences.

Porcelain **floor tiles** (and throughout, laid in a pattern by YSG), Ocean & Merchant. Custom **banquette** and leaded light **window**, YSG. PH 5 **pendant**, Poul Henningsen for Louis Poulsen. Pion **table base**, Sancal; with custom scalloped **table top**, YSG. Frames **chairs**, Jaime Hayon at Expormim. **Bowl** by Mathieu Frossard. **Jug** by Seala Lokollo



‘Trust is the operative term,’ admits designer Yasmine Ghoniem, referring to the rapport she developed with the owners of this Melbourne Victorian weatherboard house that her studio, YSG, recently reimaged.

The interior scheme is a riot of bespoke pattern and energising colour – a surprising departure for a period home, especially since her clients happen to be colour blind.

For both owners, a couple with two teenage children, muted tones appear washed out. ‘We decided we could afford to go bold,’ says Yasmine. Accelerating tonal intensities, especially in areas where sunlight drenches spaces, the result is a fantastic palette illuminated by colourful leaded lights that stream aromatic shades (think turmeric and saffron) into the home.

The family was already living in the house in the Fitzroy North neighbourhood, complete with an extension from the 1990s that included an open living space along with a retreat for the parents. ‘But it didn’t work,’ says Yasmine. The parents’ suite hogged views of the garden, and thus most of the natural light it afforded, rendering the communal spaces dark and ignored as the clients ended up spending much of their time outside.

Destined for an overhaul, in many ways it was the perfect project for Yasmine; while one client is Danish (fond of clean finishes and pale timber), the other is Egyptian-Australian (mad about pattern and colour), mirroring Yasmine’s own ancestry (their mothers even share the same name). Beyond an immediate bond through heritage, it also happened to be a timely match for YSG, which recently added an architectural branch to the studio.

‘This project is actually our first completed build,’ says Yasmine, noting how the clients were keen on sustainably. While the bulk of the structure was maintained, the old extension was scrapped for a layout that prioritises light and garden views. Along with thermal planning and solar power, YSG used earth-friendly hempcrete for the build, finishing surfaces in limewash.

But the real story is the collision of contrasting tastes, and the clients’ trust that YSG could harmonise their ‘radically different’ aesthetic inclinations. Leaning Scandinavian, the interior scheme maintains a minimalist look while the kitchen joinery features Queensland maple. A hammam-inspired tub in the kids’ bathroom is a luxurious escape; while an intricate mosaic tiled floor in the extension is undoubtedly the hero of the project.

To pull off the mesmerising flooring, YSG referenced Persian rugs. ‘When you look closely, within the pixellations there are three distinct “rugs” incorporated in the design,’ says Yasmine, noting how the pattern shifts throughout the open kitchen, creating different zones, but is unified by radiant colour.

If the whole scheme feels invigorating, that’s sort of the point. ‘They wanted a home that awakened the senses,’ says Yasmine. The result is seriously sensational.

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KITCHEN

A quick comment about the Danish client's 'disdain for fruit bowls cluttering surfaces' led to this recessed, divided granite niche for fruit and veg. 'The depth stores so much, but as you enter the room, you see no clutter - like magic,' says Yasmine.

Custom solid maple timber kitchen with turquoise granite **worktop** and **splashback**, Taylor Made Cabinets & Design





LIVING AREA

'It's like a metaphor for the new extension that upon first appearance looks bold and confident yet it's actually intricately detailed,' says Yasmine of the sand shade on the walls of this area, which calms the richly patterned rug and floor.

Custom **rug**, YSG; crafted by Tappeti. *Embodied Watery Entanglements 16 artwork* by Jahne Pasco-White from Station Gallery. EJ315 **sofa**, Erik Ole Jørgensen at Fredericia. Womb **chair**, Eero Saarinen for Knoll. Wulff Pouf **footstool**, &Tradition. New Volumes Echo **coffee table**, Thomas Coward at Artedomus. Lampe de Marseille **wall light** (left) by Le Corbusier. Talisman Loop **score**, Apparatus. **Plate** by Seala Lokollo. **Tumbler** by Issy Parker. **Cushions**, Jardin. **Vase** by Dawn Vachon



LIVING ROOM

'Our coppery curtains are incredible as the patterns differ on both, accentuated in the day when light filters in from behind,' says Yasmine.

Curtains, YSG. Maralunga **sofa**, Vico Magistretti for Cassina. Rabari 1 **rug**, Nipa Doshi + Jonathan Levien at Nanimarquina. Marengo **chair**, Arflex. Nepal Mongolia **chair**, Baxter. PK61A **coffee table** and PK62 **side table**, Fritz Hansen. Textile **art** by Teelah George. **Pendant**, Anna Charlesworth. Array Opal floor light, CTO Lighting. Baba Tree **baskets**, Abask



EN SUITE

A jewel-toned shower is a mood enhancer in the morning. 'Clients can be wary of adding expenses to rooms not seen by guests, but these ones embraced the private treat,' says Yasmine.

Zen floor tiles, Surface Gallery. Bow Tie tiles, Popham Design. Custom Verde Riviera marble and maple wood vanity, YSG. Fazzo petite pendant, In Common With. Tap and towel rails, all Astra Walker. Jug by Helle Mardahl



MAIN BEDROOM

Gentle colours here contrast with the bolder tones in the living spaces. 'The floor is tiled, but we used lighter tones so it's softer,' says Yasmine.

Zen **floor tiles**, Surface Gallery. Bow Tie **cornice tiles**, Popham Design. Custom **bed** and maple veneer **bedside table**, YSG. Custom **bed runner**, Louis Barthélemy. Cone **wall light**, Svend Aage Holm-Sørensen at Warm Nordic. **Artwork** by Camille Laddawan

The download

THE DESIGNERS

Located in the suburbs of Sydney, YSG was founded by Yasmine Ghoniem, known for her layered aesthetic, abundant with bespoke details.

THE PROPERTY

The Victorian weatherboard residence is located in Fitzroy North, a Melbourne neighbourhood. The original structure features two kids' bedrooms, a study and a living room. A new hallway with a laundry room, bathroom, cloakroom and linen cupboard on either side connects to an extension with an open-plan kitchen/living space, plus the main bedroom with en suite and walk-in wardrobe.



BATHROOM

The hammam-inspired bath in the kids' bathing space is so nice that they don't get it all to themselves: 'It's also used by the parents as it's the only tub in the home,' says Yasmine.

Wyldefel mosaic tiles, Onsite. Inax Triangle tile border, Artedomus. Custom bath, YSG. Tap in Tuscan Bronze, Astra Walker. Tung side table, John Astbury at &Tradition. Towel bars 24 No16, Mi & Gei. Plates by Seala Lokollo

