OPPOSITION LEADER

Rich neutrals and layers of texture counter the brutalist overtones of this architect-designed abode in the heart of Melbourne

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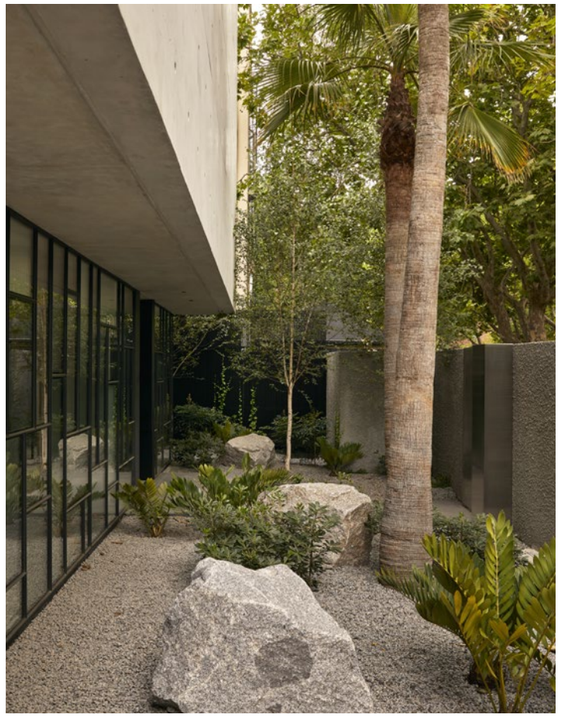
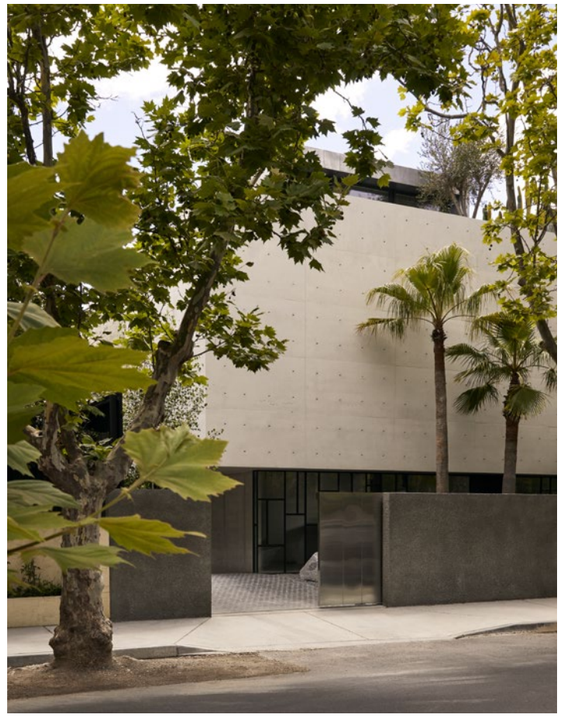
Entry A curvaceous 'Linea' armchair by Studio Persona sits beside a 'Nawa' console by Studio Raw Material. On the wall hangs a custom tapestry by KRJST Studio ➤





When viewed from the street, this imposing Melbourne home by Pandolfini Architects presents itself as a monolithic concrete structure balanced lightly atop a wall of glass.

This instantly intriguing juxtaposition sets the scene for a home that's a melting pot of contradictions. 'It is,' says director Dominic Pandolfini, 'a house of extremes: soft and hard, precise and loose, sleek and tactile.'

Inside, the pleasing push and pull continues. Warm American oak, creamy Krause brick, aged brass and Venetian plaster are offset by black-timber wall cladding and natural zinc panels in a contrast between light and dark. Translating this strong architectural language into a home that's also a sanctuary was the job of interior decorator Simone Haag, who set about composing a scheme that counters the building's deliberate air of austerity with layers of rich colour and texture.

'One of the main challenges,' she admits, 'was sourcing pieces that live up to the sense of awe set by the architecture, while designing warm and welcoming spaces for a young family.' Her solution was to champion materiality and tactility, rather than colour, to evoke a sense of cosiness. Working with a building this bold, however, did allow Simone's team a great deal of creative leeway when it came to their selections. Key pieces include the 'Le Mura' sofa by Tacchini – described as an island of comfort.

Testament to the success of the design's opposing elements is the sense of cohesion that pervades each space: a reflection of the collaborative nature of the project. 'Sometimes, when you work with an interior designer, there is an outside house and an inside house. That didn't happen here,' says Dominic. 'Simone's studio balanced the duality of the property. They softened it, managing to meet the demands of the architecture while nailing the clients' expectations, making all parties very happy.' *pandolfini.com.au; simonehaag.com.au*

Exterior A large concrete volume sits atop a wall of black-framed glazing, the design of which was inspired by the work of Piet Mondrian. The landscaping was designed by Myles Baldwin **Portrait** Dominic Pandolfini, Director of Pandolfini Architects, with interior decorator Simone Haag by the sculptural staircase in the entrance of the home ➤

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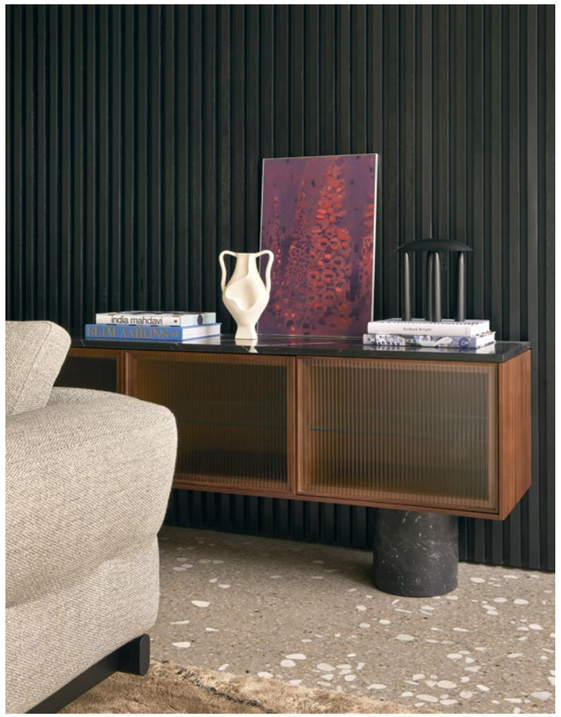

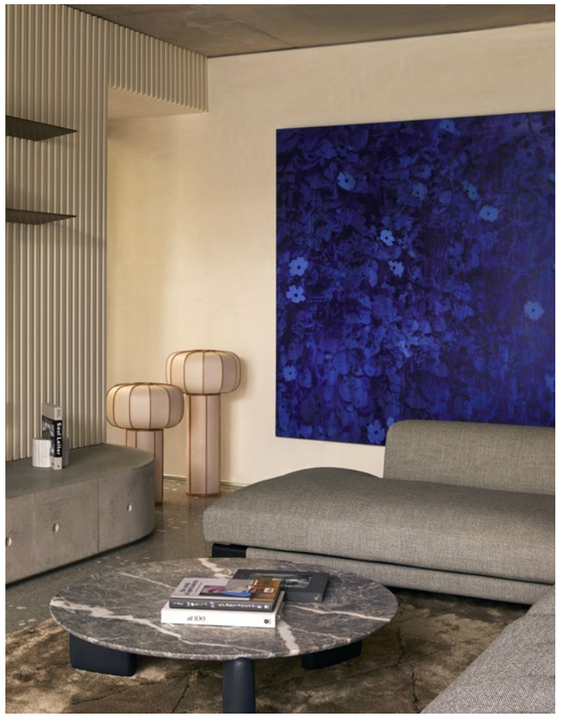

Family room A vibrant piece by artist Dane Lovett (via Station Gallery) injects a little colour into this space, where a ‘Sengu’ sofa by Patricia Urquiola for Cassina surrounds a ‘Kanji’ coffee table by Monica Förster for Tacchini. The ‘Kiku no Hana’ floor lamps are from Time & Style, the ‘Fame 33’ rug from Halcyon Lake. Behind the sofa, a ‘Rio 400’ sideboard (pictured top right) from Punt offers a place for display, on which sits an ‘Oblago’ table light by Raphael Kadid and another artwork by Dane Lovett. The ‘Sentire’ vessel is by Ignem Terrae Ceramics ➤

Dining area An expansive 'Linha Fina' dining table by Marcio Kogan/Studio MK27 for Minotti offers ample space for entertaining, flanked by Charlotte Perriand's 'Indochine' dining chairs for Cassina. On the table are two 'Raw Edge' mirrors by Charlotte Kidger; above it hangs a 'Trapeze 7 Mobile' pendant by Apparatus. Artwork by Alice Wormald, sourced from Daine Singer gallery, pops against the black-timber wall cladding. The 'Desert Taupe' rug is by Halcyon Lake. Beside it, defining the adjoining lounge, there's a 'Sahara Grid' rug by Cassina. The sofa is the 'Le Mura' by Mario Bellini for Tacchini, upholstered in Misia fabric, the armchair is Agnes Studio's 'Lana' and the side table is the playful 'Totem 01' by Forest & Giaconia for Studiotwentyseven
Bar A luxurious mix of warm- and cool-hued materials combine in this space, where 'Inga' stools by Thomas Hayes surround a marble-and-brass island. The ceramics on the counter are from Maunsell Wickes Gallery ➤

Kitchen 'Nena' stools by Lanzavecchia + Wai for Zanotta, upholstered in fabric by Métaphores, surround a marble island designed by the architects. Ceramics from galleries including Pépite, Craft, the Stockroom and Bastard Ceramics are displayed against a backdrop of reeded glass. The artwork on the wall is Saerom Yoon's *A Piece of One Day* ➤

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Ensuite A round window nods to the Mondrian-inspired glazing on the ground floor, with reeded-glass sections for privacy. Beneath the window is a raised bath clad in granite and honed Carrara marble
Snug A large tapestry by Laurids Gallée for Reuber Henning hangs on the wall above an ‘Urban Curve’ sofa by Kolbi Living, upholstered in fabric by Stout, in this relaxation spot adjoining the bedroom. An ‘Onda’ coffee and side table from Just Adele are grouped in the centre; the armchair is Moooi’s ‘Bart’ design. The ‘Elevation’ side table, by the window, is by Kate Tucker from Daine Singer
Main bedroom Baxter’s ‘Plissé’ bedside table sits beside a sumptuous ‘Option’ bed by Cierre1972. The ceramics are by Jan Schuurkes and the ‘Index’ wall light is by Volker Haug Studio **See Stockists page for details** ED