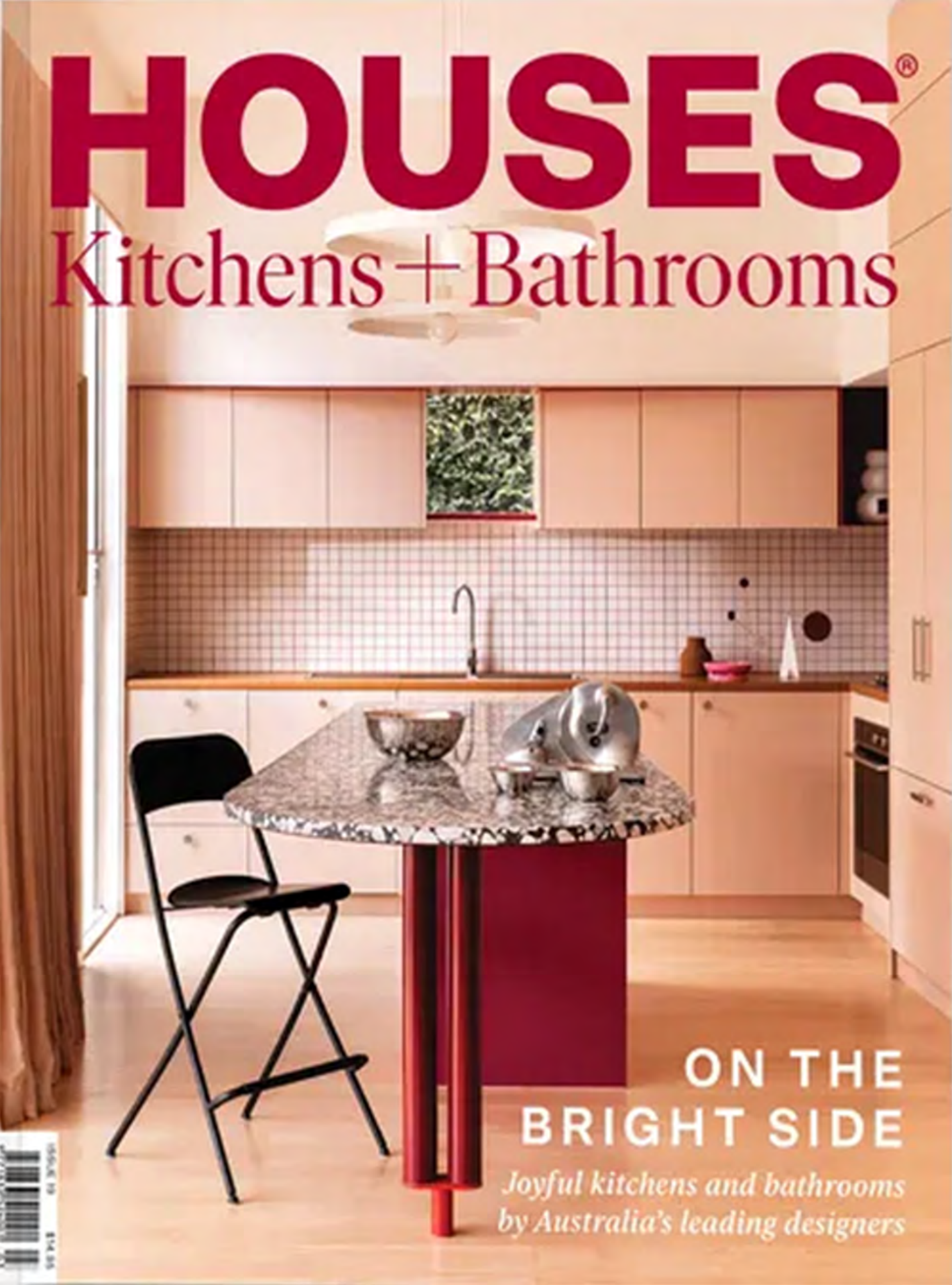
HOUSES®

Kitchens + Bathrooms

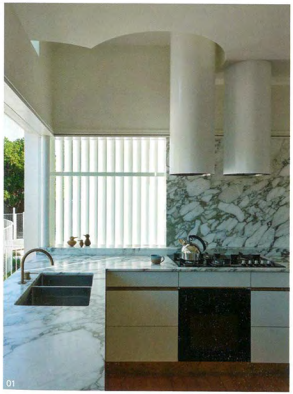


ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Joyful kitchens and bathrooms by Australia's leading designers

Better, not bigger

KIERON GAIT ARCHITECTS



01

02

Subtle and surgical adjustments add functionality and delight to a cherished Brisbane residence, without extending or erasing the original home.

Words by Judith Abell
Photography by Christopher Frederick Jones

When new clients arrive with a written brief that states how much they love their house, you know you're off to a good start. This was the case for Kieron Gait Architects and this inner-southeast Brisbane house. The 1920s home had considerable character, but it lacked connections to the garden and pool. The internal service core was also cold and hard to clean. Without adding any internal floor area, and with minimal rearrangement of functions, the architect made a series of "surgical interventions" to make the home "better, not bigger." The key move was to reorganize the kitchen to allow for a large opening onto a newly formed outdoor room, offering a shady space within the garden, overlooking the pool. The remaining moves focus on the other service aspects of the home: a refurbished bathroom; and the creation of a separate powder room, a concealed laundry and a mudroom.

The shifts to the kitchen transform it into a gateway to the garden and a "control room" for the existing pool and new outdoor terrace. The sliding glass doors can be opened in different configurations depending on the weather or the entertaining event. A feature of this space is the natural stone benchtop, set against white joinery, terracotta tiles, brass kickboards and custom solid timber pulls. The crisp palette is countered with playful details and fittings, such as the fluted facing, the cloud-like cut-out to the ceiling bulkhead and a tiny, hidden stained-glass window that casts a wash of green down the wall – a tip of the hat to the pale-green-painted homes of the early twentieth century.

The bathroom is now warmer and more comfortable for this family of four, with heated tiles, a raised ceiling and a skylight. The character qualities of the home remain in the terrazzo and the detailing of the joinery, but the space feels contemporary. Equally, the tiny powder room holds the essence of the original home in its custom stone sink, which sits on a series of irregular brass "legs" that conceal its pipes while reading as a playful piece of furniture. The room is located to draw in light and air and to offer guests a little separation from the workings of the rest of the home.

Throughout each of these moments of renovation, the architect has carefully observed and then stretched the details of the existing home to keep those qualities their client loved, while building in new, contemporary functionality and delight.

03

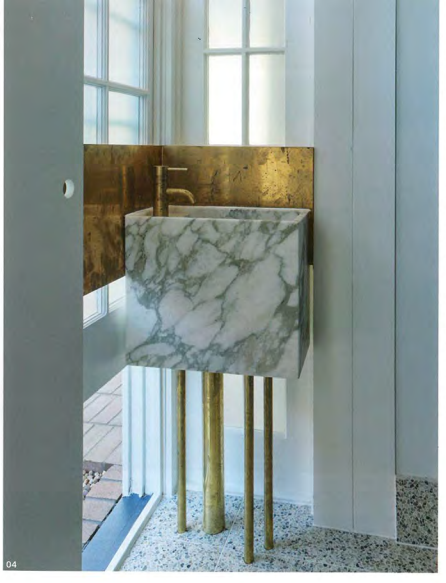
01 Ceiling cut-outs and joinery patterns are expressions of the original detailing in the existing home.

02 Used as benchtop, splashback and feature wall, natural stone is the hero of this material palette. Sculptures: Kristian Vedel.

03 Reconfiguring the kitchen enhanced its functionality and better connected the living areas. Artwork: Alexandra Pain.

1 Garage
2 Garden terrace
3 Pool
4 Existing pool shed
5 Kitchen
6 Dining
7 Living
8 Sunroom
9 Entry
10 Lobby
11 Bedroom
12 Study
13 Bathroom
14 Laundry
15 Powder room

Floor plan 1:400



Bathroom products

Internal walls: Vogue System glazed porcelain by Ceramica Vogue from Classic Ceramics in 'Ghiaccio'; terrazzo stone tiles by Fibonacci in 'Sunbreaker'; paint and finishes in Dulux 'Whisper White'; profiled pine detailing from Finlayson's
Flooring: Terrazzo stone tiles by Fibonacci in 'Sunbreaker'; existing and recycled pine boards sourced from local salvage yard and supplied by client
Joinery: 2-pac and natural brass details by T. Early and Sons; natural stone benchtop from Franca Design in 'Vagli'
Lighting: Brightgreen Curve recessed LEDs; batten holders from Edison Globes and Clipsal; pendant from Masson For Light
Tapware and fittings: City Stik tapware by Brodware from Elite Bathware and Tiles in 'Brushed Brass Organic'
Sanitaryware: Collaro Oval basin by Villeroy and Boch, Classic Duo Oval bath by Kaldewei, and Sigma 8 in-wall cistern by Geberit from Elite Bathware and Tiles; custom Saskia natural stone handbasin by Franca Design in 'Vagli'; Me toilet by Starck from Duravit

05

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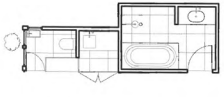
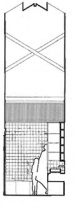
04 Irregular brass "legs" conceal pipes and reduce mass in the powder room.

05 The bath's height set the datum line for a wraparound of terrazzo tile.

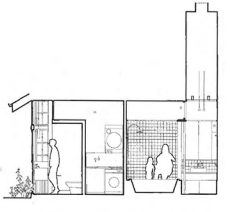
06 Joinery unites the bathroom's storage and vanity elements with playful detailing.



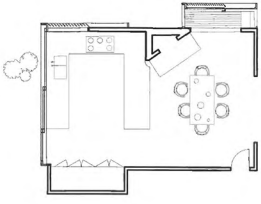
Powder room, laundry and bathroom plan 1:100 0 2m



Bathroom elevation 1:100



Powder room, laundry and bathroom elevation 1:100 0 2m



Kitchen plan 1:100 0 2m

Kitchen products

Internal walls: Paint and finishes in Dulux 'Whisper White'; profiled pine detailing from Finlayson's
Flooring: Bowral 76 dry-pressed bricks from Brickworks Building Products; existing pine boards
Joinery: 2-pac and natural brass details by T. Early and Sons; natural stone benchtop from Franca Design in 'Vagli'
Lighting: Brightgreen Curve and Moon LED ranges; Nelson Bubble by Herman Miller from Living Edge; Flowerpot pendant and wall sconces by &Tradition from Cult
Sinks and tapware: City Stik tapware by Brodware from Elite Bathware and Tiles in 'Brushed Brass Organic'
Appliances: five 90 cm gas cooktop; Condari Qasair Albany single-motor rangehood in 'White'; Miele 60 cm VitroLine pyrolytic built-in oven; Bosch Series 8 fully integrated dishwasher; Fisher and Paykel French door fridge-freezer

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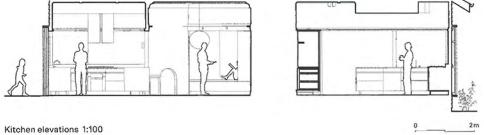

Kitchen elevations 1:100 0 2m

07 A large opening connects the kitchen to a newly formed outdoor room.

08 Sliding glass doors enable the kitchen to service inside and outside living spaces.

Surrey Hill Garden Terrace is built on the land of the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples.
Location Meanjin/Brisbane, Qld

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