

Haven sent

Warm tones and filtered light create a cosy Melburnian-style home that belies its busy location, writes **Andrea Jones**.

Living on a main road can be, at times, less than an oasis of calm. So this Crows Nest semi has been reversed so the back entrance has all the wow factor. "It's very important to have a tranquil front door," CarterWilliamson architect Shaun Carter says. "This home is on a main road, so we made the back the front facade so that when you come home at night, you can walk in and drop your shoulders and feel you are in a beautiful, relaxing haven."

And, indeed, it is. Light floods into the high-ceilinged, north-facing living-dining area. So much light, in fact, that Carter chose moody, dark wenge veneer for all the cabinets because "it dampens down the light". Throughout, the house is coloured with a palette of rich neutrals.

"We were trying to avoid fashion here," Carter says. "The owners wanted a house that was warm,

something with a darker, almost-Melbourne sensibility." The owners, who had lived in the house for years, renovated primarily to gain extra space when their first child was born. So upstairs, Carter has built a luxury parents' retreat: a main bedroom decked out in accents of red velvet and a striking gold-leaf painting by Hannah Hall above the bed. And there's a walk-in wardrobe, an en suite and a small square room at the top of the stairs that could be used as a nursery and later a home office or private sitting room.

The downstairs entertainment area is designed for all seasons. Off the kitchen is a small courtyard for warm-weather dining, with a bifold window connecting it to the kitchen so guests can chat with the chef. Meanwhile, in winter, the limestone floor throughout the living area is heated to allow for cosy barefoot relaxation.



1

1 Bedroom

The main bedroom is all about calm. Luxe red-velour bedding declares this a total pamper zone. Above it, a gold-leaf painting, again by Hannah Hall, is framed by recessed lighting. The sliding shutters at the windows, something of a CarterWilliamson signature, offer adjustable light and breeze control, from filtered light and cool breezes on summer days to total blackout for sleeping in.

2 Lounge

In the lounge, a chocolate leather sofa sits on cool limestone flooring. Underfloor heating ensures it stays perfect for bare feet all year round. The stair wall provides a bank of storage cupboards and even contains a hidden laundry. The dark wenge veneer, which is carried through in the kitchen cabinets, provides a warm accent colour in the otherwise light and bright interior.



2



4 Kitchen

The kitchen dining zone is tailored for easy entertaining. An artwork by Hannah Hall complements the interior's earthy tones. There are bifold windows, with a deep sill creating an easy servery for outdoor dining.



5 Entrance

The entry hall and front of the house retain original pre-war character. In the kitchen, metallic glazed ceramic tiles from Better Tiles create another layer of rich chocolate with the warm wenge cabinets.

3 Outdoors

Rattan loungers invite guests to recline and unwind in the back garden. The gently sloping yard has been cleverly levelled into two tiers – the step feels like a design feature between the two large concrete planters.

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