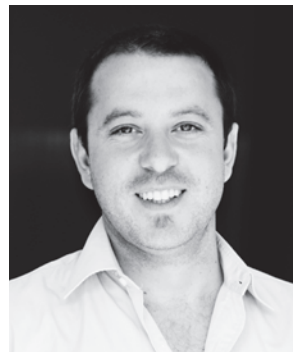


MOONEE PONDS //

This 19th century single-fronted worker's cottage carried with it a lot of inherent charm. A renovation and extension to the property had been planned by the young owners for a long time, with the two of them sharing a clear vision of what they hoped to achieve.





FRANK PARISELLA, Founder and Director

With his strong trade background and knowledge from a Diploma of Building and Construction management, Frank became a Registered Domestic and Commercial Building Practitioner at the age of 28. He continued to manage large commercial projects for some of Melbourne's top construction firms until he started his own construction business, Ecobuilt Vic Pty Ltd, in 2009. Frank has gained invaluable experience working on a multitude of demanding projects, from commercial and multi-unit developments through to new homes and extensions/renovations. In 2012, Ecobuilt Vic won a Master Builders Association of Victoria Excellence in Housing Award for 'best extension/renovation under \$200,000' for their project in Moonee Ponds.

It was therefore integral that they engage a builder who would ensure a high-quality finished product within their budget, a builder who would help them obtain real value for money and make the most of their investment.

With a goal to maximise space within the modest home and a need to introduce natural light, an extensive remodelling, reallocation of areas and reimagining was required. The kitchen, living and dining areas were thus combined into one fresh and light-filled open plan space. A third bedroom-come-study, a new bathroom, and a European style laundry were also included. Meanwhile, skylights and large glazed stacker doors perforate the design, introducing an abundance of light into rooms that formerly had to be artificially lit, even during the day.

The new spaces are delightfully modern, offering straight, clean lines and creating functional, multi-purpose environments. The open plan design and the high ceilings create large, spacious-feeling interiors, a welcome contrast to the formerly narrow, cramped rooms of the home.

The internal design features an offset pitch ceiling that is integral to the feel of the new space. The clean, accurate lines of this feature are a tribute to the skills of the Ecobuilt Vic team. A continuous floor level height throughout the home was also a key feature of the project. To achieve this single level from inside to outside, a rebate was formed into the concrete slab, allowing the subsill of the stacker door to be set down flush with the internal finished floor. Outside, the external deck was built up so that it too would match the height of the subsill.

Finally, all tiled wet areas were set to match the home's finished floor height, creating a continuous flow between every space and zone of the house.

The internal materiality is simple, yet rich and eye catching. The Victorian Ash floorboards are stained with Black Japan Satin finish, contrasting with the red glass splashback and full-length, red 2pak panel in the kitchen. In such a small space, the finishes and build quality of every feature would be under scrutiny. As such, care and attention to detail was of utmost importance, resulting in an uncompromising quality finish. Australian timber was used exclusively throughout the project, contributing to the sustainability of the build process.

As certified Green Living Builders, Ecobuilt Vic sought every opportunity to limit their environmental impact. Victorian plantation timber was used in framing doors and windows, while recycled bricks were also an option, as all brickwork was non-faced. Thus, not a single new brick was used in the construction of the project.

The attention to detail and quality of workmanship performed by Ecobuilt Vic ensures that the transition from the Century-old façade and the contemporary areas of the new design are seamless.

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