

This contemporary dwelling offers plenty of space for a growing family. **Opposite page:** Both inside and out, the design is timeless.



# DEFINED DIMENSION

A contemporary home defined by proportion, volume and shape

Specialising in luxury home designs, Wolf Architects was assigned the job of designing this modern-style home in Melbourne. Following a radical approach, the design embraced dimension and form through its dramatic architecture and fine features. "We kind of knew that we were onto a good thing from the very beginning," says Taras Wolf of Wolf Architects. "The site was in a top location, backing onto a reserve that enjoyed unrivalled views."

A good design is one that lasts a long time. When planning this home, the architect, together with the builder, who in this instance was also the homeowner, worked to create a contemporary dwelling that catered to a large growing family, offering plenty of space. "I designed many of the spaces to be multi-purpose and flexible," says lead architect Taras.

Seamlessly incorporating the slope into the design proved one of the biggest challenges for the architect. "The plan needed to feel open yet at the same time I was able to use the slope of the site, using split levels to zone the house and provide privacy where needed." This slope impacted heavily on the home's design, with the

creation of different volumes and layers not only complementing the contemporary look, but also establishing dimension through the interesting shapes and articulation spread throughout the home's exterior. "It's made up of boxes put together that merge in and out, creating a fluid form."

Using different materials to highlight the many volumes also added to the form and function of the home, not to mention its visual appeal. To ensure the residence would age well over the long term, special consideration was given to the proportion, volume and shape of the design, as well as the materials, finishes and fittings used inside and out. The end result: a modern dwelling fitted with sleek, clean lines that was well proportioned.

"The path from the very first room to the last is always a journey with different highlights and adventures along the way," adds Taras. The sense of arrival begins the moment you step foot on the ramp that leads up from the street to the entry door. As you enter the home, the formal entry looks directly out to a large pool of water. The water from this pool falls and wraps its →



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way around the house until it merges with the swimming pool. "I designed it the way I imagined — to be like water from a lake that transposed into a waterfall, then a river before finally reaching the sea," says Taras.

Each room of the house was designed to be functional and used effectively, with an emphasis on space. The body of work included five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a formal living and family room, dining, kitchen with walk-in pantry and an upstairs retreat. In the basement, a home theatre and four-car garage can be found. Home to a swimming pool and spa, and a large undercover

entertainment deck, the outdoor setting acts as an entertainer's delight.

This home is loaded with thoughtful design features such as laser-cut screens and a staircase that creates the visual illusion that it's a single sheet of folded steel. Wolf Architects also factored in adequate space to install an elevator, if required. Attention to detail has made all the difference to this luxury home.

The façade of the house is also very important, with its three-dimensional design and modern exterior features. For the exterior, a combination of cement render, bricks, timber and compressed cement sheet highlight the difference in volume,

adding to the home's contrasting effects. The flooring inside is similar to the exterior, adding dimension and character through the use of quality tiles, timber floors, marble and carpet. Also inside, glass windows with timber frames invite an abundance of natural light, creating a bright yet warm atmosphere. "It's all made up with readily available products but put together in interesting ways," adds Taras.

"Making a building as green as possible is just part of good design," he explains. "We start by simply orienting the house correctly so that there is good northern light in all of the important rooms." Wolf Architects visualised this home

to incorporate "green" elements. The company focused on providing natural light and ventilation to every space and was adamant the artificial lights should only be used at night.

A member of the AIA and based in Melbourne, Wolf Architects designs both residential and commercial projects. This house took considerably longer than most houses to design but it was an enjoyable process because the builder appreciated good design and was equally enthusiastic to explore and be adventurous.

A minimalist-designed home in a top location that inspires space and function — that's the dream. ■

**Left** The use of marble in the kitchen adds texture and completes the look. **Below** The bath becomes the central feature of the marble-laden bathroom — a room of complete luxury. **Bottom** An innovative door opens up the dining and living area to the pool just outside.



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