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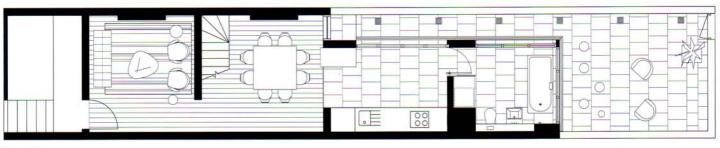
Greg Natale's bold renovation of this small inner-Sydney residence has created a gleaming bathroom and sleek kitchen that resonate with uncommon glamour.





PREVIOUS PAGES, LEFT: Uninterrupted views of the rear courtyard and a sunken bathtub make the bathroom feel much larger than it is. RIGHT: Travertine flooring flows from the bathroom into the courtyard, creating a near-seamless connection between the spaces.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Mirrored joinery increases the feeling of space in the kitchen.



Floor plan

THIS HOUSE IN DARLINGTON, Sydney, is imbued with a glossy opulence. Courtesy of Greg Natale Interior Design, the highly polished surfaces, gleaming mirrors and moody lighting hark back to a bygone era but still communicate an unmistakably *au courant* edge.

Rather than disrupt the existing hierarchy of rooms in this inner-city terrace, Greg chose to maintain the floor plan but give the house greater transparency and connection to the outdoor courtyard. To achieve this, he converted the bathroom (at the rear) into a crystalline box with two walls consisting entirely of glass louvres. Thus, when the full-height pivot door to the bathroom is open, the site line from the front door of the house to the courtyard is largely unobstructed.

The bathroom itself has a quiet lavishness that is emphasized by the purity of its surfaces. The bathtub has been sunk seamlessly into the floor. The vanity and sanitaryware are both wall-mounted, floating above the travertine floor. When combined with jewel-like pendant lighting, a large mirror and a pelmet-lit shelf recessed into the travertine wall, this room can be either a personal retreat or a show-stopping architectural feature.

"Glamorous" is also a byword for the kitchen. Despite the narrow confines, the high-shine mirror finish on the joinery and a large sliding glass door to the courtyard melt away any sense of thrifty containment. Again, the surfaces are clean and the lines are pure. With a panelled island bench, adjoining gloss-black dining table and striking light fitting, the room almost has an Art Deco atmosphere. The floor is also travertine in the kitchen and it flows into the bathroom and out to the courtyard, illuminated by a string of downlights that guides the eye outside.

The conventional wisdom when renovating a terrace house such as this one is to hide the bathroom somewhere inside and to open the rear up as a living area. Greg Natale has flouted that formula and the result is a beautifully resolved narrative of spaces that extends from the front door to the rear courtyard. The kitchen and bathroom are integral to the success of this plan, and the energy invested in making these two rooms work is palpable. Sometimes, contemporary design is meek and stripped of its expression. Here, the contemporary is celebrated with a flourish. **K+B**

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PRACTICE PROFILE
Contemporary design for
the residential, retail and
corporate sectors.

PROJECT TEAM Greg Natale, Stacey Papas

BUILDER Ciolino Constructions

JOINER Tusa Brothers

CONSULTANTS Lighting JSB Lighting

TIME SCHEDULE

Design, documentation
12 months

Construction 6 months

Total renovation \$300,000 Kitchen \$30,000 Bathroom \$30,000

PHOTOGRAPHY Sharrin Rees



LEFT: With the bathroom door open, the louvres on the rear wall are visible from the front door of the house. The effect is to increase the perceived size of the small inner-city dwelling.

PRODUCTS KITCHEN Internal walls and ceiling Plasterboard painted with Dulux 'Buff It' Flooring Striato Travertine from Onsite Supply and Design Joinery White Corian benchtops; 6 mm Silver mirror cupboards; Laminex 'Moleskin' splashback; island bench fronts in 2-pac white Lighting Modular downlights from JSB Lighting; fluorescent pelmet lighting under overhead cupboards Sinks and tapware Franke sink from Winning Appliances; tapware from Rogerseller Appliances Miele oven and stovetop; Fisher & Paykel integrated refrigerator and integrated dishwasher; Smeg rangehood Doors and windows Silver anodized bi-fold doors from Endeavour Aluminium Products Furniture Solid timber dining table by Greg Natale; white Eames chairs from Work Arena

PRODUCTS BATHROOM Internal walls Glass, mirror and travertine cut in 'crazy paving' pattern Flooring Travertine Joinery White Corian benchtop; 6 mm silver mirror cupboards Lighting Modular downlights from JSB Lighting; fluorescent pelmet lighting under overhead cupboards Tapware and fittings Tonic Motion sink mixer from Rogerseller Sanitaryware Bette Solo steel bath, Zero washbasin and Villeroy & Boch Omnia Compact toilet suite, all from Rogerseller Doors and windows Glass louvres with silver anodized frame Other Custom-made overhead cupboards faced with 6 mm silver mirror