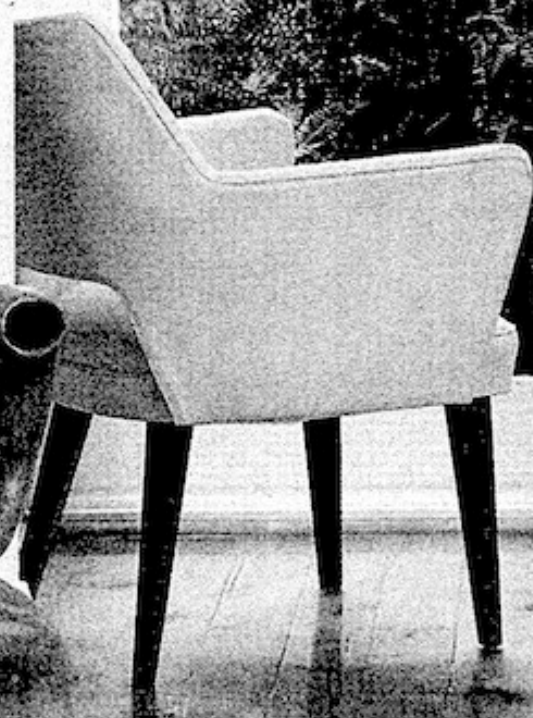


THE Daily Telegraph

# Homes

## PERFECT PITCH

Greg Matthews' family playground



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Street seen . . . the owners didn't want the building's facade changed

## Behind the graffiti-strewn walls of this warehouse is a surprisingly elegant and comfortable home

THE designer's brief was frank: create a comfortable interior but leave the exterior untouched, graffiti and all.

The new owners of the century-old, burnt-out warehouse were keen not to draw attention to their home and believed it should continue to blend into the neighbourhood.

The job performed by designer Peter Jackson won him a 1997 national award by the Building Designers Association of Australia.

Inside, there are only two distinct areas, one for living and entertaining and the other for private relaxation and sleeping.

The old exterior has been kept intact as the owners wanted, but once inside the front wall and into the courtyard, the visitor enters another world.

The north-facing courtyard doubles as car space and has been integrated into the building by the use of tensioned sailcloth. It protects the car and doubles as a sunscreen for outdoor living.

The large, north-facing windows bring light into the house and a series of french doors open from the living room to the courtyard.

The owners' wish list also requested rooms without walls but with clearly distinct areas. The designer achieved this by using bold colour, variations in ceiling heights, furnishings and stairs.

The ground floor has been subtly divided into living, dining,

kitchen, family area and meals by these devices but the laundry and lavatory are closed off.

The mezzanine level, a private study and library, reached by stairs from the main ground floor, overlooks the living room below and leads up to the master bedroom suite six steps above.

This large space, with raked ceilings, has a sitting area, open en-suite bathroom with spa, a concealed lavatory and walk-in wardrobe.

French doors open off the bedroom to give views of the Melbourne skyline and allow cross-flow ventilation.

Velux roof windows provide more light and ventilation to the middle of the house.

The basement level, reached via the original staircase, leads to a gymnasium, home office and storage area.

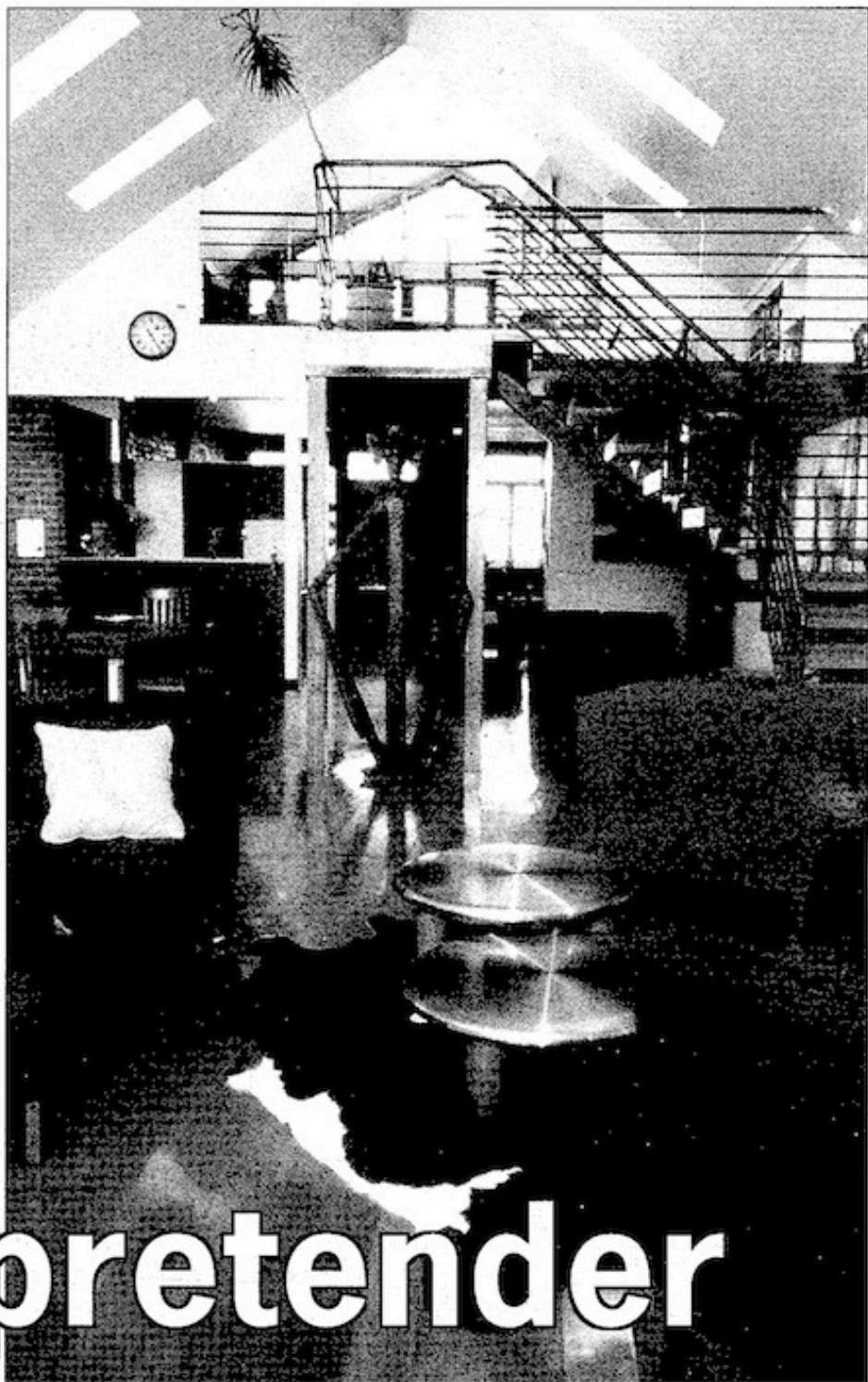
With such a large amount of space, providing efficient heating was a challenge. Pyrotenax ceiling heating was fixed to the underside of the roof trusses.

It is an economical form of radiant heating, designed for large areas, Mr Jackson says.

The external finishes are corrugated iron to the new roof and wall cladding but the original brickwork has been retained.

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— GWENDA EDWARDS



# Great pretender

