Perched atop one of the city’s highest points, Fenwick is nestled within a scene of verdant canopies of natives, all the while overlooking the most profound backdrop of glistening river and rambling treescapes. A homage to the tightly-held community’s rich lineage of architectural mastery, the homes stand to be the next generation within this heritage of iconic design; a modern relic in conversation with the legacy that has come before it. The junction of three of Australia’s most progressive designers – Edition Office, Flack Studio and Eckersley Garden Architecture – Fenwick moves beyond the traditional parameters of form and function, to create more than just homes, but masterpieces.
With a practice informed by the nuances that emerge within landscapes, contextual topography, site complexities and the cultural significance of a site’s location, Edition Office were a natural fit for Fenwick. With a portfolio sensitive to Modernist era design, the team are revered throughout the industry for their contemporary articulation of these traditions in their work, which has an inherent penchant for creating architectural emblems that move beyond time and place toward designs of legacy.

Visit: edition-office.com
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Key Awards: 2017 – Victorian Architecture Awards, Residential House New
          2017 – Houses Awards, New House Over 200m²
          2017 – Houses Awards, Sustainability
Monolithic yet sculpturally and purposefully anchored within the landscape, the vast expressions of soaring concrete are complimented and softened by delicate slices of light that dance through the treetops veiling the home, casting a delicateness against the otherwise Brutalist form. Defined by a harmonious interplay of assumed dichotomies, Edition Office’s description of Hawthorn House as “at once civic and domestic, enclosed yet intensely open, exposed yet private, heavy yet surprisingly light”, aptly expresses the complex language at play in this monumental home – which is more a feat in architectural ingenuity than mere edifice.
Shrouded in expertly laid, textured brickwork that resounds the natural fabric of its situ while acting as a protectorate to strong local winds, the house sits firmly along a winding ridgeline on the outskirts of the small township of Fish Creek. Defined by a long wall that hugs three nested, black timber pavilions, the building is skirted by a lower wall edge that gazes over the undulating and extraordinary coastline of Wilsons Promontory. The three pavilions are pulled out from each other and from the northern edge of the rough brick wall, to allow sunlight to slide deep into a series of sheltered and planted courtyards that offer immediate garden and deck relationships to the interior spaces. These interiors provide a warm and robust palette of timber-lined walls, black-pigmented concrete floors and black form-ply ceilings.
A Port Philip Bay dwelling steeped in the Australian beach house vernacular and traditions of ‘making do’. Punctuated by primitive motifs reminiscent of the early Australian beach shacks, Edition Office’s ambitions with Mount Martha were to explicate a bold sense of summer irreverence and the distinctly Australiana nonchalance that defines this iconic time of year. Subtly referencing Australian and American mid-century Modernism, Mount Martha House features exposed structural steel frameworks, use of ‘crude’ off the shelf materials and concrete breeze blocks. “The Mount Martha House is contained within two parallel flanking walls composed of concrete blocks laid upon their face. These flanking walls expose hollow cores which act as continuous breezeway screens, providing sanctuary to the home and courtyards within” says Kim Bridgland, Director of Edition Office.
The house has a duality of experiential qualities defined by context. On approach its angular and severe form is a coarse, abstract container, bracing itself against the wild Tasmanian landscape and fierce weather conditions. On passing through the “hollowed out” portals, the warm and sheltering underbelly is exposed and acts as a protective envelope. These areas of in-between, outside yet surrounded by the building’s form, are the result of a considered approach to outdoor living within typical Tasmanian weather conditions; they allow family members to sit in the sunshine and avoid the cold winter wind, or alternatively sit outdoors and avoid the harsh summer sun. The spaces shift from fully enclosed to semi enclosed, with roof and without, culminating in a roof deck for maximum exposure and view.
Resounding throughout the industry is the name Flack – perhaps owed to the studio’s recent groundbreaking contribution to the NGV’s 2018 Rigg Prize, or the plethora of nominations and awards the studio continues to rapidly accumulate, or the long list of editorial airtime the studio’s impressive manifesto enjoys. With a portfolio of interiors unlike anything the city has seen before, David Flack has rapidly become the darling of the design world. The studio’s characteristic aptitude for crafting interiors that harmonise what in theory should feel polarising, has become the signature with which the studio has garnered its reputation. Shrewdly resounding the boldness of the surreal backdrop Fenwick is anchored within, Flack Studio have designed spaces that effortlessly emanate a sense of authority while still feeling authentic.

Visit: flackstudio.com.au
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Key Awards:
- 2018 – Belle Design Awards, Designer Of The Year Finalist
- 2017 – Belle Design Awards, Best Work With Colour
- 2016 – Australian Interior, Emerging Studio Commendation
A surprising and utterly beautiful home located in the depths of rural, Central Victoria – home to the future stock of thoroughbred race horses – this property is surrounded by sweeping willow trees and lush gardens. Inspired by the colours and textures of the contrasting landscape, Flack Studio’s intention was to create and craft a home that felt effortless and organically-aged. A late 1880s weatherboard and inter-war extension comprise the home, which was extended to the homestead to create a stunning kitchen made from mild black waxed steel, aged brass, leathered granite and a lovingly restored original AGA oven and the most beautiful, over scaled pendant by Apparatus. Nominated for a total of four awards – Best Kitchen, Bathroom, Residential and Readers Choice for the Coco Republic Belle Awards, the home celebrates painstaking attention to both detail and finish.
Elmore Homestead
Within the stylish suburb of Amadale lies one of Flack Studio’s most striking designs to date. The spacious interior reflects a fascinating dialogue between masculine and feminine, dark and light, delicate and bold – it’s a study in contrast and dichotomies and the beauty that can emerge when mixed by a burgeoning master. The studio’s work on the Armadale Residence reflects what Flack Studio describes as a “bold and elegantly masculine” aesthetic rooted in “craftsmanship… warm materials with clean lines, textural palettes and fine detailing.” From the textural chevron flooring, blackened built-ins and warm bronze details, to the crisp white walls and marble surfaces, living spaces set an avant-garde, modern-classic tone for the rest of the home.
An expansive, flat block of land in Bendigo was the perfect site for a long, low pavilion house that welcomes a trio of generations. Aesthetically, the home balances contemporary design influenced by Modernist principles with a warm, textural and inviting country-home feel. High-end luxury materials and a pared-back composition are offset by raw textures and idiosyncratic styling. Ultimately, it’s a home to be lived in. Functionality is integral and materials are considered for their long-term use. The impetus for the design largely stemmed from the expanse of unglazed black bricks at the main entrance. While “confronting and bold, the rich texture of the unglazed bricks bring warmth to the entry and living spaces, and the curved wall is a nod to Alvar Alto,” says David Flack, Principal of Flack Studio.
Defined by a monochromatic colour palette and some well-considered contemporary touches, Flack Studio were commissioned to update this family home by boosting its functionality and injecting some flair. Beginning with what they identified as the family’s social nucleus – the living room – this initial design statement then formed the themes by which the overall scheme of the home would emerge. Here, soft white walls marry existing furnishings to new flourishes, including European oak floorboards to ensure the space remained light and bright.
The quixotic, rambling beauty that unfurls as Fenwick’s backdrop demanded a landscape that worked to compliment its awe-inspiring splendour, rather than compete with it. Renowned throughout the industry for their passion and consideration for both the aesthetics of the design, as well as its horticultural integrity, from the outset Eckersley Garden Architecture were the natural fit for this project.
This Toorak garden oozes the easy going charm of its owners. The brief was to create a beautiful, evocative garden that would provide spaces for an active and social family. A repetitive plant palette of Japanese Maples, Royal Purple Liriope and Sacred Bamboo thread these rooms together and give strength to this simple design. Seasonal bulbs such as Belladonna Lilies, Jonquils and Christmas Lilies emerge through this steady planting to give seasonal interest. It is a garden of seasonality that offers up new delights with each passing month. From the vine covered outdoor dining space, to the garden retreat, to a swimming area, the garden is comprised of a series of spaces that merge gently into one another.
Nestled in the rolling hills of Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula, this Merricks garden was designed with the intention of creating an inviting, romantic country garden. Beds filled with bulbs and flowering perennials flank winding pathways, connecting different areas, while providing a strong connection with the surrounding landscape. The garden has integrity, depth and romance. It complements the house with the design providing spaces that feel soft, inviting and calm despite the property being highly structured.
The owners of this Clifton Hill garden purchased the property next door in order create a massive garden expanse. Occupying an entire inner-city block, the design intent was to create a relaxed garden with space for play, discovery, inspiration and reflection. Star Jasmine grows up the metal pavilion at the front of the garden. Low foliage plants such as Rosemary, Sedge Grass and various types of Hellebores grow amongst the bluestone steppers. The garden is mixed and random like a good garden should be – it’s casual, unassuming, and just a garden for the sake of being a garden.
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