

**Bricks & water**

**3** In this extension to her Edwardian home in inner Melbourne, architect Clare Cousins used a palette of surfaces that celebrates materials "in their natural, unadorned state". With a young family, it was important that the open-plan living area retained a sense of separation from the adjacent playroom while remaining connected.

**WHY IT WORKS** The mass of dark glazed bricks framing dark joinery has great visual impact and is hugely practical, too, providing a "robust and serviceable backdrop" to the kitchen. A half-wall divides the living spaces from the play area behind. The soft curves of the bullnose brick wall and the marble-topped island bench reference the dramatic curved glass walls of the extension's facade. The timber ceiling acts as a warm 'lid' over this family space, providing a sense of enclosure. "It's a highly functional and social kitchen," says Clare. ➤



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**MIXED MEDIA**  
Hard-wearing surfaces cope beautifully with family living. Bricks in Bluestone from Euroa Clay Products. Timber veneer in Artico from George Fethers & Co on marble-topped island bench. Concrete floor by Mentone Pre Mix. Paulownia ceiling boards from Glosswood.

Photograph by Shannon McGrath. Portrait by James Geer. For Where to Buy, see page 291.