

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. ➤



Clare Cousins
Director, Clare Cousins Architects;
(03) 9329 2888 or
clarecousins.com.au.



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.