

Artistic muse

This classic-meets-modern interior was inspired by the ambience of luxury hotels and a famous painting

No matter how complex an interior design project, there is sometimes just one dramatic idea at its heart.

This house, one of two on a subdivided corner block, was already under construction when interior designer Massimo Speroni stepped in. However, he was in time to work with the owner to make some minor structural tweaks to maximise floor space and improve flow. To this end, walls were repositioned in the dining area and a dividing wall was erected between the kitchen and living areas to give more bench and storage space. In addition, two small windows were removed from the living area to provide sufficient unbroken space for an all-important feature wall.

In terms of interior decor, the client wanted a home with personality and a wow factor. It also had to reflect the level of luxury you might expect in a five-star hotel, says Speroni.

"My main inspiration was the 19th-century painting *Romans of the Decadence*, which the owners had seen in Paris. I had this reproduced as a washable vinyl wallpaper mural and hung on the living room wall."

Rich finishes and furnishings are all inspired by the mural, with elements such as gold-painted corbels, dado rails, ornate frames and heavy drapes contributing to the atmosphere. Modern Italian furniture adds playful contrasts.

"Pasha armchairs from Pedrali are the shape of classical wing chairs, but being transparent, they are almost invisible within the design," says Speroni. "High-gloss ceramic tiles bring uniformity and together with the mirrors, help reflect light through the spaces."

"The sense of lightness is continued in the kitchen with Louis Ghost chairs, also in clear polycarbonate, and a sparkling chandelier."

In the master bedroom, a bespoke king-size headboard in white velvet, *Mystere Snow* from Warwick, furthers the plush aesthetic.



Left: Designer Massimo Speroni created a textured wallpaper print of a Renaissance-style painting to lead the aesthetic of this interior design.

Top: The television has a screen saver which displays a section of the painting, so the appliance can hide in plain sight – as do the clear Pasha Italian wing chairs.

Above: A zebra-pattern rug adds to the eclectic nature of Speroni's lavish interior scheme.



These pages: Light is everywhere. A glass-topped table, Louis Ghost polycarbonate chairs from Kartel, and polished tile floors, along with a mirror-fronted island and a large chandelier, all contribute to the airy, sparkling ambience in the kitchen and dining area. The low wall between the two spaces allows view the mural while seated at the table.

Interior, kitchen and landscape

designer: Massimo Speroni,
Massimo Interiors (Pahran, Vic)
Builder: Jeff Sarkis, Zealous Group
Roofing: CSR Monier tiles in Charcoal
Tiling: Lumina Bianco ceramic tiles;
Elite Grey Polish ceramic tiles
Flooring: Elite Grey Polish ceramic tiles;
Braewood carpet in Grey Haze
Wallcoverings: Dulux Lexicon Quarter
Security/home automation:
Hills Voicnav by DAS
Heating system: MXZ series, Split
System by Mitsubishi Electric
Windows: Aluminium powdercoated in
Woodland Grey
Skylights: Massimo Interiors
Blinds and curtains: Mystere Snow
from Warwick; Dreston Ivory from
Charterhouse
Lighting: Living room, Iconic Arco floor
lamp; dining room, antique clear
Krystal Chandelier from Meizai
Furniture: Living room, Pasha
armchairs by Pedrali, Stone Stools
by Kartell, Saarinen Tulip side table;
dining area, Philippe Starck Louis Ghost
chairs; Saarinen Tulip table
Kitchen cabinetry: Upper cabinets,
laminite in Arctic White with lustre
finish; under-counter cabinets, laminite
in Asian Night with matt finish
Benchtops: Quantum Quartz,
in Luna White
Tap: Hey Joe sink mixer by
IB Rubinetterie; Zip Hydrotap
Sink: Franke
Oven: Bellissimo by Technika
Cooktop: Ilve, gas
Ventilation: Telescopic hood by
Technika
Refrigeration: Westinghouse Virtuoso
Dishwasher: Asko, integrated
Bathroom vanity: Quantum Quartz
in Luna White
Basin: Imperial Ware Wesley

Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by Stu Morley

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Top right: The landing on the upper
level also features mirrors to bounce
light and increase the feeling of
spaciousness.

Centre right and far right: Themes
of transparency and reflection
continue in the master bedroom. An
embossed silver wallpaper wraps
around three walls in the room.

Right: A cantilevered vanity, large
mirror and glass shower walls add
visual space in the ensuite bathroom.

