



The continuation of the floor height from the existing living room into the outdoor room creates a seamless flow between indoors and out.

ESCAPING THE ELEMENTS

This entertaining-loving family can now enjoy their many get-togethers outdoors and undercover, regardless of the unpredictable and ever-changing Melbourne weather

Words Danielle Townsend
Photography Andrew Leck



77

Inspiration
JGF Creative

This beautiful period home recently had a modern rear extension added, and its owners dreamt of creating an enticing space that could be used not only to entertain, but also to complement the architect-designed extension and maintain the area's open feel. The owners sought an outdoor entertaining space that could be enjoyed throughout the year by the whole family (Mum, Dad, their 18-year-old daughter and 20-year-old son) for barbecues, birthdays, gatherings and outdoor dining, as well as an additional room providing access to both their pool and home.

"The owners described to me their love for being outdoors at all times but wanted to be able to escape the elements," says Joshua Fotopoulos, founder and director of JGF Creative Construction & Renovation, which specialises in building

"Being a carpenter by trade, I'm naturally drawn to timber so my favourite part is the silvertop ash shiplap timber feature wall and louvre windows for airflow"
— Joshua Fotopoulos

LEFT The styles of the modern rear extension and outdoor room complement each other.

BELOW The outdoor entertaining area can be used as an additional room that allows access to both the pool and home.



Outdoor Rooms

78

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The shiplap timber feature wall with lighting and a comfortable bench seat is the main focus of the room – the timber cladding gives warmth that other mediums would not



outdoor rooms. "Hence, we aimed to create a tranquil and calm, yet sophisticated, atmosphere for them."

The continuation of the floor height from the existing living room into the outdoor room creates a seamless flow between the indoor and outdoor areas.

The orientation of the 40m² room and the ceiling height allows the morning sun to enter, while still offering shelter from the afternoon sun. Custom patio blinds enable the room to be enclosed when required.

"We used louvre windows to allow air to flow from all angles of the room," says Joshua. "We carefully considered the light aspect, which filters through the large windows at the rear of the house, in order to maximise the existing light. That's why creating a room with high ceilings and utilising skylights was vital."

Instead of using plaster to line the ceiling, lining boards were added to continue with the home's period features – an important element of the design, according to Joshua.

The shiplap timber feature wall with lighting and a comfortable bench seat is the main focus of the room; the timber cladding produces warmth that other mediums would not. "Being a carpenter by trade, I'm naturally drawn to timber, so my favourite part is the silvertop ash shiplap timber feature wall with louvre windows for airflow," says Joshua.

ABOVE The shiplap timber feature wall and bench seat is the main focus of the room.

BELOW To give the structure depth,

the decking is 140mm fixed with stainless-steel screws and the large timber post supports are 150mm dressed cypress pine.

To enhance the beautiful timber feature wall, 140mm decking boards, fixed with stainless-steel screws, were chosen as flooring. The large timber post supports are 150mm dressed Cypress pine to give the structure depth.

Strip heating, a ceiling fan, LED downlights, feature and decking lights and ceiling-mounted speakers really give the room a luxurious feeling. These elements add the perfect finishing touches for the ultimate in comfort for the whole family, regardless of the occasion.

"These clients were amazing and very easy to work with and we found the project took on many changes from what was originally discussed," says Joshua, adding that he loves to be able to give his clients options on alternative products. "It's great when you get projects where the owners are so open to ideas and the project continually evolves."

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