

ISSUE 95 | MAR + APR 2017
AUD\$15.95
9771326-865010-41

inside

INTERIOR DESIGN REVIEW

ISSUE #95 | MARCH + APRIL 2017

MAKE IT HOME

TAKE A SEAT IN A
DESIGNER'S RESIDENCE



CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF REVIEWING INTERIOR DESIGN

THE MINDS

Making it on your own and establishing a business as a sole practitioner is a challenging task, but Zoë Geyer has worked hard to secure her place in the architecture and design community. With her thoughtful and sensitive interior architecture she is making a name for herself and creating projects that push the boundaries of form and space.



DESIGNING A FUTURE

text - Jan Henderson



ABOVE Etching by Zoë Geyer entitled *Low Cloud Mountain 2015* exhibited through Tacit Gallery Abbotsford, Victoria

PREVIOUS Zoë Geyer

Zoë Geyer is approachable, confident, charming and passionate about design, but it's not surprising from one who has been surrounded with form, function and beauty all her life. Growing up as the daughter of renowned designers Peter and Sandy Geyer, she has seen all sides of the design process through the capabilities of her parents as they established Geyer Design in 1976. The young Geyer was determined not to follow in the footsteps of her parents, enjoying a passion and demonstrating a talent for painting; however, sometimes things do not go to plan, and in her senior years at school she found that architecture and design were an integral part of who she aspired to be. Geyer studied at RMIT, completing her architectural degree in 2001. A fortuitous exchange with the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1999 offered her the opportunity to travel to Japan to stay and study for three months and it was this experience that helped her to shape her own ideas of how people inhabit spaces. The trip also clarified her design philosophy and the concepts Geyer formed in Japan have been a continuum throughout the past 15 years of practice.

While studying at RMIT, Geyer secured a place working at John Wardle Architects (JWA) and spent three years with the practice. Leaving JWA, Geyer spent a brief period with Büro Architects, then in 2003 commenced work with Kennedy Nolan. The smooth almost Japanese sensibility of the Kennedy Nolan aesthetic suited Geyer and helped to cement her own style; however, after five years as an integral member of the Kennedy Nolan team she again approached a career crossroads. Taking time away, she journeyed to Spain and explored other career options, but returned to embrace the world of design in 2009 with renewed vigour, and to establish Zoë Geyer Architect (zga). Starting out as a sole practitioner takes courage and stamina, but with various commissions from friends and family the fledgling practice flourished.

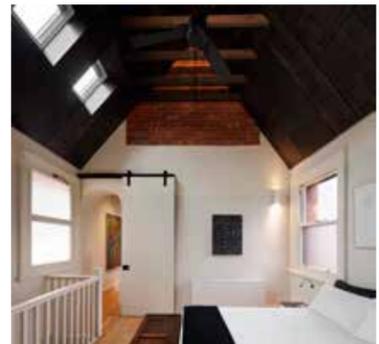
Geyer is fascinated by the possibilities of space and what the potential

can be. She is focused on interiors and the architecture that creates a cohesive whole, but believes that there is a hierarchy when designing a space – the architecture dictates the interior, as the interior informs the architecture. Her style is understated simplicity, always the most difficult to execute; however, her designs shape spaces with an eye on how these spaces relate to the world within the interior and further afield, outside the window or beyond the room. Geyer listens to her clients and adapts her design to present more, not less. Her pragmatism and practicality help resolve architectural problems and discover other ways to solve challenging situations.

The practice is now eight years old and the commissions are keeping zga busy, primarily with residential work, but also hospitality and retail projects. In addition to running a busy practice there is, however, another side to zga, a collaboration with Fiona Lynch that began in 2015. The two practices have a shared vision and Geyer's understanding and empathy with interiors works hand-in-glove with Lynch's masterful design talent. Together they work on projects that realise the best of both architecture and interiors and the client is always the winner.

As a busy architect, Geyer could be content to enjoy her work and find the perfect ratio of time at the office and home with a young child, but she continues to push her talent, interact with her peers and extend her workload. As a board member of ArchiTeam, Geyer is collaborative and supportive of young and emerging architects that make up the 550 Australia-wide member organisation. ArchiTeam is a group of voluntary architects that strives to offer help to a younger architectural demographic through active participation in a variety of events, and Geyer is perfectly placed to offer her experience in this realm. As well as architecture, Geyer has not forgotten another passion – art. Her prowess as a painter has organically moved towards printmaking and her work was showcased late last year at the Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne in the *Impressions* exhibition.

As an architect, Zoë Geyer has made her own way and established a name for herself. Her talent and determination have driven her to succeed and assured her of accolades. Never too busy to 'give back', she is collegiate and collaborative, involved and responsive. With a plethora of projects near completion, 2017 will be a red flag year for zga, and the future is indeed bright.



THIS PAGE East Melbourne house. Photography Dianna Snape

Geyer is fascinated by the possibilities of space and what the potential can be.