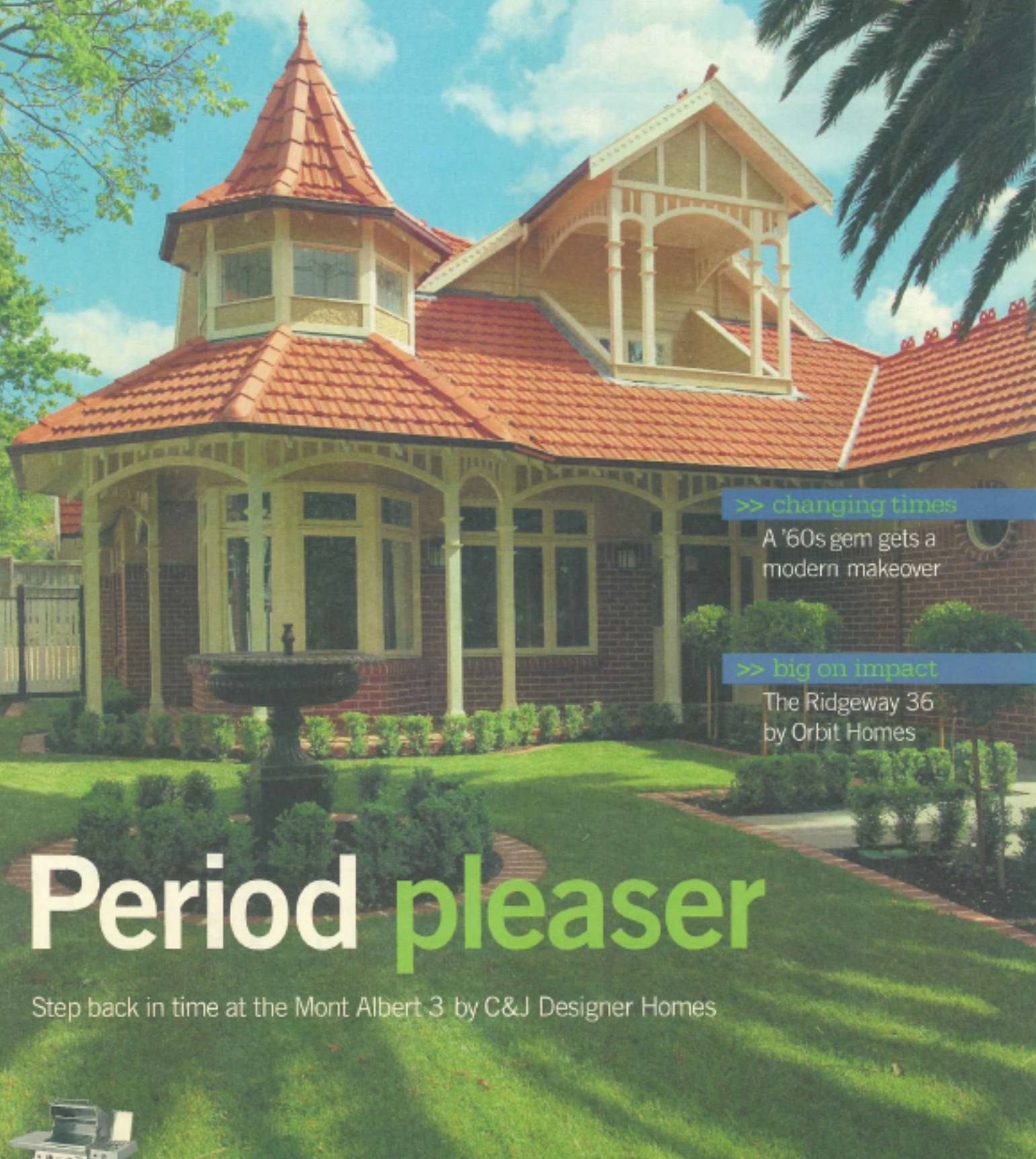


>> **summer celebration**
What to do in your
garden this month



>> **changing times**

A '60s gem gets a
modern makeover

>> **big on impact**

The Ridgeway 36
by Orbit Homes

Period **pleaser**

Step back in time at the Mont Albert 3 by C&J Designer Homes



>> **PLUS**

WIN one of two Rinnai barbecues. See page 10 for details



Helping hands

It was goodbye to the swinging '60s when this house had its makeover

>> Words Karen Woods >> Photography Mark Taylor

Just as one person's meat is another's poison, someone's ideal renovation may meet none of the needs of the next resident of the house. That was certainly what Michael Marcuri found when he bought an inner northern-suburbs house with an old extension, not at all to his taste.

"It was a '60s brick DIY job with no redeeming features and it didn't address the rear yard at all," says Anthony Ouligley, of Architecture Matters, one of the architects consulted by Michael to improve the house.

"The bathroom, kitchen and laundry were all crammed at the back of the house and the living room was alongside that, then there was a void of empty space."

Michael had previously rented the property and moved in thinking he could live in it for a while, but decided the renovation was long overdue.

"I consulted an architect because while I had a basic idea of what I wanted as the end result, I really didn't know what to do to achieve it," Michael says.

Having a house that was spacious, modern and light was important to Michael, so he delegated many of the decisions to those in the know, Anthony, and Ed Bweers, also of Architecture Matters.

"Anthony and Ed challenged my ideas, which was great. They made me think about why I wanted certain things, challenged my preconceptions, and then figured out the best way to get the result I wanted in a way that worked for the building," Michael says.

Initially he was keen to manage the project himself, but as it grew he felt it was better left in the hands of the professionals, so instead Anthony and Ed manage the process.

When selecting fixtures and fittings, he was happy to rely on the experience of the architects.

"Michael wanted to ensure the finishings used were sympathetic with the rest of the building, so he invariably went for quality," Anthony says.

Part of Michael's aim was to create a house that was suitable for a

>> before



Perfect mismatch

The original house did not strike a chord with its new owner (above)

Space allocation

Varying ceiling heights have been used to define space (top left)

Open sesame

Bifold doors promote a relationship between indoors and out (top right)

Hide and seek

Two sinks are screened by a timber veneer feature panel (above right)

Steel the show

Stainless steel appliances match the contemporary design (right)

family, not simply a little pad. The renovation now has extensive indoor-outdoor living space, with this in mind.

The house has three bedrooms, the main with an ensuite. A large bright bathroom was also created, and off to the side of the open-plan living area is a laundry and powder room with external access.

Reconstituted stone was used in the bathroom in combination with marble floor tiles. The shower features a glass door and large steam-style shower-head, and a bath has also been included.

Polished ironbark timber floors are a feature throughout, and add visual warmth to the living area with its extensive built-in cabinetry.

Variable ceiling heights are used in the open-plan room, featuring citrus green highlights, which helps define the different zones of the room. The green colour is mirrored in a glass panel around the front door.

The kitchen features white cabinetry and a combination of stainless steel and reconstituted stone benchtops, as well as stainless steel appliances. The twin round sinks are screened by a timber veneer panel, which also creates a striking feature.

Large bifold doors at the rear of the house open to a low-maintenance back yard with a timber deck and courtyard, featuring bluestone paving and timber sleepers interspersed with white pebbled sections and low-water plants.

Large steel feature doors create visual impact at the rear of the house, and also conceal the double garage accessed via a rear laneway.

Architecture Matters can be contacted on 9329 7083.

