

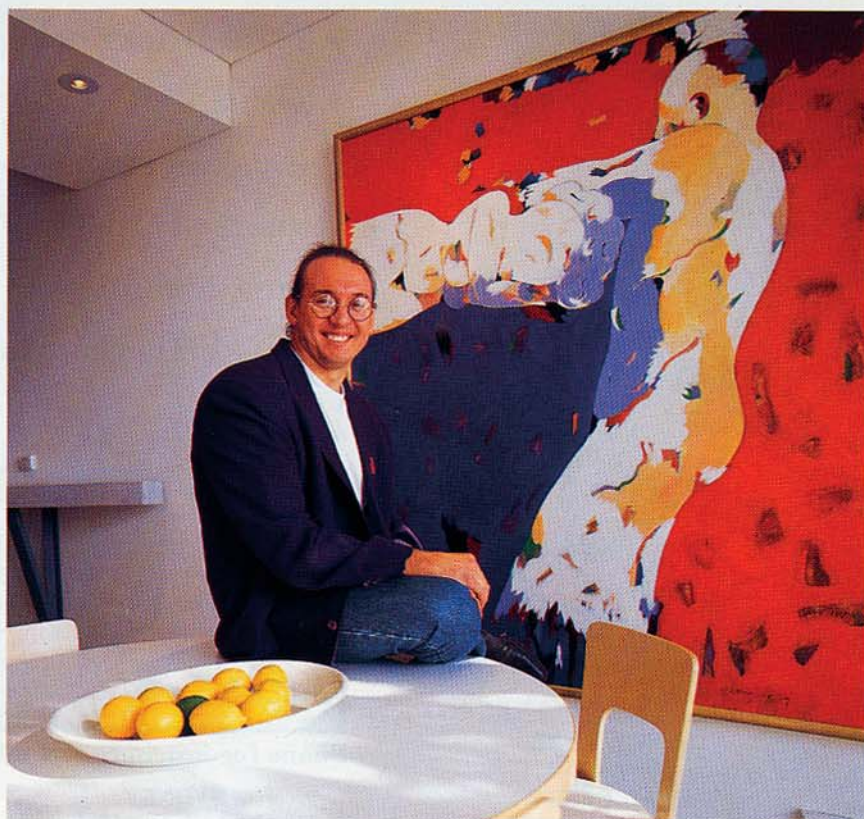
Sydney interior designer Misho Vasiljevich devised ingenious, economical solutions to the eternal problems of Victorian terrace house conversion.

NORTHERN exposure

Misho Vasiljevich is living out his architectural theories in his first home, a slim, sun-drenched inner-Sydney terrace house. As a qualified interior designer and final year architecture student with a thriving practice called simply, Misho, Vasiljevich was able to further develop his design doctrine with this ingenious renovation. His scheme incorporates large expanses of glass, skylights and a glass roof.

Located in a row of terraces built to house brickworkers in the 1880s, the terrace was completely rebuilt by Misho leaving only the two side walls and the facade intact. Misho completed most of the building work himself and incorporated an internal steel structure to lessen the floor thickness, thereby increasing ceiling heights, and cleverly stacked the kitchen and bathroom to minimise plumbing.

"The home itself should not have defined rooms, such as a living room or a bedroom, just areas that let you live how you want to," believes Misho. "You can redefine spaces so that everything has a multitude of uses." Misho's design incorporates





Misho Vasiljevich (opposite) has designed his slender Sydney terrace (this picture) to open wide in the city's warmer months.

areas that can be used as an office space, for entertaining or bar alternately. "The kitchen area should be communal, not hidden away in a specific room," says Misho. The design is effectively a series of large, interlinking spaces.

Misho defines outside areas for summer use and inside areas, with a fireplace, for winter use. The terrace can be opened up during summer to allow cross-ventilation and closed up during winter. Consistent with this philosophy he has added furniture from Anibou, Redfern, NSW, which is easily moved about, and a rug from Whitecliffe Imports which is also easily movable. Splashes of colour are created by vivid upholstery and artwork by Barry Trengove.

Most elements in Misho's terrace have a double function. The frosted glass bathroom walls act as a privacy screen and room divider and admit extra

light below (via the mesh floor, which also allows air to flow between the floors). Window frames, painted a strong colour, define openings and delineate the building's length. The curved plywood bulkhead above the kitchen hides the plumbing, is an access point for servicing and is an effective light reflector. The concrete floor acts as a thermal mass for holding the heat in during the day then releasing it at night.

Placement and orientation of the terrace were crucial for incorporating maximum sunlight and cross-ventilation. Misho was much inspired by world renowned Australian architect, Glenn



Open house: Misho's bathroom (top left) doubles as a light well; he designed the open, gently-sloped stairs (top right) to swallow as little space as possible; and the mesh walkway (above right) admits light and air to the kitchen below (above left). The plywood cabinetry and steel bench are recycled from commercial fitouts.

Murcutt, who is visiting associate professor at the University of Technology, Sydney. In keeping with his teachings, Misho believes that we must be more responsible for our use of materials and control of natural daylight within a space. Instead of always using new materials, Misho has rescued elements for his design. The upstairs carpet, kitchen plywood and stainless steel bench have all been recycled from commercial fitouts.

From the outside, the terrace looks narrow and small, but inside the areas unfold and the house looks twice the size. Misho's model home is a resounding success. □

LOUISE OWENS

The clean lines and friendly forms of furniture by Bang Design (this page) from Anibou, Redfern, NSW, perfectly complement Misho's interior design. The rug is from Whitecliffe Imports, Camperdown, NSW.

