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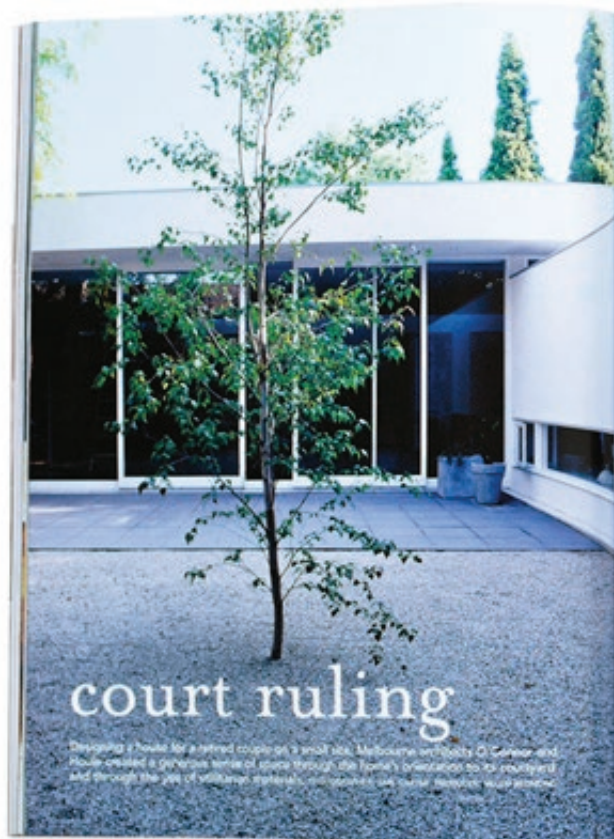
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Designing a house for a retired couple on a small lot, Melbourne architect O'Connell and Pender created a generous sense of space through the house's orientation to its courtyard and through the use of transparent materials. *by Andrew Dowling*



The L-shaped house, **PREVIOUS PAGES, LEFT**, is angled around a courtyard shared with neighbors. A horizontal strip of windows on the north wing provides light and looks out onto the street. **RIGHT** Black-stained Tasmanian oak panels are a backdrop for dining. The **ARMCHAIR**, "Tasmanian" angle glass light casts its light over a Mies van der Rohe sofa from the 1950s. **BELOW** The **ARTIST'S** dining chairs are from Andrew Pender's last project.

agencies' two contractors from their former family home; the success of this Melbourne house has won glowing praise from critics and clients alike. "That was it, no job more than that," says the architect. "We're not generally the same sort of people; they could be anything and would be happy." Built on a small site that was carved from a larger neighboring block in the 1950s, the contemporary house was designed for the current owners by architect O'Connell and Pender. The house is a collaboration between clients who know what they want and architects who respond to it.

From the first wall of the new building, it's evident that something interesting has happened here. It's not the color of the wall or the large traditional Melbourne stone, but the wall is yellow, a color more associated with the walls of old buildings and given an unexpected, dramatic application.

"I wanted the wall to be a contribution to the street and the house, not just a wall," O'Connell explains. "Yellow is a color that's high energy, it's cheerful, and you can see it from the parking highway. We're taking that message and need to make it a wall that is visible in the landscape."

Yellow, however, is a color that is also used in the house's interior. A yellow wall is placed to get the most light from the street. It's not the color of the house, but the color of the house is yellow. The house is a color that is yellow. The house is a color that is yellow. The house is a color that is yellow.



The main living area of the house, **OPPOSITE**, is raised from the entrance hall and accommodates kitchen, dining and living areas. Black-stained Tasmanian oak panels behind the dining area also look back to the house's original design. **THIS PAGE, ABOVE** Behind a curved leather sofa, a wall is brought to life with large artwork by John Pender. **LEFT** and **RIGHT** Pender's last project during the 1950s. **BELOW** The entrance hall features a yellow wall painting and a pendant chandelier. **THIS PAGE, BELOW** The house is a color that is yellow.

