

DESIGN ART ARCHITECTURE INTERIORS DECORATING ENTERTAINING TRAVEL

# VOGUE

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**ONE OF SIX  
LAVISH  
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SIGNPOSTING ITS ADDRESS IN A BRICKWORK FENCE, LEFT, THE LYON HOUSEMUSEUM IS A GALLERY-HOUSE HYBRID THAT, DESIGNED BY LYONS ARCHITECTS FOR THE LYON FAMILY, BOTTOM LEFT, SHARES THE OWNERS' PASSIONS FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY. THE BUILDING HAS ALREADY WON AN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS AWARD.



## LYON'S IDEN

*Melbourne architect Corbett Lyon and his family of art collectors blur the line between home and museum with a groundbreaking venture.*

MOST CITIES IN the world can boast the house-museum – the enshrined structure, formerly a place of habitation, in which contents tell the story of a character. This narrative is usually a constructed one – an edit of art and objects hinting at a history – still, visitors love breathing in the atmosphere of assumed authenticity (think The Frick Collection in New York or Sir John Soane's Museum in London). But few cities can lay claim to the house-museum that is 'lived in'. Fewer still can lay claim to the house-museum that began its life as a house-museum – a building that, from first sketch on butter paper to final brick lay, blurs the line between fine art institution and family home.

Melbourne now can, thanks to the visionary efforts of architect Corbett Lyon and his wife Yueji, who, as long-term collectors of contemporary Australian art, have realised the Lyon Housemuseum – also named after the design firm of which Corbett is a co-founder and director – in the east Melbourne suburb of Kew.

"It allows us to combine passions for architecture, art and family life in a setting that aspires to be a new cultural asset for the community," he says of the hybrid building that was awarded this year's Harold Desbrowe-Anneer Award for Residential Architecture (Victoria) by the Australian Institute of Architects. "Houses are the laboratories for new steps in architecture." *Lyon Housemuseum is open by appointment during designated periods; [www.lyonhousemuseum.com.au](http://www.lyonhousemuseum.com.au)*

