



The shared entrance at 55 Dow Street (left) leads up to the kitchen's white cabinets and mobile island bench (above); the living room with fireplace and frosted windows.



From a different rectangle

Katherine Townsend marvels at the canny use of space and light in a South Melbourne apartment.

PAINTED brick walls, parquet floors, space-saving sliding doors, plenty of light, storage and ventilation: Neometro's signature looks always sound simple on the page but invariably create a "why didn't I think of that?" moment when seen in practice.

Buyers who love the company's work follow its projects around Melbourne looking at new ideas and improvements, and this two-bedroom apartment, built in 2004, shows how much style and space can be suffused into a double-storey rectangle with north-facing light.

One of seven apartments in a development just off Clarendon

Street, number 6 has a shared entry at street level and then stairs that rise to the apartment's red front door on the first floor of the building.

Inside the front door, a double-sided cupboard provides storage but also creates an informal entrance hall in what is, essentially, one large room that incorporates a living area, kitchen, dining area and study.

This large room has a dining or sitting area towards the street front and then opens through bi-fold doors to a large north-facing balcony. The timber-slatted balcony is large enough for a sit-down meal and has ornamental grapevines wending their way upwards.

The dining room is then divided from the sitting area by the kitchen, which is set against the wall opposite stairs to the upper floor.

Much of the kitchen is integrated behind white cabinets, and a moveable marble-topped island bench can be repositioned along a wall to allow more dancing, talking or mingling.

Opposite the kitchen wall, the black-panelled stairs rise to the upper floor but cleverly concealed beneath the stairs is a study nook with a built-in desk and shelves. A sliding door can be closed to hide the study, complete the wall of the stairs and offer another of those "why

didn't I think of that" moments.

The rear of the room is made up of a living space with a large Jetmaster open fireplace flanked by frosted windows. Full-height red sliding doors can be closed across the room to create a cosy evening room but when the full open plan is required the doors can slide back to sit neatly behind the stairs.

Upstairs, there are two bedrooms, both with ensuites.

A full-sized laundry separates the bedrooms and the main bedroom at the front of the apartment receives plenty of northern light.

A wall of frosted glass divides the bedroom from the ensuite

and provides a softer look.

Upstairs is filled with light, thanks to windows placed high drawing light from the north.

Pared down, the apartment is two rectangular floors with satiri-finished parquet beneath painted brick walls but, as with most of Neometro's work, the sum is far greater than the parts.

**6/55 Dow Street,
South Melbourne
Agent's quote \$970,000
Private sale through Century 21
Wilson Pride, Albert Park,
9699 4555
Melway 2K E3**