

# Vaulted roof rises to the challenge



## **EAST MELBOURNE**

Clonmel, 378 Victoria Parade

Clonmel, which means meadow of honey, and is the name of both a town and county in Tipperary, is strong in history.

In 1650, the town's medieval walls withstood the forces of Oliver Cromwell for weeks.

Indeed, this proud East Melbourne facade bearing the same name also exudes a sense of grace and power. As well, the adjoining terrace is called Clontarf, after that great battle when Irish king Brian Boru died defeating the Vikings.

The man who established Clonmel terrace in 1909 was neither outlaw nor warrior, but a successful dentist called Richard Cox Thomas. His architect was G. W. Vanheems.

The National Trust have now registered the building as significant, and a rare example of an unpainted, rendered neo

classical terrace with colonnaded balcony.

Designer Wynne McGrath has done a colossal job with Clonmel, lifting its interior into the 21st century with her big vision and uncompromising flair.

Ceilings with delicate cornices, marble mantels and lustrous timber floors — Western Australian Irani pine — provide a shell that encases McGrath's contemporary additions, such as the vaulted glass roof over the long, galley kitchen, classy joinery, chocolate-coloured Sadler tiles and pure white Villeroy & Boch porcelain in the three upstairs bathrooms.

Everything presents on a grand scale: the family living room near the kitchen has a seven-metre ceiling and a huge open fireplace with a granite fire surround standing on a monumental bluestone hearth.

Rich leadlight introduces the broad, arched hallway, which

opens into the formal sitting and dining rooms, either side of a central marble fireplace. A motif of entwining leaves decorates the paneled ceilings.

The ground floor flows on to include a powder room, the kitchen, the casual dining room and family room. Outside is a raised communal terrace and a private courtyard garden, above the underground car park.

Upstairs there are three double bedrooms, all with ensuites. A study opens off the main bedroom, which has a Juliet balcony.

The simplicity of this new interior superbly offsets Clonmel's early grandeur. And the city's just outside your wrought-iron gate. **AUCTION** 3pm Saturday, August 30, by Thomson (9347 1755). **INSPECT** by appointment. **EXPECT** about \$1.4 million.

More pictures and details at [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au)

