



Boom times in Berry Street

House of the week

Specs

46 Berry Street, East Melbourne

The entry leads to large living and dining rooms, a powder room, kitchen and breakfast room overlooking the garden. Upstairs there are three bedrooms, a bathroom, study and balcony with city views. There is a cellar under the house. The garden is deep and has a garage with a studio above.

•To be auctioned by Carmichael & Weber on October 25 at noon. Inquiries on 9417 3888 or Peter Elliott on 0419 417 334. Agent's quote is \$1.4 million plus.



Left: In writer Mary Ftyllis Clark's house the conversation pieces start with the antique American furniture. The front sitting room sets the scene for the home's stately proportions.

Bottom left: This is some garden so close to the city. Behind the camera is a double-storey garage and studio.

Theatre. Mary says it's a terrific Fink to boom-time Melbourne.

When they renovated, they tried not to change things too much. But the Owe had been degraded into four flats, so it was some job touring it back to life.

Mary says she is proud that the house has the most architectural integrity, of any house in Berry Street. The extraordinary shutters on the front windows are original and still have the beautiful little catches to fix them open. A cleaner intrigued with the glass told her that the glazing was original with the exception of just one window.

The staircase has an unusual, built-in lamp. If only Mary's furniture could speak.

The floral-covered American antiques in the front room once belonged to a film star of the Twenties, Viva Toler, Mary's aunt-in-law. This room is palatially proportioned, but doubles in size when the tall, concertina doors dividing the rooms are opened. Mary says these are rare as hen's teeth these days.

A drawing of one of her sons hangs on the wall; it's by Margaret Cilento, actor Diane Cilento's sister, who was married to Sean Connery. One degree of separation.

Mary started her working life as a book editor in London at George Rainbird, the publisher Mary says invented the coffee table book concept. It was the Seventies and she



Above left: When the concertina doors are opened, the living and dining rooms join to create a spacious area.



Above: Mary has interesting furniture and art that suits the mansion-style quality of the house.

Right the staircase at the end of the hall has a built-in lamp. Here, the view is up the stairs to a bedroom and down the hall to the kitchen.



Berry Street has ultimate location, location factor. The MCG is at the end of the street and the city is an easy stroll away through parkland.

Recently, a neighbour of mine said her

husband was dying to get his hands on a house in Berry Street. I hope they read MPG.

PICTURES: GERRY ANGELOS



By Zinta Jurians Heard

46 Berry Street, East Melbourne, \$1.4 million plus

Mary has a gentle quality about her as she speaks with a cultured English accent in a voice that would work well on radio. You could listen to her adventures all day. She has had a run on writing milestone

books about icons. She was commissioned to produce *In Trust - Forty Years of the National Trust in Victoria* and at the end of the month her latest work *Timbertop - A Celebration of 50 Years* will be published by Geelong Grammar. The book will be launched by Governor John Landy, who taught at Timbertop for a few years. Mary is living in the Landys North Melbourne home while they are in Government House.

Her life in East Melbourne goes back to the Seventies, when her Australian husband brought her out from London. They bought a small cottage in East Melbourne from Weary Dunlop, then later this house. That was 20 years ago.

Mary says these days Berry Street is full of managing directors, but back then, the fabulous terraces were mostly split into flats and boarding houses. Then, living in suburbs was more the vogue.

This house, built in 1885, was designed by William Pitt, the architect of the Princess