

Celebrating 60 years

# AUSTRALIAN HOUSE GARDEN

## Trade secrets

*Bright ideas from the experts*

### INSIDER SHOPPING

Five style gurus share their global hotspots + top tips for online gifts

### 10 INDOOR PLANTS TO DETOX YOUR HOME

### Mum-trepreneurs

Savvy women who mix business with babies

Buyer's Guide to armchairs

How to dress up your house for sale

JAM SESSION: HOMEMADE PRESERVES, PICKLES AND RELISHES



AUGUST 2008 \$6.95 (NZ\$130) (incl GST)

# Classical HARMONY

This grand old beauty in Sydney's inner west has received an inspired makeover that's totally in tune with its colourful past.

STORY JODIE THOMSON PRODUCED BY NERIDA PIGGIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREW LEHMANN



It takes more than building work and interior updates to create a truly beautiful home. The very best houses are packed with personality and reflect the people who live there; this harbourside terrace in Sydney's inner west is proof of that. It has had a total renovation and gone from a dilapidated, faded beauty to a gleaming, finished home. Elegant lines and new spaces blend with historical pieces and collections treasured by the owners.

Architect Virginia Zanarini has overseen the two-storey terrace's reconstruction. "When I first saw the home, I couldn't believe how much work there was," Zanarini says. The gardens were overgrown, the foundations decaying and the interiors neglected and damaged from a water leak on the first floor.

Zanarini's brief was to retain the historical features of the house and build an extension that was sympathetic in style to the original. The owner also wanted a large Victorian conservatory that would capture the sun and light all year round.

The result is an expansive house that sits on the original home's footprint. Upstairs are four bedrooms, two new bathrooms and a study on the landing. Downstairs, off a central entry hallway, are the formal dining area and living room to the right, and a library to the left. At the back of the house is a light-filled, open-plan living/kitchen area, and the conservatory, which opens to the garden. "The shape of the back living area was generated by the shape of the jacaranda in the middle of the garden,"

Zanarini says. Years ago, the owners' young son had sawed off the tree's main trunk, causing the tree to grow tilted to one side. "Things like this give this house a very personal history."

The space beneath the house was also excavated to create a new garage and basement to house the owners' antiques collection and accommodate a carpentry workshop.

The home's interior, created with help from interior designer Rikki Stubbs, combines exquisite architectural detailing and an assortment of antiques and pieces treasured by the owners with light, bright colours and textures. Eggshell ▶

### TRADE SECRETS

Much of the warmth, character and visual appeal of this house comes from the colour and layers of pattern used by interior designer Rikki Stubbs. Wide stripes, soft florals and fabrics with striking botanical prints work happily together. "The owners love patterns and stripes, so I've worked with that," Stubbs says. "The rugs, the fabrics, the wall colours all work together to create tranquil but interesting rooms. Colour is the starting point, but it's about layering the colour, pattern and texture. That creates warmth and interest."





## PAINT COLOURS



Bristol  
Grasslands  
(living room)



Dulux Green  
Fog (living  
room cornice  
recess)



Dulux Crystal  
Palace  
(kitchen,  
conservatory)

Paints used were full strength and custom mixed, from Covered In Paint, Newtown, NSW. The above swatches are colour matched.

► paint used throughout the interior was from Covered In Paint. "The house really dictated its look as well," Stubbs says. "It's very light, warm and relaxed, and I wanted it to feel fresh too."

Details in the house, such as the Victorian mouldings on the walls and doors, which were looking tired, were replicated and replaced to keep the home's traditional flavour.

The owners' antique collection is large, but most of the pieces were in poor condition. Stubbs worked with the owners to choose pieces that could be restored, reupholstered and reused in the new home.

"They had a lot of things they loved that they could use to create a home they're comfortable in," she says. "It was very



exciting going down to the basement to discover yet another antique piece of porcelain or a chair."

Stubbs then carefully selected contemporary pieces to work in harmony with the existing, classical ones. Like the elegant striped sofas in the formal living room, which she had custom designed. And the modern Gervasoni cane sofa from Anibou and circular cane, glass-topped table in the conservatory, which houses the owners' collection of shells.

In the main bedroom, a soft green and white floral fabric complements the brass bed and dressing table that were part of the original furniture. "It's very soft and romantic," Stubbs says.

The kitchen and surrounding cabinets were all built new, from timber panels finished with polyurethane and Calcutta marble benchtops. Custom-built cabinets beside the kitchen were filled with the owners' collection of ceramics.

Despite the grand proportions of the home, colour and texture ensure warmth and intimacy throughout. "I bought rugs for every single room," Stubbs says. "It's all about layering the colour, pattern and texture. That's what creates the whole feeling of warmth in the house."

After years of neglect and wear, this house has been restored to an elegant standard that shows off its beautiful bones, charming character and endless history.

Virginia Zanarini + Associates, Bondi, NSW; (02) 9389 4139.  
Rikki Stubbs: Pure Colour, Newtown, NSW; (02) 9569 1177.





Sumptuous touches in the living room create a sense of luxury. Sofas covered in Brochier Radium Millenaires Blu, cushions in Colony Vivaldi Mordore, Colony Rondo Bleu Chiaro and Brochier Bucintoro. Curtains in Le Mansche Mastic. French chairs in Colony La Perouse, all from Boyac. Oriental rug from Rilyn Cosgrove Rugs. Chandelier and large cobalt blue ceramic lamp from Brook Street Trading. Antique table lamps from Res Palmer Antiques. For Where To Buy, see page 198.



The conservatory is cosy and inviting. Hand-knotted wool rug from Rebye Gosgrove Rugs. Chairs from owners' collection, covered in Vervaine de Patagonie fabric by Dominique Kieffer. Cushions in Blatts Towersey fabric from Boyac. Servason round table and side ottoman table from Anibou.

**OPPOSITE LEFT** Sleek cabinetry in the kitchen makes for a clean finish. Benchtop in Calcutta marble from CO Stone. **OPPOSITE RIGHT** A mirror helps the already bright conservatory glow. Cane sofa from Anibou, covered in fabric from Boyac. For where to buy, see page 158.



Blackbutt floors and classic bistro-style chairs combine beautifully in a chic casual dining area. Chairs from Thonet. Pine dining table bought at auction. Plates from France. Linen and cutlery from David Jones.

**OPPOSITE** clockwise from top left A 1940s dressing table has been restored and the stool covered in fabric from Bayla. A dainty collection of fragrances. The linen in the main bedroom. In Brochier Piona Green from Boyac adds punch to a delicate rug from Robyn Cosgrove Rugs. Moonlight Italian porcelain tiles and an Arabic-style marble benchtop, both from Rocks On, provide a neutral setting in the bathroom. For *What's To Buy*, see page 158.





A lush, leafy garden is the perfect place to unwind. Table and chairs from Pottery. OPPOSITE French doors in the dining room lead to the garden at the rear of the house.



To see more of this house, plus other inspiring homes, go to [www.houseandgarden.com.au](http://www.houseandgarden.com.au)