



LIGHTNESS OF BEING

DESIGNED FOR RELAXING AND ENTERTAINING, THIS METICULOUSLY REMODELLED MELBOURNE HOME IS A LESSON IN QUIET LUXURY

Story *JACKIE BRYGEL* Styling *JULIA GREEN* Photography *ARMELLE HABIB*

PERMANENT HAVEN Situated moments from the beach in Melbourne's south-east, this beautifully renovated home that Annette and Ian share with family pooch Evie (opposite with Annette), and cats Indi and Oli, provides a perfect retreat from the fast pace of everyday life. In the formal sitting room (opposite), a Mark Douglass 'Orb' pendant light claims centrestage. A pair of indigo 'Como' sofas from Furniture Inspirations is matched with the 'Zorro' smoked glass and marble coffee table from Living Edge, while a Zuster 'Halo' buffet unit keeps clutter in check. Outside, a bluestone-paved loggia hosts year-round entertaining at the Manutti 'Siena' table and 'Mood' chairs by Tribu from Cosh Living (below). "I do love my garden," says Annette. >





Sometimes, life has a way of coming full circle, with the past weaving a path back to the present. Certainly, there has always been a special place in homeowner Annette's heart for the bayside region of Melbourne, where she enjoyed a happy childhood. "I have very fond memories of growing up in that area," says the mother to now-adult children. "When I had my own family, we settled in another part of Melbourne and lived in a Victorian house for 20 years. But when my mother passed away in 2014, I just had this desire to move back to where I grew up."

After searching the city's coastal suburbs for two years with her husband, Ian, Annette chanced upon a property that caught her eye immediately. The relatively new, two-level abode was not exactly to the couple's more traditional tastes. Nevertheless, there was much for them to love – particularly the home's soaring ceilings, airy layout and exquisite arched windows flooding the living zones with daylight. "It had a perfect floor plan for us, but the home – which was about 10 years old – had been built in a Spanish Costa Del Sol style with lots of dark wood, creamy yellow, ornate ironwork and columns," recalls Annette. "The house ended up being passed in at auction, but I kept coming back to it and started thinking there was a lot that we could do to make it more 'us'. We made an offer, which was accepted, and it was time to realise our vision for the house."

And so the makeover process began, with Annette and Ian engaging renowned interior design practice Austin Design Associates. For both parties, it proved to be a happy meeting of minds. "Our first impression of the house was that it had great flow and good 'bones', however it felt tired and dated," says interior designer Sylvanna Mitri. "Our brief was to create a minimal interior with an equal level of sophistication and luxury."

Over seven months, the transformation of the home, which incorporated lashings of white and misty grey, a gleaming new Carrara marble kitchen, solid pale oak parquetry flooring and dramatic steel-framed windows and French doors, was completed. With its interiors filled with the couple's long-treasured collectibles and a curated array of beautiful new pieces, the home is infused with a timeless sense of tranquillity, warmth and style; essentially an elegant yet unpretentious abode for the owners and their family to enjoy. "The home seems to have taken on a new character," reflects Annette. "It's not particularly 'of the moment' but, to us, it has a lovely feel and I just love coming home."

DINING ROOM A dramatic monochrome painting – 'Watiya Yuninya (Tree And Seeds)' by the acclaimed indigenous artist Mitjili Napurrula – is the star of the dining room (above left), where a 'Y Chandelier' pendant by Douglas And Bec is suspended above the handsome antique dining setting. "The table is made from one piece of mahogany and is what was called a 'breakfast table,'" explains Annette. "Ian loves antiques and he found it, along with the Georgian chairs, about 30 years ago in an antique shop."

HALLWAY In the light-filled hallway (above right), all eyes are drawn to the evocative artwork, 'Skate' by Michael Rich, above a Grazia & Co 'New York' marble-topped console table.

FAMILY ROOM Starting with a canvas of white walls and pale timber flooring, Austin Design Associates layered the core living space with textural pieces, including the expansive 'Bristol' sofa and 'Tribeca' coffee table by Poliform, and a Fritz Hansen 'PK20' wicker armchair accessorised with a black and white 'Zulta' cushion found at Fenton & Fenton. Ian (pictured) enjoys the sunny spot on the reupholstered leather window seat, layered with a Missoni throw. "The cats love it too," says Annette with a smile. The small black Walter Knoll 'Oki' side table was sourced from Living Edge. >



ILLUSTRATION: KENZIE DESIGN STUDIO

KITCHEN "I used to like to cook more than I do now," confesses Annette, adding, "but the kitchen really is the heart of the home." The cooking zone (below) has undergone a total transformation with luxe Carrara marble from Gladstones Granite defining the room. A plethora of storage behind the 2-pac cabinetry in Dulux Natural White is a highlight as are Grazia & Co 'Dita' stools that offer a spot to perch at the breakfast bar. 'Apple Tree' by Joanna Logue adorns the far wall. **CASUAL DINING** The Zuster 'April' dining table in oak, with Living Edge black leather 'Saddle' chairs, establishes a smart but relaxed vibe in this dining space (opposite). "We often host Christmas and other celebrations here," says Annette. >



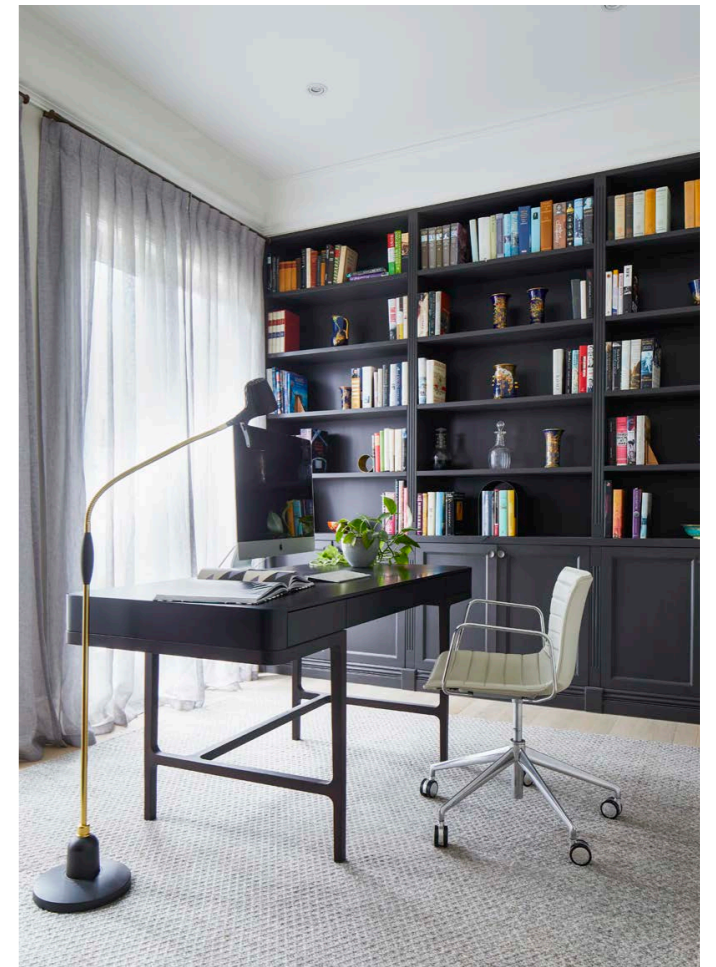
"WHEN WE BOUGHT THE HOME, THE *kitchen* WAS ALL DARK TIMBER VENEER. IT'S *unrecognisable* NOW"
~ ANNETTE



WE LOVE...
steel French doors
There's nothing like steel-framed French doors (by Steel Window Design) to open up a home to the outdoors in style. "To me, these doors have a character that is timeless," says Annette. Sylvanna Mitri of Austin Design Associates adds: "The thin profile of the steel also allows more light inside." Visit: steelwindowdesign.com.au.



BEDROOM “This is my daughter’s room when she comes home from overseas, where she’s currently studying at university,” says Annette. “She does love this room. She says it’s a little different from her student accommodation!” The Grazia & Co ‘New York’ bedside table (below), adorned with a Marmoset Found vessel, pairs well with a ‘Frenchie’ bedhead, also from Grazia & Co. The bed is dressed in linen by Sage And Clare, and the ‘Muffins’ oak table light by Dan Yeffet & Lucie Koldova for Brokis, sits elegantly alongside an antique gold mirror.



“MOST OF THE PIECES IN THE HOME HAVE A *story* OR *meaning* BEHIND THEM. THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO US”

~ ANNETTE

POWDER ROOM Herringbone ‘Bianco Carrara’ marble mosaic tiles from Bespoke Tile & Stone by Earp Bros pack a tactile punch in the powder room (top left), as does a pair of Mondoluce ‘Spillray’ wall lights. Custom 2-pac joinery by Precision Cabinets in Dulux Natural White is teamed with a Neolith Arctic White vanity top for a sleek impression.

STUDY In the sophisticated home office (top right), the bespoke bookshelf painted in Porter’s Paints brooding Winter Storm, which is a custom colour, creates impact against the walls painted in Dulux Ghosting Half. A Stylecraft ‘Catifa’ desk chair, ‘Victor’ desk by Roberto Lazzeroni for Lema, and Serious Readers floor light enhance the understated glamour.

ENSUITE There’s nothing utilitarian about this heavenly pamper zone (right), starring a huge, sculptural freestanding tub for pure bathing bliss. Find similar with the Apaiser ‘Haven’ bath. >



INDOOR-OUTDOOR With its alluring outlook to the freshly landscaped garden and newly tiled pool (below), the entertaining zone – illuminated by a Dome Outdoor Ceiling Light by Royal Botania – is undoubtedly the place to be. Just ask Evie!

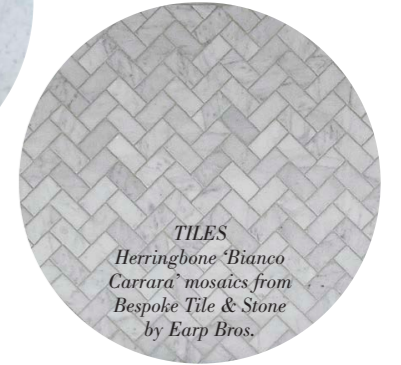


LIGHT LUXE

The details



MARBLE
Carrara marble from Gladstones Granite.



TILES
Herringbone 'Bianco Carrara' mosaics from Bespoke Tile & Stone by Earp Bros.

INSIDE STORY

ANNETTE & IAN'S HOME

WHO LIVES HERE?

Annette, a senior corporate executive; her husband Ian, a lawyer; plus Pomeranian Evie, and cats Indi and Oli.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FURNITURE PIECE IN THE HOME?

Annette: "I love the antique breakfast table in the dining room."

BEST IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE RENOVATION?

"The steel windows and new French doors, as well as the new kitchen and parquet floor."

THE BIGGEST RISK YOU TOOK DURING THE RENOVATION?

"We changed the roof tiles from terracotta to slate, which was quite an expensive exercise and we thought, 'We really hope this is worth it'. Fortunately, it definitely was."

ANYTHING LEFT ON THE WISH LIST?

"There's always room for a couple more artworks!"

SOURCE BOOK

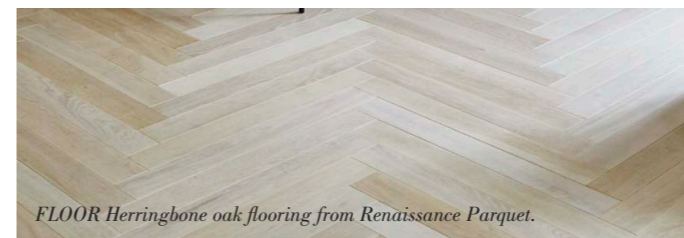
INTERIOR DESIGN Austin Design Associates, austindesign.com.au.

BUILDER Hebden, hebden.com.au.

PAINTER Nutone Property Services, nutoneproperty.com.au.



Annette and Evie stand under the gorgeous, grand arches at the entrance to the home.



FLOOR Herringbone oak flooring from Renaissance Parquet.

"THE WINDOW SEAT IS LOVELY ON WINTER AFTERNOONS" ~ ANNETTE

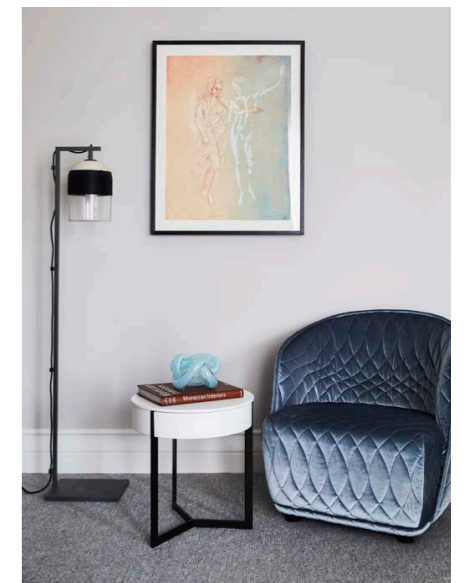


ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

A shapely Marmoset Found vase atop a marble coffee table by Poliform.



The 'Watiya Yuninya (Tree And Seeds)' artwork by Mitjili Napurrula is a long-cherished piece.



'Dancing In A Dream' artwork by Louis Kahan and 'Redondo' chair by Moroso from Hub.