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AUSTRALIA

# belle

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KATHRYN M.  
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*in the Southern Highlands*

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FOR DAYS  
the essential  
round-up

LUXE LIVING  
in Paris

# Graphic Details

*Striking interiors in* LONDON, SYDNEY,  
SRI LANKA & MELBOURNE



These pages 1Up Series 2007 chair and ottoman by Gaetano Piretti from B&B Italia. Mote: "Blow" tables from Calk. Artwork above fireplace by George Mark. Sculpture by Corrie Lyons from Clean Lines. On the built-in bench next to the fireplace sits a Michael Verheyden wicker box from Ouderen, and a terracotta bowl from Ouderen House. Vintage chairs from The Vault. Vintage Jeld lamp. Rug from Katchi.



# RETURN TO EDEN

Fond childhood memories led an expat to tackle the revamp of an Arts and Crafts home on an estate on Sydney's north shore.

Photograph: PRUE RUSCOE. Window: JAMES HANAN. Stiles: STEVE CORDONY





This page clockwise from left Jaime Hayón Parachilna 'Aballs' lamp sits next to amber vases from Conley and Co. Artwork by Trevor Mein. The red brick exterior was enhanced with painted windows and a steel pergola. 'Flag Halyard' chair by Hans J. Wegner from Cult. Lamp from Fred International. Piero Lissoni side table for Cassina from Space. Vase from Planet. Vessel and magazine rack from Becker Minty. Above fireplace, *Port Douglas* by Alan Jones from Olsen Irwin. Wall sconce from Articulo. Moroccan Beni Ourain rug from Kulchi. **Opposite page** *Woman in a Black Camisole* by Robert Malherbe. Sollos 'Mad' cane and walnut chairs from De De Ce. Classicon 'Bell' side table by Sebastian Herkner from Anibou. Cushions from Tigger Hall. Guaxx vase from Conley and Co.



When the long-term expat owner of this expansive Arts and Crafts home on Sydney's upper north shore bought it in 2007 the reasons were twofold – firstly, it reminded him of a happy childhood growing up in the area and secondly, it was evocative of memories of a great stint working in England where many of the homes on the outskirts of London had a similar aesthetic.

He had fallen in love with the resort-style expanse of the grounds and wanted to return there to raise his children – prompted by a period living in Singapore, and a hankering for his childhood spent on the leafy north shore.

Built in the 1930s, the home has a local heritage listing which presented challenges to his plans to open up and lighten the house to create a contemporary look and layout for the family of four.

To deal with these issues he briefed architects Brett Churcher and John Hooghuis of Playoust Churcher to contemporise the house for today's living while maintaining the classic facade which was subject to heritage restrictions.

Inside was a rabbit warren of dark, low-ceilinged, damp rooms, disconnected from the 3000-square-metre garden with a pool and tennis court, so one of his major requests to the architects was to open up the house and connect it to the fabulously extensive, but underutilised, grounds. He also added an interior designer and landscaper to the team. He had seen the work of Justine Hugh-Jones in *Belle* and was simultaneously referred to her by a family friend.

"The architects had already done a design, but when my senior designer Katrina Mackintosh and I came on board we collaborated harmoniously to sort out the myriad challenges," says Justine.

The design trio was completed with landscaper, Peter Fudge, who had worked with the owner on previous projects. Peter knew how important it was for the gardens and interiors to flow seamlessly. Like the interiors, the gardens were a bit tired and needed a contemporary eye to lift them. This meant that the pool had to be relocated and was increased to an enviable 17-and-a-half metres.

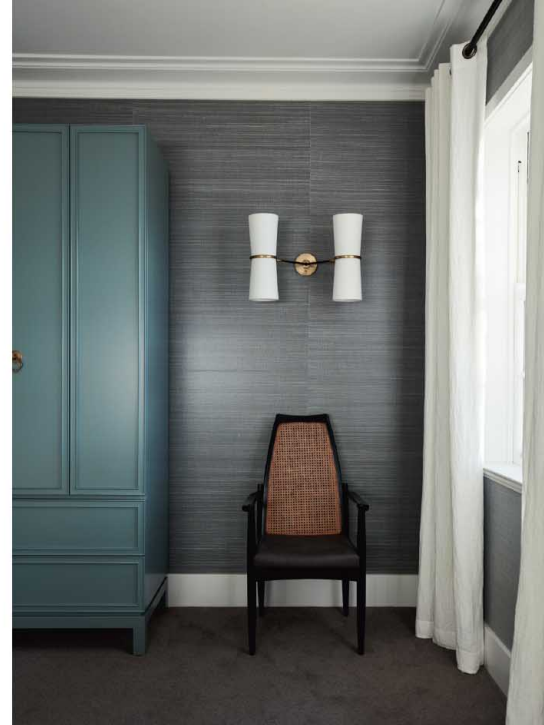


"An unconditional brief is a fantastic vote of confidence and such a boon for creative enterprise," says Justine.





This page Japanese cupboard from Edo Arts. White bowls on top from Les Interieurs. *Painting 148* from Dunningham Reserve by Alan Jones from Olsen Irwin. Vase on table from Ondene. Moooi 'Random' light from Space. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** Phillip Jeffries wallpaper. In the kitchen, Kelly Wearstler bowl from Becker Minty. Jug from Fred International. Brass bowl from Hub. Apparatus pendant light. Wolf oven. Artek '400' armchairs from Anibou, upholstered in Kvadrat 'Coda' fabric.



The interior was relatively devoid of features – remarkable for a house on this scale of property. Justine's initial vision was to paint the exterior red brick a subtle shade to soften it and add an East Coast US vibe, helping the house to sit more attractively in the garden.

"Working within the heritage restraints, we were not allowed to change the red brick so a new direction was taken, painting the Georgian-style shutters and window frames in a contemporary hue and adding steel pergolas which sympathised with and modernised the exterior," says Justine.

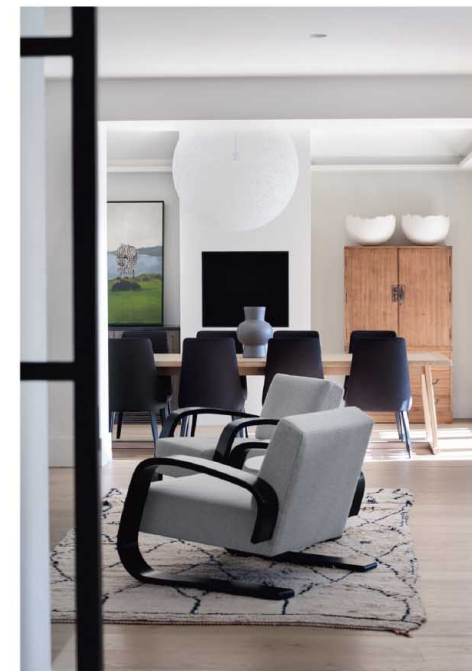
"Inside there were zero architectural features to reference the elegance of the exterior so I found inspiration in Danish and Swedish pared-back panelling. I admired a project with a deft use of panelling that Ilse Crawford had completed and wanted to see if that approach could enhance and lighten up the interior."

The panelling was painted in Dulux 'White Duck' to emphasise the airy approach and teamed with light European oak floor boards from Precision Flooring. The layout was dramatically changed, with the old garage turned into a sophisticated living room with fireplace, and the kitchen, formerly located in the corridor, moved to the original dining room that overlooked the tennis court. "The dining room had beautiful symmetrical Georgian windows and we chose the room that had the best views in the house for the kitchen. My client's dream was to have a big Wolf oven and an oversized island. In fact, it was the first time the stonemasons had fitted a slab of marble that large in one piece," says Justine.

Four fireplaces were installed – one in the kitchen, one in the dining room, and one in each of the two living rooms. A new staircase was built to replace the heavier existing one so it would work better with the simplicity of the panelling. Walls were removed and ceilings heightened. Phillip Jeffries wallpaper lines all the walls as does the client's art collection – proudly all-Australian and featuring artists from Otomys, Olsen Irwin and Arthouse Gallery.

"My client gave me an open brief for the furniture and art with a defined budget. An unconditional brief is a fantastic vote of confidence and such a boon for creative enterprise," says Justine. A perfect result for a design-savvy expat returning home. ■

For more go to [justinebugh-jones.com](http://justinebugh-jones.com); [peterfudgegardens.com.au](http://peterfudgegardens.com.au); [playoustchurber.com.au](http://playoustchurber.com.au).







This page, clockwise from top Waffle bath towel from Hale Mercantile Co. Vintage hand mirror from Becker Minty. Santa Maria Novella toiletries from Ondene. Marble sculpture by Stephen Ormandy from Olsen Irwin. Small painting by Gria Shead. In the bedroom, Bertoa lounge chair. 'Flocca' bedinen in Floss by Hale Mercantile Co. Opposite page In the master bedroom, Møller bench from Great Dane. Artworks by Joshua Yeldham. 'Flocca' bedlinen in Ayrton from Hale Mercantile Co.

**SPEED READ**

» When an expat family bought this heritage-listed Arts and Crafts house on Sydney's north shore they engaged an exceptional design team comprising Brett Churcher and John Hooghuis of Playoust Churcher, Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh of Justine Hugh-Jones Design and Peter Fudge of Peter Fudge Gardens to overhaul the house and its expansive grounds and make it suitable for contemporary family living. » A rabbit warren of dark, low-ceilinged, damp rooms, disconnected from the garden tennis court and pool, were transformed into casually sophisticated, light-filled spaces, punctuated by an extensive Australian art collection and carefully curated lighting, design pieces and accessories.