

Detail ORIENTED

A wealth of considered elements are the hallmark of the reinvention of this heritage house into a haven of contemporary living for a young family.

Words **JUDY PASCOE** Photography **PRUE RUSCOE**
Styling **ALEXANDRA GORDON**

These pages The front living room is enhanced by the traditional bevelled leadlight windows which were restored and offer filtered views across the park opposite. The sofas were existing and were reupholstered. Cushions from Manyara Home and No Chintz. Mirror over fireplace and coffee table both custom by Partridge Daniels on Sultanabad rug from Behruz Studio. Michaël Verheyden suede boxes from Ondene. Candle and incense holders from Planet. Anna Charlesworth 'Dish' pendant light. Owner's existing side table with 'Linden' lamp by Kelly Wearstler. Papier-mâché vase from Becker Minty. Glass vase from Pond. Wall sconce from Lightmaker Studio. Artwork by Michael Cusack from Olsen Gallery. French oak flooring from Enaok. Flowers throughout from Grandiflora.



Light and sunshine sparkle through the bevelled leadlight front door of this heritage home filtering views of the park opposite where frisbees and footballs scoot through the air as kids and dogs frolic.

It's a chilled atmosphere that pervades the stately c1924 home in Sydney's eastern suburbs, newly refreshed by design studio Partridge Daniels for a family of four. The house, sited within a conservation area, had been occupied by four generations of the same family until its sale to the current owners in 2018. Showcasing all the features of its era – high ceilings, leadlight doors and windows, wide corridors, a deep verandah – the single-storey, sandstone-based house was principally rectangular in form, with a messy 1970s addition of enclosed porch, laundry and bathroom doing the generous site no favours. The previous owners had already received approval for restoration and upgrades to the property which the new owners slightly amended before work began to convert it to an expansive two-storey home.

Natural light and storage were high on the family's wish list, as well as a harmonious blending of old and new and the use of natural and raw materials including timber, stone and brass. The approved design allowed for a two-storey structure that extends to the rear boundary and hugs the

perimeter to the south and east, maximising the northern sun in the central courtyard.

During construction the builders, EJ Constructions, discovered news clippings dating from the 1920s detailing the closing of Sydney pubs due to strict licensing laws. As they commenced work in March 2020, 100 years later, again the pubs were closing – but for a very different reason! The newspapers have been framed and now grace the cellar walls.

Partridge Daniels principals Lucy Partridge and Emma Daniels were heavily influenced by the historical elements of the original property in their creative process. "The soul of the house was handsome and understated and it called for an enduring, high-quality restoration with a defined, effortless flow to the modern addition. As such, we adopted a light touch," says Emma.

Onto a base of French oak flooring and warm white paint the designers layered natural stone, timber and bronzed brass – timeless elements that underpin the home's classic nature and will age beautifully. Furnishings are a mix of custom pieces, some reupholstered sofas and new acquisitions that lend elegance while also being warm and approachable.

The front two rooms were retained as formal dining and living with walls replastered and leadlights restored. The 'dogleg' hallway was straightened and bathroom modified »

This page In the formal dining room Gubi 'Beetle' chairs with custom upholstery from Cult surround a dining table from Zuster. Bowl from Conley & Co. Vistosi 'Puppet Ring' pendant light from Mandoluce. Lightmaker Studio wall sconce. Artwork by Laura Jones from Olsen Gallery. Owner's existing cabinet was refurbished. Rug from Cadrys. Plant and pot from Garden Life. **Opposite page** Christophe Delcourt side tables with 'Armato' lamp by Kelly Wearstler. Brass oil burner from Studio Henry Wilson. Artworks by Laura Jones from Olsen Gallery. Rug from Cadrys.



This page In the casual family dining area a custom cabinet sits beneath a mirror from MCM House. On cabinet, Flos 'Snoopy' table lamp from Euroluce, Tom Dixon coffee and tea set and white concrete vase from Manyara Home. Dining table from Mark Tuckey with candles and candleholders from Studio ALM, Stacks of Wax and Pond. 'Smart' chairs and 'Trevi 6' pendant light from Spence & Lyda. Anna Charlesworth brass wall lights. Rug from Natural Floorcovering Centre. Plant and antique brass planter from Garden Life.



This page, clockwise from top left Looking back to the new extension across the courtyard and pool. Part of the extension is clad in silvertop ash timber and the rest is painted in Dulux 'Antique White USA' and 'Domino'. Courtyard dining with 'Mill' outdoor table from Eco Outdoor. Limestone floor tiles from Onsite. The kitchen has custom hand-painted joinery with a leathered granite benchtop on the island and Elba marble on the rear benchtop. Bronzed brass rangehood, frame and custom handles. Handmade Moroccan tiles from Onsite. Mater stools and Gubi 'Semi' pendant light from Cult. 'Clemente' wall lights from The Montauk Lighting Co. Large bowl from Orient House. Ceramic bowl from The DEA Store. Sub-Zero fridge and freezer, Wolf cooktop and Smeg oven, all from Winning Appliances. French oak flooring from Enoak.





This page, clockwise from top left The traditional facade with central terrazzo steps and classic columns gives no hint of the sinuous timber-clad extension that lies behind. The casual sitting area has a custom sofa and B&B Italia 'Eileen' side table from Space on a cashmere abraded rug from Cadrys. Cushions from Planet and No Chintz. White throw from InBed. Bronze bowl from Pond. Shelving is in tallwood. Parentesi suspension light from Euroluce. Tom Dixon 'Jelly' vase. Maison Balzac 'Cocou' carafe. Partridge Daniels principals Emma Daniels (left) and Lucy Partridge. Custom mirror and cabinet. Large white vase from Mandalay Flowers. Candleholders from Modern Times. Stone figures from Orient House. **Opposite page** The children's bathroom has custom floor tiles from Popham Design and a Basaltina vanity. Brodware tapware, bath and basin from Candana. Flos 'Glo-Ball' wall lights from Euroluce. Timber stool from Orient House. Loom towels.



« to a powder room with the extra space given over to storage. A capacious family dining and kitchen area at the back marks the start of the new part of the house that in turn leads to separate adults' and kids' casual living areas with bedrooms and bathrooms above. The new wing benefits from the north-facing aspect and is flooded with light and sun as well as enjoying an outlook over the pool.

The designers' focus on the finer points has given the house an extra level of finesse. "We're very much about the little details," says Emma, indicating a beautiful heavy shower curtain in a Ralph Lauren outdoor fabric in the guest bathroom. Add to that the bespoke bronzed brass handles, doorplates, the tiling inside cupboards and on bathroom ceilings and the tactile, leathered granite benchtop in the kitchen – a particular favourite of the owner's. "The kitchen bench is special – it feels like velvet," she says. "I love the dark and moody look, and it is the perfect place to sit and share a bottle of red with friends."

While the home exudes contemporary liveability, there are subtle reminders of its history throughout. Taking cues from the traditional symmetry in the house saw the designers retain the existing twin windows in the powder room and replicate them in the kitchen flanking the rangehood. Similarly, a glass and timber cabinet that had to be preserved to comply with heritage requirements was reworked as a stylish showcase for glassware.

With two school-age children the pool and pizza oven in the courtyard get a regular workout, while the variety of living spaces offer plenty of choices for entertaining family and friends. "It is the perfect home for our busy family," says the owner, "and I love how the character of the original heritage house blends with the modern and functional extension. It constantly delights me!"

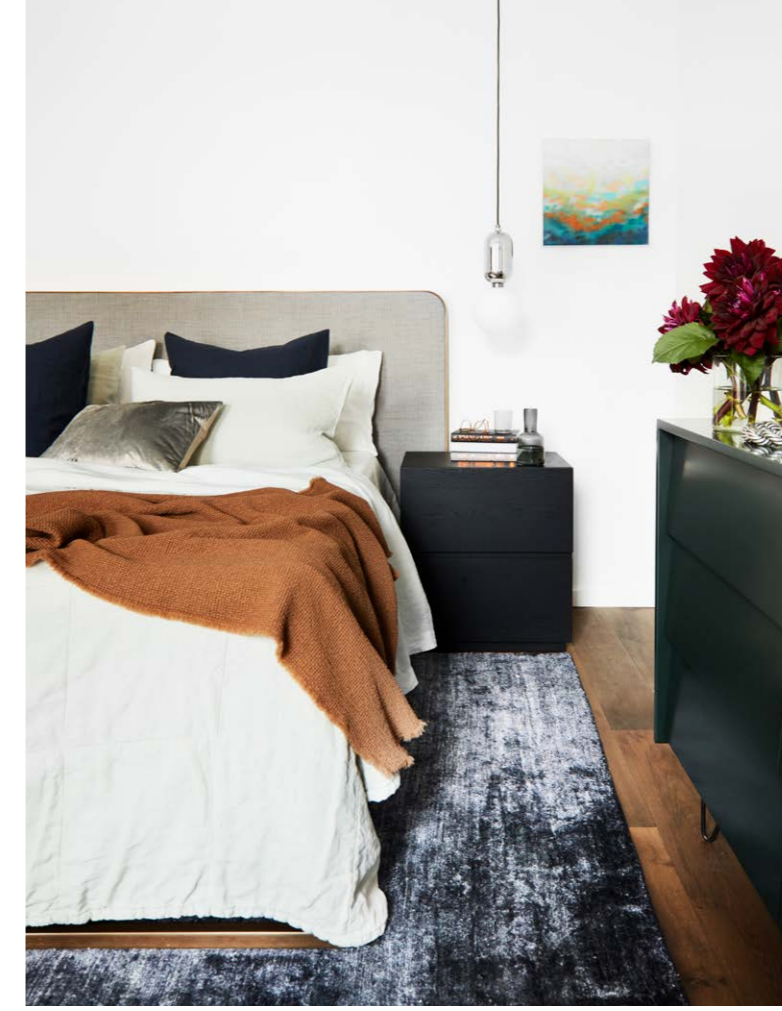
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This page Looking from the master bedroom to the ensuite bathroom. Elton John artwork by Phil Meatchem. Noguchi lamp. Vase from Mandalay Flowers. India Mahdavi stool from Studio ALM. Custom leather cushion on window bench seat. Cashmere abrash rug from Cadrys. In the bathroom, bronzed brass and hand-painted vanity with Elba marble top. Kelly Wearstler wall lights from The Montauk Lighting Co. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** Custom bed with Society Limonta bed linen and throw from Ondene. Bedside table from Zuster with Maison Balzac carafe. Matthew Johnson artwork from Olsen Gallery. Parachilna 'Aballs' pendant light from Ke-Zu. Custom green dresser. Cashmere abrash rug from Cadrys. At the entrance to the powder room is a custom console by Partridge Daniels with a custom mirror with bronze frame. Parachilna 'Aballs' wall lights from Ke-Zu. Custom floor tiles and custom bronzed brass vanity with terrazzo top from Terrazzo Australian Marble. Aggregato 'Saliscendi' pendant light from Artemide. One of the children's bedrooms and study area. Bed from Mark Tuckey with bedlinen from Cultiver. USM bedside table and desk pedestal from Anibou. 'Nelson Saucer Bubble' pendant light from Living Edge. Charlotte Perriand wall light from Mondoluce. Muuto wall hooks. Jieldé lamp and Flos 'Tab' lamp, both from Euroluce. Desk chair from Cult. Custom oak desk. Rug from Armadillo.



"I LOVE HOW THE CHARACTER OF THE ORIGINAL HERITAGE HOUSE BLENDS WITH THE MODERN ... EXTENSION."



SPEED READ

» Design studio Partridge Daniels was engaged for the reinvention of this significant heritage house in Sydney's eastern suburbs for a young family. » The owners had bought the house with approved plans so after a minor tweaking the designers set about seamlessly blending the traditional aspects of the house with the contemporary extension. » The classic detailing such as the beautiful leadlight doors and windows were restored and walls replastered before new French oak flooring was laid, while bespoke pieces made by metalworkers and joiners such as the bronzed brass door pulls complement the existing features.

