



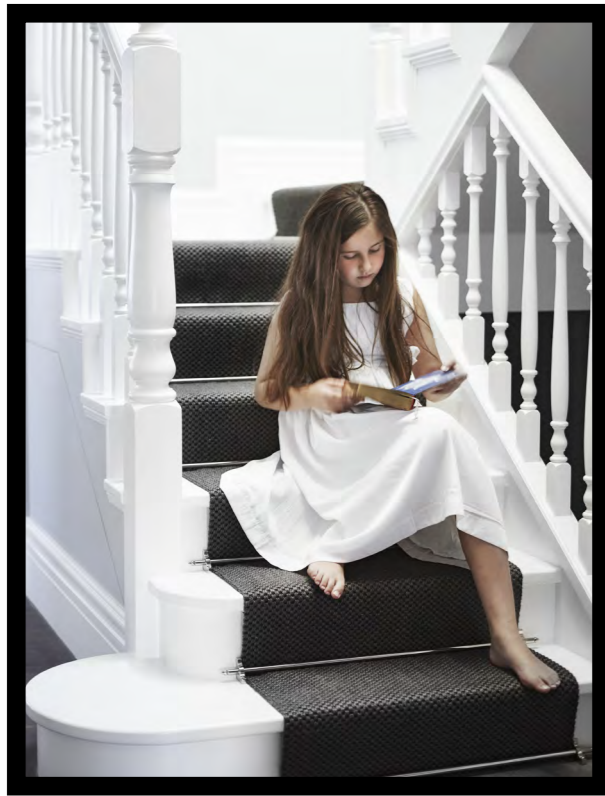
# WORTH THE WAIT

A long-held desire for a grand Sydney home has resulted in a dream come true for this family.

STORY ALAANA COBON / STYLING CONNIE CONDYLIO & GREG NATALE  
PHOTOGRAPHY ANSON SMART



**LIVING DETAIL** / An Arthur Boyd artwork is a dramatic focal point above the Maxalto console. White bowl, Jonathan Adler.  
**Designer buy:** Fornasetti lamp base, from \$1500, Macleay on Manning.  
**LIVING** / Paula and Victoria share a mother-and-daughter moment. Maxalto sofa and coffee table.  
FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.



**W**hen Paula Corrente was a child, growing up in Sydney's inner west, the house known as Colinroobee, a local landmark, captured her imagination. This Edwardian corner property loomed proud and high, its regal hallway captivating her whenever the front door stood open and its aura of grandeur staying forever etched in her memory.

So when Colinroobee went to auction in 2013, Paula and her husband, Michael, were willing to do almost anything to call it their own, even though they were holidaying in Italy with children Jonathon, now 16, and Victoria, eight, at the time. Phone bids from Rome at 2am secured them the deed, and when the hour was appropriate the family headed to via di Ripetta to celebrate with a Champagne breakfast.

Before moving in, however, a few updates were required to accommodate a modern family. To this end the couple engaged architect Colin Filmer, who'd worked with them on two previous heritage renovations in the area. He extended the house with an open-plan rear addition that delivered a large kitchen, dining zone and casual living space.

Paula is thrilled with the way the space now works. "We congregate around the kitchen a lot, and I like to chat with the children while cooking. Wherever they sit, we can all talk and be together."

As a successful restaurateur with several thriving eateries and another to open later this year, Michael appreciates the functionality of the new kitchen layout. "Michael forgets we don't have kitchen hands at home," says Paula with a laugh, "but the sliding pantry doors allow us to hide all the prep work when we entertain." ▶



**grey scale**  
 In search of a grey that didn't throw blue, Paula called in colour consultant Angela Fernandez. Dulux Tranquil Retreat was the solution.

**LIVING** / The owners love Italian design and sourced their sofa, coffee table, armchairs and other feature pieces in Rome. Cheminées Philippe fireplace with Carrara marble surround. Visual Comfort pendant light, Laura Kincade. Greg Natale Los Angeles rug, Designer Rugs. Artwork by Arthur Boyd.  
**STAIRS** / Victoria finds a quiet place to read on the staircase. Sisal stair runner, International Floorcoverings.  
 FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

**This is the life**  
 Michael's schedule is about to become more hectic, with his modern Italian restaurant due to open in a waterfront Sydney venue later this year. But that doesn't mean there isn't time for family and friends to enjoy the benefits of this plush renovation. "My favourite aspect of the kitchen is the open-plan design," says Michael. "When I'm prepping, I can still interact. Those are two things I enjoy most in life: socialising and cooking up a fabulous meal."

**Year-round comfort**

While the grand proportions of this home ensure light and air aplenty when opened to the outdoors in summer, winter sees cosy layers come into play. Luxe rugs and runners ward off the cold, but it's the living room fireplace that makes the family most excited. The gas fireplace was purchased more than 10 years ago and has now found its rightful place. "We knew this was the house to have our open fire," says Paula. "This is our forever home."

**THE PALETTE**

**Dulux Tranquil Retreat**

interior, throughout

Try these accents

**Taubmans Ming Beauty**

**Resene Allegro**

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

*'Editing is essential for a cohesive space where every element, every finish, has a purpose and relates to the next.'* Greg Natale, interior designer

**KITCHEN** / Paula and Michael, with children Victoria and Jonathon, spend a lot of family time around the kitchen island. Sirio stools, Poliform. Sussex Scala mixer, Reece. Joinery by Scarelli Timber. Visual Comfort pendant light, Laura Kincade.  
**HALLWAY** / above right and opposite The very hall that Paula admired as a child now welcomes her friends and family. Ralph Lauren Home Cannes pendant lights, Laura Kincade. Greg Natale Oxford rug, Designer Rugs.  
**Designer buy:** Dodekagano mirror, from \$5910, Poliform.  
**DINING** / Greg Natale's scheme began with the owners' existing timber dining table and chairs. The warmth of the cherrywood is balanced by grey-stained parquetry flooring in American oak. Dining chairs upholstered in Toulon glazed linen in Graphite from Westbury Textiles. **FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.** ▶



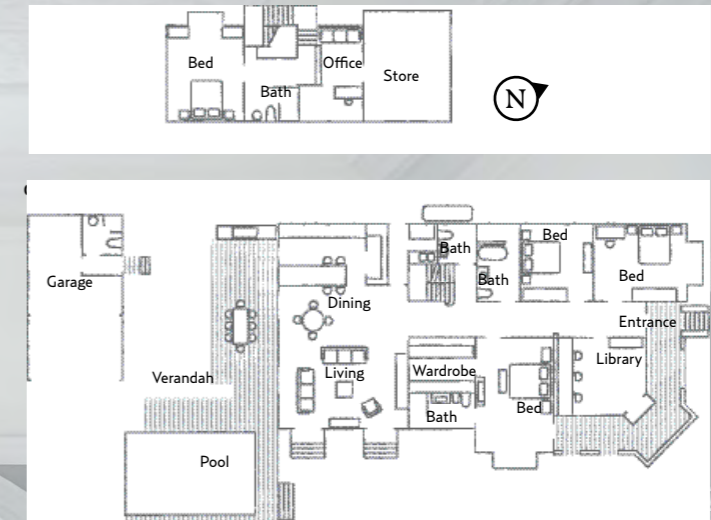


**MAIN BEDROOM** / “This is where I come if I need to get away,” says Paula. Armchairs, desk, ottoman and bench, all Maxalto. Custom bedcover, Analu. Malachite cushion, Greg Natale Design. Windows, Lawrence Leadlights. Pendant light, Laura Kincade.

**BATHROOM** / A traditional slipper tub offers an indulgent bathing spot. Carrara marble slabs and floor tiles, Surface Gallery. Designer buy: Victoria+Albert Shropshire bath, \$3155, The English Tapware Company. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

THE LAYOUT

FIRST FLOOR



◀ The functionality of this and other spaces is subtly concealed behind elegant joinery and the finely tuned details of experienced interior designer Greg Natale, who applied his careful and constant editing process to the project. “I’m always stepping back at every stage and asking, ‘Is it balanced? Is there a dynamic contrast?’” says Greg. “Editing is essential for a cohesive space where every piece, every finish, has a purpose and relates to the next.”

The starting point for the home’s scheme, he says, was the couple’s much-loved, 20-year-old Italian dining table and chairs. The strong tones of the cherrywood inspired a subdued palette brought into balance with dove grey and pops of malachite green. Accent accessories in tan leather and graphically patterned rugs contribute to the cohesive result. A special recurrent element is the use of glamorous faceted surfaces, beginning in the front hall with the mirror and light fittings, and carried through right down to the kitchen handles.

Even though these interiors are highly sophisticated, the desire for a family-centred way of living was very much front and centre of the whole concept. “We were adamant that the design not be too precious,” says Paula. “It’s for the children too. I wanted our home to feel relaxed yet still look special.”

H&G

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