

These pages, from left The front sitting room retains its original decorative ceiling and marble fireplace but is now open to the front garden. The Cassina 'Utrecht' chairs were in the owner's previous home upholstered in bright colours, now repurposed in white. The vintage burl coffee table was sourced by Juliette and Sarah-Jane in Paris. Sika Design 'Charlottenborg' chair from Domo with cushion from Montmartre. Anna Charlesworth chandelier. 'Herodotus' shelving by Daniel Barbera. Rug from Tibet Sydney. Artwork by Hannah Nowlan. Ceramics on fireplace from Studio Cavit and Conley & Co. Tray and suede box on coffee table from Ondene, and vessel from Conley & Co. On the verandah, 'Cork' stool from Robert Plumb.



The past and present are artfully united in this reimagined family home where heritage features are celebrated with contemporary flair.

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This page, clockwise from top The casual living room leads out to the garden and pool. A DePadova 'Yak' sofa from Boffi and a Minotti 'Aston' sofa from De De Ce surround a De La Espada 'Kim' bench by Nichetto from Spence & Lyda and a Baxter 'Loren' side table. Cushions from Manyara Home and Tigger Hall Design. Rug from Halcyon Lake. Curtains by Simple Studio. Ceramics from Planet and The DEA Store. The dining area has a walnut table by Mads Johansen with Gemla chairs from Great Dane and a 'Segovia' rug from Robyn Cosgrove, all under an Akari '75A' pendant light by Isamu Noguchi. Baxter 'Phoenix' stool from Criteria. Artworks by John Papas (left) and Julian Meagher. Glassware on table from Great Dane. Vessels from The DEA Store, Great Dane and McMullin & Co. **Opposite page** All on a rug from Halcyon Lake, DePadova 'Yak' sofa from Boffi, Minotti 'Aston' sofa from De De Ce, De La Espada 'Kim' bench by Nichetto from Spence & Lyda and Baxter 'Loren' side table. Artwork by Laura Jones. Decorative mobile on fireplace from Curatorial+Co. Vessel beside fireplace from Ondene.

Bringing a century-old house into a new era to embrace the current way of life is no mean feat but it is something that architect Ben Vitale and interior designers Arent&Pyke do on a regular basis. To wit, this California bungalow in Sydney's eastern suburbs which now boasts a relaxed contemporary ambience and offers easy living for a family of four.

The owners were living nearby when this house came on the market offering a block with great potential. They had long admired its heritage facade and the towering gum tree in the front garden. Familiar with the area's attractions they were keen to stay local and fashion an abode to suit their needs.

Impressed by Ben Vitale's designs and having worked with Juliette Arent and Sarah-Jane Pyke on their previous home, the owners had the dream team in their sights. Their desire was for a functional, spacious and relaxed home filled with natural light, and with contemporary detailing framed by the historic features. Vitale Design and Arent&Pyke collaborated on the plans from the outset ensuring the interior functionality matched the exterior presentation.

While additional space was a key requirement, the original house was in a reasonable state and possessed attractive heritage characteristics. However, says Ben, "It lacked natural light and had >



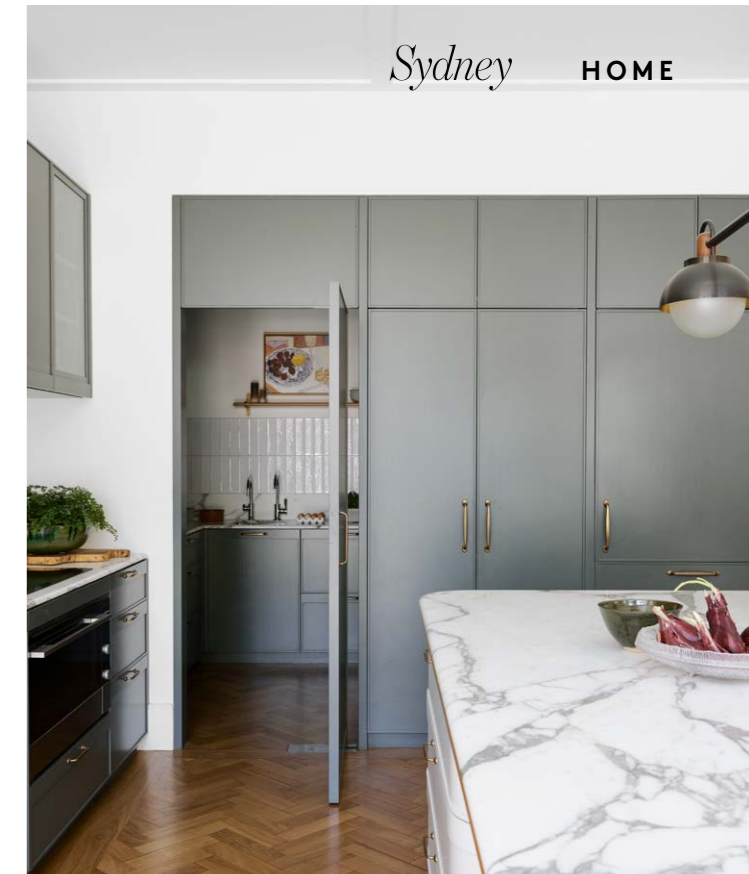
« no link to the rear garden. The bedrooms were small and the laundry was the size of a cupboard! The connection between rooms was awkward and there was a serious lack of storage.»

Situated on a sloping site the decision was to use the incline to create extra living and sleeping areas. The house is now spread over three storeys with bedrooms, living, dining, kitchen and entertaining area on the entry level, leading to the garage and pool. Upstairs has the master bedroom suite and library cleverly set into the existing roofline, while the lower ground level, felicitously lined in sandstone, houses a laundry and wine cellar plus abundant storage.

Linking the levels with a statement staircase was the starting point of Ben's design. "The staircase with its sculptural handrail not only provides the

vertical connection between all levels but allows an amazing injection of sunlight into the centre of the structure," he explains. The curved handrail speaks to the arched windows seen throughout the home, forming a consistent theme.

The house transitions neatly from formal and historic at the front to relaxed and contemporary at the back. Arched architraves and panelled, coffered ceilings are the architectural language in the original part of the house, streamlined and repeated in arched doors in the new extension. Marrying the two scenes was achieved by a palette of enduring finishes including herringbone parquetry in tallowwood, Vigo Lena and Arabescato Vagli marbles, and tactile upholstery. Onto this base, Arent&Pyke layered graphic furniture pieces and adroitly placed the »



**This page, clockwise from top left** The kitchen joinery is by Adam Standfield Cabinet Making and hand-painted in Dulux 'Juvenile' with an Arabescato Vagli marble benchtop. Ceramics from Planet, Conley & Co and Manyara Home. The butler's pantry is discreetly positioned. Black bowl on benchtop from Ondene. Vase from Great Dane. Glassware from Spence & Lyda. Outdoor chairs by Le Forge with Arent&Pyke custom cushions. Side table from Grazia&Co.

**Opposite page** The kitchen was designed to be functional as well as beautiful. The joinery by Adam Standfield Cabinet Making is hand-painted in Dulux 'Juvenile' with the island in Dulux 'Palace Stone' on a tallowwood base. Arabescato Vagli marble benchtop and splashback. Perrin & Rowe tapware. '3 Arc Island' pendant and '1 Arc' wall sconce by Allied Maker. Gemla 'HOF' bar stools from Great Dane. Curtains in Belgian linen by Simple Studio. Walnut dining table by Mads Johansen from Great Dane with Gemla dining chairs.





« owners' extensive collection of Australian art. This seamless transition between old and new as well as between indoors and out promotes an atmosphere of harmony and tranquillity, while the earthy tones mixed with off-white create the sense of a calm retreat.

As a keen cook the owner placed a lot of importance on the kitchen design and the Arent&Pyke team delivered in spades. "We had been doing a lot of strong-coloured kitchens which the owner liked and so we used a dark grey for the cabinetry," says Sarah-Jane. A particular wish was to have a large, robust bench space that could double as a secondary dining table. "With two young boys the house seems to always be filled with their friends and the owner loves to entertain."

The connection between indoors and out was also a significant element in the home's redesign as the couple have a love of plants and gardening. The arched doorways and feature windows offer leafy vignettes at every turn. Inside, the owner's green thumb is evident with thriving plants really bringing the house to life, while the colour palette of eucalyptus greys and greens references nature. "They're tonal chameleon colours," says Sarah-Jane, "quite soft and very Australian, with the off-whites to break them up."

For the owner the house is just as she hoped. "We wanted Arent&Pyke to work their magic, which they did! It feels young and playful – perfect for a family home with two young boys, a dog, two cats, a cockatoo and a lizard! We absolutely adore the house and will be happy here for many years to come."

And the towering gum tree that so attracted the owners to the property initially is still in situ and admired daily through the new glass front door. [arentpyke.com](http://arentpyke.com); [vitaldesign.com.au](http://vitaldesign.com.au)



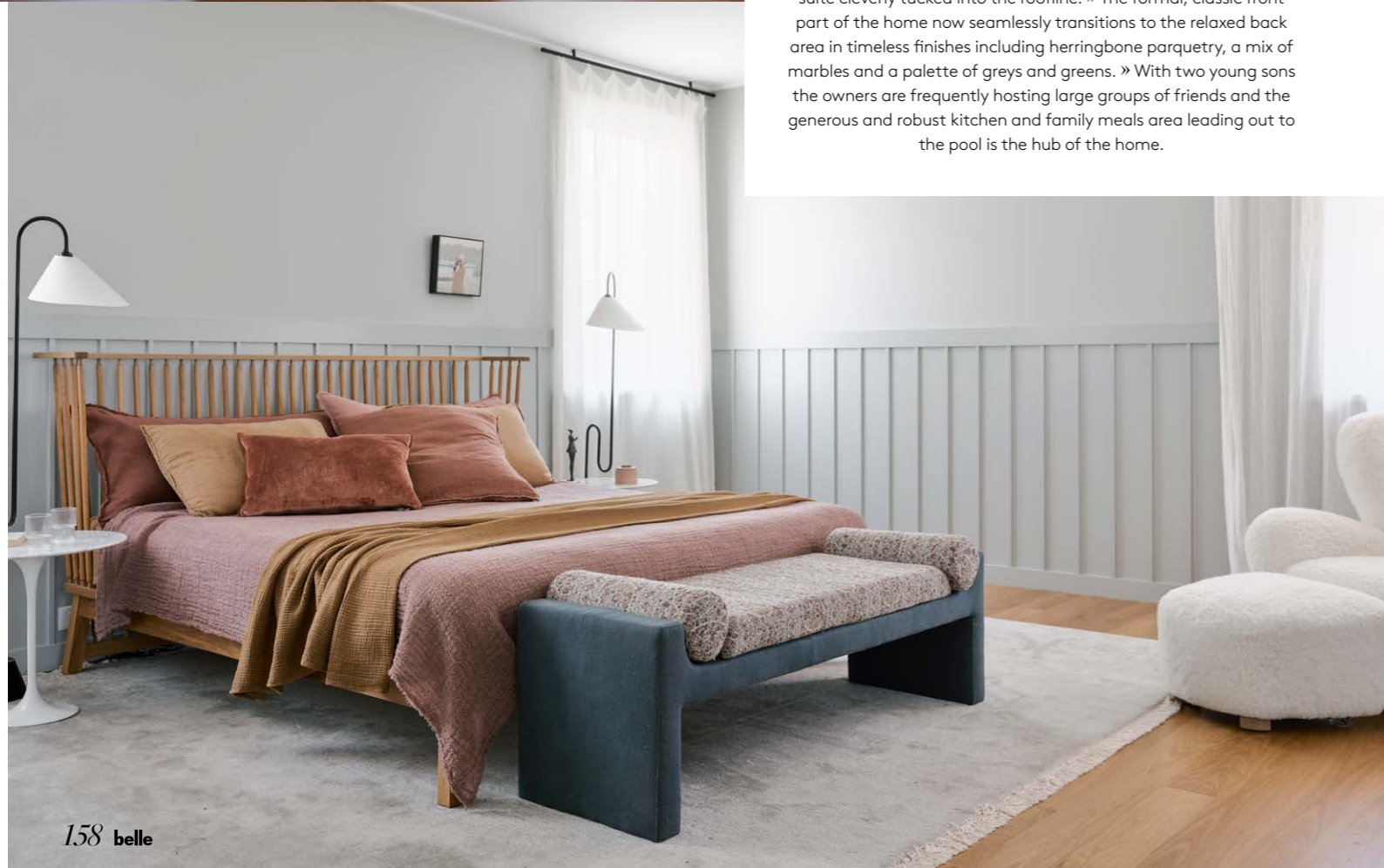
"It feels young and playful – perfect for a family home with two young boys, a dog, two cats, a cockatoo and a lizard!"

**This page** A custom bedhead and window seat by Arent&Pyke in the second bedroom. Cushions from Montmartre. Society Limonta bed linen from Ondene. Side table from Domo. Curtains by Simple Studio. Akari '75A' pendant light by Isamu Noguchi. Sisal rug from Natural Floorcoverings. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** The study has joinery in American oak with wall upholstery in rust-coloured Kvadrat felt. Hay 'About a Chair' swivel chair in leather from Cult. Tolomeo wall light. Rug by Halcyon Lake. Ceramics from Curatorial+Co, Planet, The DEA Store and Utopia Gallery. Glassware from Great Dane. The powder room has hexagonal mosaic tiles from Olde English Tiles and a shower seat in tallowwood. Astra Walker accessories. Stool from Cult. Towel from Oliver Thom.



**SPEED READ**

» A California bungalow in Sydney's east has been reimagined as a contemporary family home by Vitale Design and Arent&Pyke without losing any of its heritage charm. » Spread over three levels the home offers spacious accommodation and living areas but does not compromise the bungalow's appearance, with the master suite cleverly tucked into the roofline. » The formal, classic front part of the home now seamlessly transitions to the relaxed back area in timeless finishes including herringbone parquet, a mix of marbles and a palette of greys and greens. » With two young sons the owners are frequently hosting large groups of friends and the generous and robust kitchen and family meals area leading out to the pool is the hub of the home.



This page and opposite top right The master bathroom has an Agape 'Ottocento' bathtub from Artedomus, grey stone mosaic tiles from Bisanna and a custom mirrored cabinet with burnished brass edge by Adam Standfield Cabinet Making. Joinery hand-painted in Dulux 'Whitsunday Island' with Vigo Lena marble benchtop from Artedomus. Tapware and accessories from Astra Walker. Stool, bathrobe and caddy from Oliver Thom. **Opposite page, top left** The walk-in robe has custom drawers by Arent&Pyke. 'Arc Well' pendant light by Allied Maker. Sculpture from Studio Cavit and vase from Spence & Lyda. **Bottom** The master bedroom has a De La Espada bed with bed linen from Ondene and Hale Mercantile Co. Maison de Vacances cushions from Tigger Hall Design. Knoll Saarinen 'Tulip' side tables from De De Ce with ClassiCon 'Roattino' floor lamps from Anibou. Sculpture from Studio Cavit. Vessel from Oliver Thom. Custom bench seat by Arent&Pyke. Custom rug from Tappeti. By Lassen 'The Tired Man' chair and footstool in sheepskin from Fred International. Walls painted in Dulux 'Spanish Olive'.

