

Past mastery

Words JUDY PASCOE Photography ANSON SMART Styling OLGA LEWIS

Arent&Pyke has the knack of mixing styles and eras with the greatest of ease, as evidenced by this inventive re-imagining of a Federation home for a vibrant young family.



This page A breakfast nook at one end of the kitchen is the perfect spot for coffee, homework or a glass of wine before dinner, say the designers. "It's a versatile and intimate area, still connected to the action." The custom leather-upholstered banquette with linen cushions is set into a sea-green stained timber frame. The clients' existing table was an appropriate fit for the space, paired with Artek '611' chairs from Anibou. An Astep 'VV Cinquanta' suspension pendant light from Mobilia is a dramatic addition. Santamargherita terrazzo in Rosa del Garda from Classic Tiles and Ananke marble from Euro Natural Stone are used to great effect in the kitchen. On the bench is an artwork by Seth Birchall from Sullivan+Strumpf. Vase from The DEA Store. Wooden bowl on table from Ondene. Opposite page Above an original marble fireplace hangs an artwork by Barbara Kitallides from Curatorial+Co. Tom Dixon glass bowl from Living Edge.



This page An Ingo Maurer 'Floatation' suspension light from Space hangs above the 'Tree' dining table with bronze legs from Great Dane. Carl Hansen & Søn 'CH24 Wishbone' chairs from Cult. An Astep 'VV Cinquanta' suspension light from Mobilia hangs above the breakfast nook that has the clients' existing table paired with Artek '611' chairs from Anibou. 'Komm' wooden bowl by Michaël Verheyden from Ondene. The kitchen is layered in a mix of Santamargherita Rosa del Garda terrazzo from Classic Tiles and Ananke marble from Euro Natural Stone. Artwork is by Seth Birchall from Sullivan+Strumpf. Vase from The DEA Store. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** The casual living and dining area flows from the kitchen. 'Tree' table from Great Dane. 'Wishbone' chairs from Cult. Sancal 'Elephant' stool from Ke-Zu. Artwork on the right wall is *Sur Names* by Mitch Cairns from The Commercial. A Turkish oushak rug from Tigmi Trading anchors the casual living room. A 'Sunny' sofa in Indigo linen from Jordan is matched with a DePadova 'Yak' armchair from Boffi and a vintage coffee table from Conley & Co. A 'Song' armchair from Maker&Son sits by the fireplace on the Turkish oushak rug from Tigmi Trading. *Or Your Shadow Rising to Meet You 1* by Amanda Williams from The Commercial hangs behind.



This delightful family home in Sydney's inner west goes by the sobriquet 'Layer Cake', inspired by the interwoven elements that bind its heritage and contemporary architecture together. The icing on the cake, therefore, is surely the vision that designers Arent&Pyke brought to the project, to create a warm, stylish, light-filled haven for a family with three young children.

Putting a contemporary slant on a Federation-era house without losing its intrinsic nature is a delicate art, but Juliette Arent and Sarah-Jane Pyke, along with design director Genevieve Hromas, finessed it to perfection, having become specialists in re-imagining heritage homes for modern living. They bring a bold perspective and inventive personality to each project, energising and invigorating them for a new generation.

This home, on a large corner block, was renovated and extended by architects Carter Williamson in 2020, adding a second-storey master bedroom, ensuite and walk-in robe, and increasing the footprint downstairs with a new kitchen, casual living and dining leading to the garden and new pool. Arent&Pyke was consulted initially on interior architecture and furnishing plans as the owners were keen for the modern addition to respond sensitively to the Federation elements.

The now four-bedroom-plus-study home "was full of charm from a bygone era", says Juliette, and the heritage features – decorative pressed-metal ceilings, timber fretwork and leadlight windows – were integral to that charm. However, to >



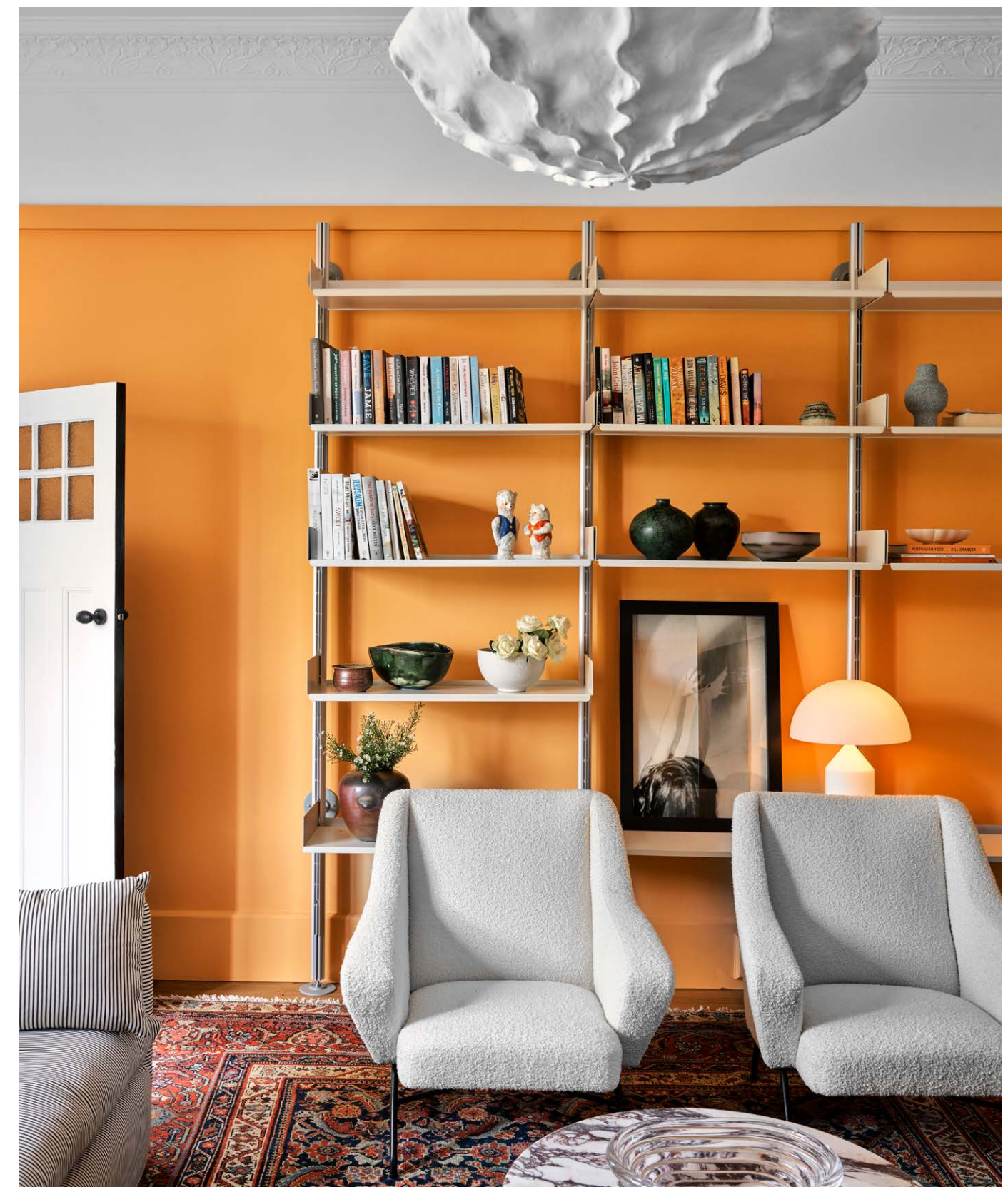
These pages, from left The formal lounge is painted a sunny yellow. 'Cleo' sofa from Jordan and vintage Danish armchairs from Grandfather's Axe with a scalloped oval stone and timber coffee table from Zuster. Aerin 'Benit' sculpted pendant light from The Montauk Lighting Co. Antique Malayer Persian rug from 1stdibs. Vitsoe shelving unit with Oluce 'Atollo' table lamp from EuroLuce. Framed artwork in bookshelf is *Or Your Shadow Rising to Meet You 4* by Amanda Williams from The Commercial.

« seamlessly unite the old and new, the home called for “layers of colour, materiality and fine craftsmanship. There is a richness to the use of colour and materiality that evokes the masterful and balanced layering of a fine *pâtissier*,” explains Sarah-Jane. As the home was also designed to accommodate festivities with extended family the notion of cakes was top of mind for the designers.

With that, an assortment of corresponding materials and bold colour choices became the driving force throughout the project, creating a dynamic backdrop to busy family life. The

selection of pink terrazzo in the kitchen was key “as that rich hue set the tone for the rest of the house in terms of intensity and warmth”, explains Juliette.

Elsewhere, the formal lounge sings with an inviting, sunny deep-yellow shade, and a seating nook in the kitchen is finished in sea-green stained timber with a caramel leather banquette. “Colour acts as a guide throughout, leading from the original rooms into the extension,” says Sarah-Jane. “The boldness of the schemes is testament to our clients, who were excited to lean into these combinations. The home vibrates with energy.” »



This page In the hallway is a vintage Turkish oushak runner from 1stdibs. Custom console in oak from Zuster with Oko Olo handles. Artwork is *Untitled* 2017-2018 by Patrick Hartigan from The Commercial. Vase from Becker Minty. 'Four-bowl' pendant light from Anna Charlesworth. **Opposite page** A Gubi 'Beetle' swivel chair from Cult sits at the 'Contour' desk in smoked oak from Zuster. Artwork by Nathan Hawkes from Chalk Horse. Aerin 'Benit' sculpted pendant light from The Montauk Lighting Co. Vintage handmade rug from 1stdibs. In the sunroom beyond are 'Pretzel' armchairs from Atelier.



SPEED READ

» Design practice Arent&Pyke was charged with creating a contemporary interior to complement a Federation-era house in Sydney's inner west. » A new upstairs addition and downstairs extension gave the home more space and opportunity for its young family occupants. » Maintaining the heritage features such as the leadlight windows and decorative pressed-metal ceilings, Arent&Pyke introduced a curated mix of pieces against a backdrop of rich layers of colour and texture to provide a vibrant environment that reflects the owners' lifestyle and interests and brings the home into a new era.



This page, clockwise from top left in the ensuite bathroom Ananke marble from Euro Natural Stone was selected for the benchtop with Italian terrazzo used for the floors. 'Petal' wall light from Studio & Co. Handmade 'Casa' tiles from Onsite clad the shower wall. Sika Design 'Charlottenborg' armchair from Domo in a corner of a bedroom with Serax 'Pawn' side table from Finnish Design Shop. The children's bedroom is enlivened by custom bedheads in Edit 'Vases' fabric. MD House 'Vertex' bedside tables from Fanuli with Jaime Hayon lamps from Cult. Kundalini 'Kushi' suspension light from Radiant Lighting. Tappeti custom rug. **Opposite page** The main bedroom has a custom bedhead upholstered in Studio Four NYC 'Grove Citron' linen. 'Profile' bedside tables in American oak from Zuster with ceramic lamps from Sarah Nedovic Gaunt.



« To parallel the Arts and Crafts character, contemporary materials have been combined with detailed craftsmanship in herringbone floors and fluted joinery, nail-raked rendering and fine timber battening on the ceilings. "These features subtly add depth and complexity throughout the addition and renovated wet areas, providing a nod to the ornate treatment of surfaces in the older rooms," says Juliette.

Balancing the light between the old and new parts of the home proved to be a challenge, but opening up the sunroom at the front – now framed with timber fretwork and salvaged brackets in keeping with the original detailing – allows light to flood into the study and entry. In the extension, a double-height void bathes the dining area and casual living space in a sunny glow and helps to brighten all the downstairs rooms.

Decorative flourishes are many and come by way of vintage Turkish oushak rugs and Persian carpets that anchor the schemes in the living areas, sculptural lamps by Sarah Nedovic Gaunt and Jaime Hayon, and standout light fittings by Noguchi, Ingo Maurer, Michael Anastassiades and Anna Charlesworth. Furniture includes cushiony sofas, vintage pieces such as the Danish armchairs in the formal lounge room and design classics

such as Artek '611' and Carl Hansen & Søn 'Wishbone' dining chairs, along with custom-designed items and artworks.

It's the details that beguile at every turn – the terrazzo tiling in the enclosed verandah burnished by the afternoon sunlight, the sweep of a linen curtain on herringbone floorboards, the texture of a French rattan wall light in the laundry, the bedheads upholstered in whimsical fabrics, featuring Provençal lemons or painterly vase shapes – and all the while the contemporary elements are both contrasting with and complementing the heritage features.

This is a stylish family home where memories are being made, where convivial gatherings are easily accommodated, cascading out to the garden and pool. "Flow, connection to the outdoors and intimate moments are all accounted for," says Sarah-Jane. "It is so satisfying to see how a space comes to life and is enjoyed by the family – the ease, the joy, the connection it creates."

The judicious mix of contemporary and heritage elements in the richly layered scheme serves to enhance the occupants' lives by surrounding them with beauty but without any sacrifice of functionality. 15

arentpyke.com; carterwilliamson.com