

# Inner glow

Reinvigorated for robust family living, this Sydney house has a soft centre that is warm and nurturing encased in its crisp architectural lines.



Words **JUDY PASCOE** Photography **PRUE RUSCOE** Styling **CLAIRE DELMAR**



**This page** Landscape designer Myles Baldwin revamped the garden. Arflex 'Marengo' outdoor armchair from Space. Yellow 'Dama' side table from Poliform. Hay 'Palissade' sunlounger and lounge chair from Cult. 'Remnants Collection' marble side tables from Spence & Lyda. **Opposite page** The sunken living area is the heart of the home with its built-in curved sofa upholstered in 'Pebble Wool' in Birch from Kvadrat Maharam. Walls painted in Dulux 'Bread Crumb'. Moroso 'Gogan' coffee table with Calacatta marble top from Mobilia. Linen cushion from Polite Society. On table, round plate by Ricca Okano from The DEA Store, vase by Elaine Kim, jug by Ella Tindal, round plate (right) by Tenshin Juba from Fineworks Paddington. Artwork is by Gregory Hodge from Sullivan+Strumpf. ANDlight 'Vale Series' wall lights from Koda. Rug from Tappeti.

With its warm colour palette and welcoming open fireplace at its heart, this home on Sydney's lower north shore lives up to its appellation, *Hearth house*. Reimagined by designers Juliette Arent and Sarah-Jane Pyke of Arent&Pyke and architect Luigi Rosselli the former Federation house retains little of its last-century attributes but looks to a bright, dynamic future.

When the owners bought the house some years ago it had already undergone a renovation in the early 2000s, but it was not conducive to the contemporary lifestyle requirements of a family of six, lacking a cohesive flow or any separate areas for the teenage sons to entertain friends. In addition, a recreational computer room was needed as well as a shared study for the parents. Engaged for a redesign, architect Luigi Rosselli strove to honour the previous

renovation by Virginia Kerridge and reconfigured the existing floor plan to offer the family more amenity, rather than increasing the footprint. He added a new balcony at the front of the house leading off the master bedroom that enhances the shingle and sandstone facade. Two bedrooms and a formal lounge near the entry were converted to a lounge and pool room for the teenagers that opens to the garden, and all sleeping quarters were relocated upstairs. A sunken lounge with an open fireplace was cleverly crafted from the former enclosed garage that had separated the old and new parts of the house. It now serves as the focal point of family life, connecting with the kitchen and dining area as well as the pool and garden updated by landscape architect Myles Baldwin. Within the revitalised structure Arent&Pyke then set to work on the interior architecture and design, adding their special magic. >

These pages, clockwise from left The kitchen and dining area leads to the garden and pool, the scene of frequent gatherings of family and friends. Stained timber veneer cabinetry in Resene 'Limed Ash'. 'Shape Up' pendant light by Ladies & Gentlemen Studio from Space. 'Naylor' walnut table from Made Studio with 'Manta' chairs from Poliform. Knoll 'Wassily' chair from De De Ce. Blu Dot stool from Ondene. Bronze bowl and green vase by Kelly Brown Ceramics, Saishiki square plate by Tetsuya Kowari, and bowl and vase by Ricca Okano, all from The DEA Store. Artwork by Ella Dunn and 'Speckled Wave' vase by Katie Manekshaw from Saint Cloche. Terrazzo floor tiles from Signorino with border in Fibonacci 'Polarity' terrazzo from Di Lorenzo. Mattiazzi 'Branca' bar stool from District. 'Where the Creeks Meet' vase by Timna Taylor and bowl by Ricca Okano from The DEA Store. Cast bronze handles by Daniel Barbera. Medulla granite benchtop from Granite & Marble Works. Island dining top in Pyrolave 'Blanc de Chine'. In the hallway 'Arc Well Sconce' by Allied Maker. Reuber Henning carpet runners from Halcyon Lake. Opt Studios 'Contained Abstractions' stool from Ondene.



**This page** The dining area looking towards the sunken living room. 'Shape Up' pendant light by Ladies & Gentlemen Studio from Space. 'Naylor' table from Made Studio and 'Manta' dining chairs from Poliform. Bronze bowl and green vase by Kelly Brown Ceramics and Saishiki square plate by Tetsuya Kowari from The DEA Store. Mattiazzi 'Branca' counter stool from District. Kitchen bench in Medulla granite from Granite & Marble Works. Island dining top in Pyrolave 'Blanc de Chine'. Terrazzo floor tiles from Signorino. Artwork by Gregory Hodge from Sullivan+Strumpf. **ANDlight** 'Vale Series' wall light from Koda. Wall in fluted travertine tiles from Surface Gallery. **Opposite page** The fireplace in fluted travertine tiles from Surface Gallery is the focal point of the sunken lounge. Moroso 'Gogan' coffee tables with Calacatta marble top and glass top from Mobilia. Round plate by Ricca Okano from The DEA Store. Vase by Elaine Kim. Jug by Ella Tindal. Round plate by Tenshin Juba from Fineworks Paddington. Sofa upholstered in 'Pebble Wool' in Birch from Kvadrat Maharam. 'Sienna Plateau' cocktail table by Studio Raw Material from Moebel. Hem 'Lolly' side table from District with stoneware vase by Kate Dorrough from Arthouse Gallery.



« While curves and angles are the language of this house the punctuation points come from colour and texture. The designers settled on a palette of gentle terracotta and clay with accents of shoreline blues, giving the home a richly cocooning vibe. Shades that are variously described as 'biscuit', 'nougat', 'melting toffee' and 'pale wheat' conjure a delicious concoction. In addition, bronze stair balusters are entwined with 'olive leather', the young daughter's ensuite bathroom is sheathed in 'antique rose and deep maroon' and 'sharp minty shades' enliven the powder room.

The original timber flooring in the old part of the house has been retained but contemporised with an ebony stain that contrasts with the white walls as well as with the terrazzo flooring in the new addition with its dappled grey flecks and dark borders that define the kitchen and dining area. Texture and tone add another layer of intrigue, whether with the raffia wallpaper in the main bedroom and the crackle glaze of the Pyrolave family dining table or the fluted travertine surrounds of the fireplace and the nubby sofa fabrics.

With the clients' love for entertaining, it was a given that the kitchen would receive special attention and it is a veritable symphony of materials with the white ash timber veneer joinery supporting an exceptional benchtop comprising a granite envelope encasing a travertine layer trimmed with a strip of brushed »



This page The house retains the traditional shingles and sandstone foundations with new steel-framed doors linking inside and out. Arflex 'Marengo', outdoor armchair from Space with yellow 'Dama' coffee table from Poliform. Hay 'Palissade' lounge chairs from Cult with 'Remnants Collection' marble side table from Spence & Lyda. Opposite page, clockwise from top left The kitchen and dining area have easy access to the pool and garden. Knoll 'Wassily' chairs in canvas from De De Ce with Blu Dot stool from Ondene. Malfy umbrella in Sandstone from MCM House. 'Shape Up' pendant light by Ladies & Gentlemen Studio from Space over a 'Naylor' table from Made Studio and 'Manta' dining chairs from Poliform. Terrazzo floor tiles from Sigdrino. The pool was resized to allow more garden space which was redesigned by Myles Baldwin.



« stainless steel that echoes in the kickboards and drawer pulls. The nearby dining table is illuminated by a spectacular modular pendant light by New York company Ladies & Gentlemen Studio that combines abstracted forms and counterbalances allowing it to be raised above head height when the table is removed for a party.

But it is the sunken lounge that really creates a vibe in the home. Says Sarah-Jane, “This space is flooded with so much light we were worried that it might be too bright but the colour on the walls and ceiling, Dulux ‘Bread Crumb’, allows the light to resonate in the space and it just glows. It feels so warm and nurturing with the plush carpet underfoot and the curved built-in sofa.”

With the rest of the home being quite architectural and with crisp white elements predominating in the entry and stair void this space creates a calming pause, though a jolt of dynamic energy is provided by a recently acquired artwork by Gregory Hodge.

Shapes are replicated throughout – Daniel Barbera’s pebble pulls in the kitchen echoing the biomorphic outlines of the living room’s occasional tables, the organically curved built-in lounge mirroring the concave fireplace and the concave curves of the marble-topped vanities in the children’s bathrooms providing a further link.

The owners were true collaborators in the project with Sarah-Jane saying, “They were so interested in the creative process and so enthusiastic and open to all our ideas.” The home now offers them practical yet beautiful surroundings in which to conduct their daily activities and for that they say they are extremely grateful. “We love that the house is completely unique to us. It is easy and no fuss to live in and looks ready for a party or friends dropping in any time. One of the best things is that it isn’t precious at all – it’s always full of teenagers, pets, and a constant flow of family and friends. We absolutely love living here.” [arentpyke.com](http://arentpyke.com); [luigrosselli.com](http://luigrosselli.com); [mylesbaldwin.com](http://mylesbaldwin.com); [kimm.com.au](http://kimm.com.au)



This page On the desk in the study, ‘Bohan Lamp’ from Rachel Donath and Tenshin Juba plate from Fineworks Paddington. A USM Haller storage unit in Beige from Anibou is topped with vases by Elaine Kim (left) and Katie Manekshaw from The DEA Store. On first shelf, far right, grouped cobalt and white porcelain artwork, *Approach* by Kirsten Coelho from Sullivan+Strumpf. On middle shelf, left, Komm marble bowls by Michaël Verheyden from Ondene; second from left, cup by Ricca Okanu from The DEA Store; far right, Sticky Glass tall cup from District. Other ceramics include pieces from The DEA Store. Opposite page, from top A Herman Miller ‘Cosm’ chair from Living Edge sits on a custom rug from Tibet Sydney. ‘Dish’ pendant light by Anna Charlesworth. Artwork, client’s own. Curtains by Simple Studio. A new stairway was designed to link the levels. Handrail wrapped in Bio-Pelle leather in Arid from Pelle Leathers. Custom stair runner by Halcyon Lake. In the living room, ‘Thursday’ sofa from Jordan upholstered in S. Harris ‘Fernroot Tamarind’. Custom ottomans by Arent&Pyke in Groundworks ‘Verse’ in Clay/Gris and Maharam ‘Steep’ leather with custom Arent&Pyke ‘U’ table. Dimoremilano ‘Razionalista’ soft armchair from Moebel. Serax ‘Pawn’ side table from Becker Minty with ceramic cup by Vivienne Hill from The DEA Store. Flos ‘Bellhop’ floor lamp from Euroluce. Kulchi rug. *Mawanji Springs* artwork by Henry Wambiny. *Pruning Pot with Branches* vase by Glenn Barkley from Sullivan+Strumpf. Terracotta vase by Christophe Delcourt from Ondene.

**SPEED READ**

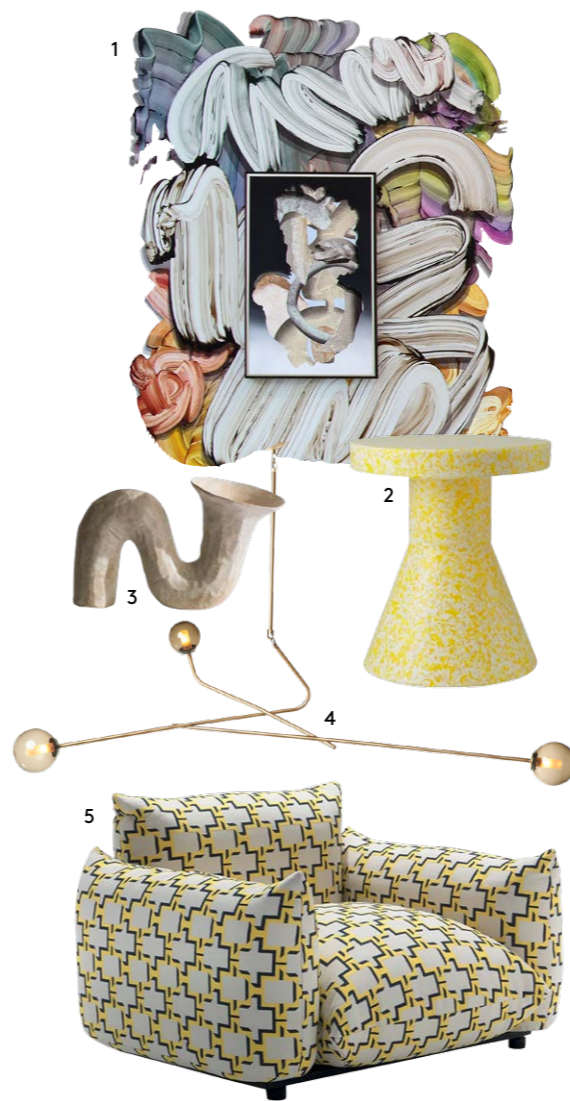
» A family of six purchased a Federation-era house on Sydney's lower north shore that had undergone an extensive renovation in the early 2000s, but they discovered that the house lacked the amenity for contemporary living. » They engaged architect Luigi Rosselli to reconfigure the spaces to make them more functional and attractive, which he achieved without extending the footprint. » The house now has all the living areas on the ground floor, including breakout spaces for the teenagers, and the bedrooms have been relocated upstairs. » Interior architects and designers Arent&Pyke crafted a warm and cocooning palette of terracottas, clays and biscuit shades spliced with blue tones that backdrops a sophisticated inventory of furniture and lighting. » The hub of the house is the sunken lounge with its fireplace and curved, built-in sofa that connects with the kitchen and dining area as well as the garden and pool.



**This page, clockwise from top** The daughter's bathroom has Norwegian Rose marble tiles and vanity top from Granite & Marble Works. Wall finish in microcement render in Petale by Idea Creations. Ceramic cup by Vivienne Hill from The DEA Store. Floor tiles from Surface Gallery. Towels from Polite Society. Vessels in niche (left) from Lakshmi and (right) from Grandfather's Axe. One of the boys' bedrooms has a custom bedhead by Arent&Pyke in Dulux 'Oriental Spice'. USM Haller bedside tables in Beige from Anibou with Anglepoise 'Type 75 Paul Smith Edition' desk lamp from Cult and Artemide 'Tizio 35' lamp from Stylecraft. Linen cushion and checked tablecloth (as bedcover) from Montmartre Store. 'Agra' rug in Marlin from Armadillo. Artworks, *Finke River Study* and *Funeral Gathering/White Bed Sheet* by Lauren O'Connor from Arthouse Gallery. **Opposite page, from top** The main bedroom has Phillip Jeffries 'Island Raffia' wallpaper from South Pacific Fabrics behind the bed. Custom bedhead by Arent&Pyke in Filippo Uecker 'Scapiigliata' in Light Grey. Custom bedside tables by Arent&Pyke with Wästberg lamps in brass from Euroluca. Dimoremilano 'Razionalista' soft armchair from Moebel. Escape Velour wool carpet in Missy from SuperTuft. Leather bowl from Provider Store. Vase by Suvira McDonald from The DEA Store. Cushion from Polite Society. *Untitled (rock) 2018* artwork by Deborah Russell. The main ensuite has a vanity in European white ash with top and bath surround in Oriana marble from Granite & Marble Works and floor tiles from Onsite. Wall finish in microcement render in Opale by Idea Creations. 'Metropol' wall light by Rakumba. 'Teti' occasional table from Cult. Towels from Polite Society. Vase by Toru Hatta from The DEA Store.



**5**  
SIGNATURE STYLE  
**KEY PIECES**



1 *Figure 1*, 2019 artwork by Gregory Hodge, \$27,000, from Sullivan+Strumpf. 2 Normann Copenhagen 'Bit' cone stool, \$464, from Farfetch. 3 'Trumpet' glazed vase by Kirsten Perry, \$3000, from Saint Cloche. 4 De La Espada 'Lattice' pendant light by Neri & Hu, from \$13,895, from Spence & Lyda. 5 Arflex 'Marenco' outdoor armchair, from \$9740, from Space.



4

ARCHITECT  
*Luigi Rosselli Architects*  
INTERIOR DESIGNER  
*Arent&Pyke*

COLOUR WASH

[ Sydney ]



Words  
STEPHANIE HOPE  
Photography  
PRUE RUSCOE  
Styling  
CLAIRE DELMAR

**THE LONG-AWAITED** renovation of a Federation home in Sydney's North Shore saw convivial warmth and easy interaction given top priority. For this colourful powder room, the product of a close collaboration between Sarah-Jane Pyke and Juliette Arent of Arent&Pyke and Luigi Rosselli Architects, the modular, mint-hued stone vanity feels fresh and modern, with the same stone used in borders and skirtings as a contrast to the grey speckled terrazzo floors. "Microcement washes the walls, adding texture to the space and allowing the soft grey saturation to soak up the light streaming in," says Sarah-Jane. *What luxury items did you choose for this bathroom regardless of budget?* "The Beauty Green marble was a necessary luxury alongside the vintage scalloped Murano glass sconce. Together, these two elements marry the home's old and new areas through a subtle pairing of materials and colour." [arentpyke.com](http://arentpyke.com); [luigirosselliarchitects.com](http://luigirosselliarchitects.com)

**Builder/joiner** Kinn Construction. **Wall finish** Microcement render. **Flooring** Terrazzo tiles with a honed finish from Signorino. **Basin** Custom stone basin in Beauty Green with a honed finish. **Tapware** 'Yokato' basin mixer set in Polished Nickel from Brodware. **Mirror** Maison Sarah Lavoine mirror. **Towel rail** 'Yokato' single towel rail in Polished Nickel from Brodware. **Lighting** Vintage Vistosi disc and Murano glass wall light from 1stDibs. **Accessories** Sticky Glass green vase from District. Aperitivo bowl stand from Alex and Trahanas. Hand towel from Loom Towels.

3  
SIGNATURE STYLE  
KEY PIECES



1 Light green and ice blue Murano glass, \$145, from Sunnei.  
2 Vintage Italian Murano chandelier, approx. \$1605, from 1stDibs. 3 'Apple Green' marble, POA, from Signorino.

