

GOOD VINTAGE

Left to languish for decades, this period home in Sydney has been reawakened for family living with a sensitive renovation.

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*These pages The Peter
Fudge-designed gardens,
featuring sculptures and
architectural plantings,
make a perfect complement
to the heritage home.*





This page: A Jacques Garcia 'Lucky' pedestal table base from Covit & Co is topped with honed Calacatta marble. Vernian 'Isabella' chairs from Covit & Co. Serge Mouille three-arm standing lamp. Opposite page: In the study is a desk made by Artifex. 'Dorje' wool/silk rug from Tibet Sydney. Walls are painted in Dulux 'Wistow'. Artwork above fireplace is *The Yellow Room* by Margaret Olley. The painting beside the bookcase is by Carl Plate.



INTERIOR DESIGNER MERYL HARE has been on a creative journey with the owners of this historic house in leafy Mosman on Sydney's lower north shore. This is the third house she has undertaken for them after completing the interiors of their former Mosman home and their holiday house at Palm Beach.

The owners added to the talented design line-up with Linda James, a building designer with extensive experience in adapting heritage houses, and landscape designer Peter Fudge when they embarked on the extensive renovations of their Federation house. An early 1900s building, it had been through various incarnations from girls' school to a cursing home and finally a run-down rental. "The couple gave us a comprehensive brief after completing the homework I set for them – flipping through interior design books," says Meryl, "to supply us with a visual brief of 'likes' and 'don't likes'."

The house had a number of poky rooms that didn't flow, so Linda's design entailed removing walls and adding glass entry doors to enhance the feeling of space and to make the new areas generous enough for a family of five plus guests.

The verandah off the kitchen was enlarged and numerous outdoor spaces created. The owners say they once had two teenage parties at the same time, with neither group crossing paths. One son entertained his friends poolside, while their daughter and friends socialised on another terrace, complete with a Robert Plumb 'Brad Pitt' fire pit for burning redundant HSC books. A seamless addition, containing a gym, laundry and bathroom, was designed by Linda in such a way as to make it difficult to tell where the old house ends and the new wing begins.

An extensive European sourcing trip by the owners and Hare-Klein unearthed many pieces for the new interior. Another focus was to source furniture and art for a collection that would one day pass to the owners' children. "The couple started collecting more than 20 years ago and have some amazing pieces. The furniture was to be an extension of this," Meryl says. The Charles and Ray Eames chairs in the casual dining room and the Serge Mouille lamp – a dramatic feature of the study – are just part of this assembly.

Says the owner, "The legacy of having such a strong design team is that you experience that attention to detail every day. They really thought about every single thing – even measuring all my kitchenware so there would be a specific place for it."

And the judges at the 2011 Australian Interior Design Awards clearly agreed that the combination of design and decoration was a winner as this house took out that year's Award for Residential Decoration.

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These pages: Custom-made sofa and chair in the living room. Baker Furniture 'Tivoli' armchairs (in foreground) and 'Porter' leather and bronze coffee table from Cavitt & Co. Christian Lacroix lamp bought in Paris. Grassweave wallpaper and 'Moss' wool and silk rug from Tibet Sydney. Artwork behind sofa is 'Flannel' Flowers by Sidney Nolan; to the right is 'The Danes', by Garry Shead.

This page 'Sowerin' table from Ke-Zu with Charles and Ray Eames moulded dining chairs from Living Edge. 'Skygarden' pendant light from Flos. Maxalta console from Spoco. Artwork is Old Houses Paddington by Sall Herman. Kitchen has Calacatta marble and stainless steel benchtops. Opposite page Gervasoni 'InOut' sofa and oak chairs from Anibou. Ceramic side tables from Melzai. Outdoor rug from Cadrys.

