



BACK TO THE FUTURE

This Federation house has been reinvented as a sleek contemporary home with a nod to its graceful past.

Photographs
NICHOLAS WATT +
JENNY HARE
Words
JEAN WRIGHT

This page The facade of the Federation house is a mixture of brick, stone, shingles and terracotta tiles. Opposite page 'Hemel' lighting from Kevin Reilly Lighting in the entertainment media room. Diesel by Moroso 'Cloudscape' armchair from Hub. Christian Laisne 'Nagato' stool (in foreground), and 'Bazone' stools by the fireplace. 'Soori' coffee table from Poliform. Maxalto bookcase. Artwork by Joanna Khas. 'Etched' rug by Hare + Klein for Designer Rugs.





These pages The back terrace has a Tribu 'Mood' daybed and sofa from Cosh Living, B&B Italia 'Canasta' small tables, and Nanimaquina rug from Space.

[MOSMAN]
NEW SOUTH WALES



When the new owners acquired this Federation house in Sydney, they took on their role as custodians seriously. They had the best interests of the house at heart and they decided there were to be no short cuts in any work they did to bring it up to speed.

The house occupies a generous block of land with two street frontages, a tennis court at the front and beautiful gardens. But the home had lost much of its character with 40s alterations and tacked-on additions. It was depressing, dark and disjointed.

The owners called in Meryl Hare of Hare + Klein who had worked with the family previously on their beach house. As luck would have it, she had also worked on the Federation-era house next door. The brief was part-restoration and re-purposing, combined with a new addition to create a contemporary home for a couple with a family of four who love casual living. "It's nice when you work with people the second time around. There is an understanding and trust, and communication is already established," says Meryl.

The Hare + Klein design team – Meryl and Dimity Chitty, project manager – were responsible for the restoration of the original house and the interior detailing of the new extension; Melanie Kightley looked after the furnishings and decorating. The team worked alongside Albert Hoggett Architects who designed the extension.

An open-plan kitchen, living and dining area form part of the new double-volume addition. Full-height doors open to a barbecue and outdoor entertaining area, and the William Dangar-designed gardens beyond. The owners were keen to change the usage of the original formal reception rooms at the front of the house. "We thought that by turning the formal rooms into fun, lived-in spaces, while restoring their original features, we were achieving our desired balance of respecting the house's history as well as our casual way of life."

These two front rooms are now lively family rooms – one fitted with table tennis and billiard tables that the owner sourced in the US, while the other is used as a media/TV room with casual furniture that welcomes the whole family. The original decorative plaster ceilings were restored, recessed downlights inserted, and painted a contemporary blue-grey shade. The original double doors that link the rooms were reinstated, while a new fireplace was designed by Dimity to be in sync with the house and its now more contemporary mood.

The floorboards had to be replaced after it was discovered that the joints and bearers were not in good condition, and new 250mm-wide solid oak boards by Dinesen in Denmark were laid throughout, greatly contributing to unifying the link between the old house and its new extension.

A study/library in the original section is filled with pieces that reflect the interests of the owners, who lived for many years in London and are keen travellers – a true indication of the eclectic nature of this new-old house.

For more go to harkless.com.au.

This page: 'May' braided bamboo pendant lights in the dining area from Spence & Lyds. Painting by Graham Fransella on the back wall. Kitchen in 'Everfrost Oak' timber veneer from Eton Group. Calacatta marble benchtop from Euro Marble. Solid European oak bench by Detrich Custom Joinery was chosen to match the Dinesen oak floor. 'Coco Flip' pendant from Cult. Opposite page: Gervasoni 'In/Out' oak rocking chairs from Anibau on the master bedroom balcony. Antique rain drum from Orient House.





SEA WORTHY

Perched on the water's edge this home's darkly sophisticated interior scheme is a foil for the brilliant bright light outside.

Photographs
NICHOLAS WATT
Words
CHRIS PEARSON

This page 858 Italia 'Cinoline' armchairs and 'Canasta 13' side table provide the perfect relaxation spot. 'Lara Cream' stone flooring from Di Lorenzo. Opposite page In the living room, a custom sofa by More + Klein sits on a Toppetti rug. 'Lady Costanza' floor lamp from JSB Lighting.



VAUCLUSE
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These pages: A custom sofa by Hare + Kain and Minotti 'Leslie' armchairs and ottoman from De Die Co in the formal living area. Platform 'Spart' antique bronze coffee table, Baker 'Deauville' bronze stool and 'Bedouins' side table from Cypri & Co. Console with bronze detailing by Hare + Kain. Bricks Ballroom table lamp. Artwork by Gerry Sheard.

These pages the
elliptical-shaped
Emmanuelle UFO table
from Quorum Furniture
echoes the shape of the
coffered ceiling. Poliform
'Ventura' chairs. Artemide
'Logica' pendant light.

THE CURVILINEAR WHITE EXTERIOR of this eastern suburbs home evokes an ocean liner, and the rooms could be spacious cabins, cossetting and finely appointed, calling you in for the journey. While many designers seamlessly merge indoors and out in a prime harbourside home, Hare + Klein steered a different route. The flowing structure by Bruce Stafford Architects provides a seaworthy backdrop for an interior fit-out that references the harbour but also offers respite from it.

The family home embraces the water on two sides through sheer glass walls, but the interiors mitigate the brilliant light and introduce a warmth and homeliness. "Because lots of light reflects off the water, it could have been glaring," says interior designer Eloise Fotheringham of Hare + Klein. "But these warm, dark colours calm the space."

When the owners bought the property, a chunky, 1970s house monopolised the site, but they wanted a lighter, more organic touch. "Our 15m frontage provided a unique opportunity to develop a house based around an ocean liner where everyone gets the waterfront," says the owner. So they asked the architects to remodel the home – they kept just the shell and introduced more fluid lines.

Their brief for the interiors? "We wanted to create a unique, contemporary family home maximising the outdoor space and views," says the owner. Adds Meryl Hare, "It had to be a family home and not starchy. These spaces evolved from the geometry, as well as the bright external light."

The three-level house boasts four bedrooms on the top floor, living areas including formal living, TV room, dining and kitchen in the middle, and an office, sauna, gym, cellar and rumpus room on the lower level abutting the pool, which leads to a boatshed on the water's edge, and a jetty.

All levels are connected by a ribbon staircase that is the spine of the house. On the road side are deep, slit-like windows to ensure privacy, while the harbour side has expansive glass that welcomes in light and harbour views. "The facade is open to the water," says Eloise. "It's light and white outside with the puncturation of a darker interior. We created depth and contrast with a layered palette of timber and stone." In charcoal and chocolates with urbane black counterpoints, texture adds to the sophisticated story. Double-height dark-stained timber blades complement a patinated-brass front door and extend onto the balcony. The blade wall is a directional element that leads the eye to the harbour. Its textural, vertical element is balanced by the chocolate stitched-leather sliding doors that divide the living spaces and stitched-leather stair rails.

The omnigrip curves prompted clever solutions. In the irregularly shaped formal living area, a curved bulkhead echoes the sweep of the building. And the modular sofa is angled rather than being at a conventional right angle "to make it more spacious," says Eloise. "The geometry informed the way we furnished it," says Meryl. The first item specified was the 3.5m-long elliptical dining table, which takes style cues from the spiral stair and the oval coffer in the dining area.

"It's a sophisticated interior, but also feels cocooning," says Meryl. "With the dark, muted palette and all that texture, it encourages you to sit down and put your feet up," says Eloise.

For more go to hareklein.com.au, brucestafford.com.





This page Honed 'Bronzettu' stone from Granite & Marble Works and 'Messina' honed limestone floors from Onsite Supply & Design. Opposite page Custom bedhead, bedside tables and ottoman by Hare + Klein. 'Kidd' table lamp from Pure Interiors.

VAUCLUSE
NEW SOUTH WALES

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