



INDOORS

# The great wall

BY Karen McCartney

IN THE world of interior decorating, there is always a cycle in play. While murals are as old as people making marks on walls – think the 17,000-year-old Lascaux cave paintings in France – there is a renewed appreciation for scenic schemes that cover an entire wall. Award-winning Sydney design practice Arent&Pyke seized the opportunity in this Woollahra terrace (pictured), working with de Gournay wallpaper on a decorative mural.

“We saw it as a way to introduce warmth and character, and visually tie together the kitchen and dining rooms along the six-metre length of the mural,” says principal Sarah-Jane Pyke.

This is a very special wallpaper, with each element hand-painted onto 11 drops, none of

which repeat. As you can imagine, the skill is in the application. “We laid out the entire mural on the floor of the lounge room and worked out the panels so that we didn’t lose any of the favourite birds or flowers in the doorway or windows,” says Pyke. There was, remarkably, only 25 centimetres of excess when all the paper was laid.

In terms of defining the colour palette, the mural came first, then the soft-toned rug and finally, the fine bamboo blind, to act as a light-filtering screen between dining and study space. “We couldn’t install the wallpaper until every last tradesperson had left,” says Pyke. “We used the rug and final decorative touches to balance the soft colours of the mural.”

This large, traditional seagrass basket is hand-woven in Java. Consider it a catch-all for any room of the house.

\$149  
INARTISAN.COM



OUTDOORS

# Hue beauty

BY Richard Unsworth

IF YOU are looking at your garden right now, chances are it might be lacking in flower power. Thankfully, there are some reliable performers to brighten your beds even as the days grow colder. Camellias are an obvious choice, with delicate and showy blooms in all manner of whites, pinks and reds. Planted two per metre, *Camellia sasanqua* makes the best flowering hedge, while *Camellia japonica* (the “rose of winter”), with its huge, saucer-like blooms and dark glossy leaves, is elegant in any garden. On a smaller scale, hellebores (pictured) are a favourite among keen gardeners in cooler climates thanks to their glorious range of colours. Check them out at [postofficefarmnursery.com.au](http://postofficefarmnursery.com.au).

Fans of succulents and dramatic foliage should look at planting aloes. Many hybrids are available in various sizes with impressive flower spikes that are tough against drought, frost and general neglect. Visit [aloe-aloe.com.au](http://aloe-aloe.com.au) for inspiration.

If you live in a warmer climate, shade-loving clivia is perfect for brightening up dark corners, or under trees. A hot, sunny spot? Consider bird of paradise – look at the leafless varieties (*Strelitzia parvifolia* and *Strelitzia juncea*) for something more architectural – or use orange trumpet vine (*Pyrostegia venusta*) if you want a vigorous climber with vibrant orange flowers.

Many indigenous flowering shrubs are at their most colourful during winter, with bird-attracting grevilleas, wattles and callistemons popular. Everlasting daisies (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*) are super-showy and another favourite is yellow buttons (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*).

Your local nursery will suggest the best performers for your climate and soil type.

STYLE

BY Anna-Lisa Bucklund



Tanja Kovacevic switched careers from accessories buyer to artist in 2010, creating made-to-order, handcrafted jewellery from a Sydney studio under the label Petite Grand. Her stylish pieces have recently been picked up by online designer-brand retail giant, Farfetch.

**PETITE GRAND “PAINT” EARRINGS**  
\$145; PETITEGRAND.COM

Winter and red wine go hand-in-glove, an experience only enhanced by this functional, fun carafe. Its base is rounded and off-centre, so a soft tap will set it spinning like a top, movement that aerates the wine while entertaining your dinner guests.

**VACU VIN “SWIRLING” CARAFE**  
\$140; MYER.COM.AU



Utopia Goods designs accessories, furnishings and fabrics with a contemporary Australian twist. Its 2018 range includes the Waratah Heritage line, which pays tribute to one of our best-known natives. Seen here on the scarf, the design is also available as upholstery fabric, wallpaper and fine-art prints.

**UTOPIA GOODS “STATE OF WARATAH” SILK SCARF** \$189; UTOPIAGOODS.COM

The first Rega “Planar 2” turntable was created in the UK in 1975, and its simplicity remains the reason for its cult status – Rega claims that unnecessary electronic features create higher noise distraction. The pared-back design also makes it one of the easiest turntables for vinyl enthusiasts to set up at home.

**REGA “PLANAR 2” TURNTABLE**  
\$849; SYNERGYAUDIO.COM



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