

BOARDING HOUSE

Creating its own language – a beautiful blend of heritage and contemporary design.



SNAPSHOT

WHERE

Darlinghurst, Sydney

BRIEF

Retain and enhance the original elements of the grand structure, and incorporate new aspects that would feel comfortable and homely.

HISTORY

Originally a 1950s boarding house with nine bedrooms, nine bathrooms and nine kitchens in Sydney's inner city.

The transformation of a 1950s boarding house in Sydney's inner city has been turning heads for its intuitive design and beautiful integration of contemporary and heritage features. Respecting the building's original character, CSA Architects reconfigured what was once a nine-bedroom, nine-kitchen and nine-bathroom boarding house into a single-family residence. Once the transformation was complete, interior designers Arent&Pyke came on to the project to create a comfortable and homely feel in a grand space.

"CSA Architects had been working with the clients for a number of years and they had resolved the heritage issues and planning challenges prior to Arent&Pyke coming on board," says Sarah-Jane Pyke, principal of Arent&Pyke. "Our responsibility was to add another layer to the planning, which considered how the young family would connect with their home. We wanted to create a new language for the home that wasn't defined by a particular time."

With a lot of history in the building, scale to work with, and moments of modern elements, the possibilities seemed endless. Pyke chose to expose the bones of the architecture – the traditional front of the house and the industrial zone – connecting the two contrasting elements in a consistent aesthetic way.



Words
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Interior Designer
Arent&Pyke
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“We drew our inspiration from the original details and character of the building and used elements of texture and materiality to highlight the heritage features – high ceilings, archways, beams, entry hall, skirting, exposed brick and so forth,” says Pyke. “We’ve had the most success when we mix styles of furnishing, including modernist pieces, family heirlooms and contemporary design to create unexpected combinations.”

Pyke explains that the exposed original 1950s brickwork became a focal point and inspired the decorative scheme in the kitchen, dining and sitting room, all of which have a restrained palette. While in the master suite the styling epitomised 1800s grand living and referenced a return of the boudoir through romantic detailing.

“We used beautiful floor-to-ceiling curtains in white linen to add a softness to the room, timber floors and a generous freestanding bath in the bathroom, to create a romantic and comfortable setting, which connects with the scale of the house,” says Pyke.

And when asked what she personally loves about the finished project, Pyke talks to the way the building unfolded.

“As the building unfolded we were able to include additional elements such as an underground cellar, bar, and casual lounge area with a pool table, which was a bonus!”



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