

# SANCTUARY ABOVE THE TREES

ARENTPYKE CREATES AN ELEVATED SANCTUARY FILLED WITH PASTEL TONES, PERSONAL TOUCHES, AND A SIZEABLE COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIAN AND KOREAN ART.

PHOEBE ANDERSON WRITES. PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANSON SMART.



**TREETOP HOUSE** in Sydney's Rozelle is a childhood imagination translated into adult appreciation. The skyward sanctuary's architectural envelope provides the perfect backdrop for a contemporary interior that contributes to a sense of fluidity.

The contemporary form of this penthouse took shape as the result of a partnership with architecture firm Arent&Pyke. The use of minimal joinery and a clean palette surrounded by floor-to-ceiling glass windows allows the outside to be mirrored in nearly every room, while the interior serves as a quiet oasis.

"The brief was to lay the foundations for a contemporary start to a new chapter in their lives; a place to relax, entertain and, increasingly, to work from home," explains **Genevieve Hromas**, senior designer at Arent&Pyke.

The home serves as a celebratory headquarters for the clients' new lease on life; one that supports coming together as a family and the expression of their imagination. Necessarily, it integrates the clients' gregarious personalities into its various spaces and design features.

The open-plan kitchen and dining room naturally serves as a meeting place. The loveseat beside the kitchen island – chosen for ease and comfort in a traditionally functional space – nurtures compelling conversation.

Even with the bright pops of colour that have been incorporated into the furnishing scheme, the clients' extensive collection of art remains a stand-out feature. The pre-existing, predominately Australian collection laid the foundations for the clients' subsequent exploration of Korean art.



**1** In the kitchen, the industrial palette of the Pacific marble island bench and David Groppi pendant light is offset by the colour pop of the Raf Simons love seat.

**2** The Apparatus Cloud light fitting is suspended like a designer bunch of balloons above the living room, where Allen Jones' *Moonee Beach* hangs above Minotti Seymour couches. To the left are the *Snow Gums (juvenile) 1 to 3* tapestries by Shunyam Smith. Cesar side table next to far couch also by Minotti.



**3** A light fitting by Apparatus Circuit 7 hangs over the Baxter Bourgeois dining table by Matteo Thun and Antonio Rodriguez, above chairs by designer Kai Kristiansen. Curtains by Simple Studio frame the room.

**4** The folded form of the Articolo Melt Wall Sconce by Nicci Green presents a play on the refined geometry of a bronze table by Daniel Barbera. Block Colors rug by Paul Smith.

**5** Ilwa Kim's *Seed Portrait 14* provides a textured focal point in the entry hall, where a Kaia Nea Wall Sconce and Cassina LC9 Stool by Charlotte Perriand give the space a dash of functionality.



"We often guide our clients to galleries and specific artists that we feel they would respond to, but in this case, they had already fostered relationships with galleries in Korea," says Genevieve.

A passion that was built on a humble interest and fostered by personal connection created the perfect formula for the insertion of personality into the space.

"It was an exercise of moving pieces around the house to find the right combination. The odd ones out all ended up in the study, which became a lovely tapestry of their years of collecting," explains Genevieve.

A strong focus on the clients' patronage allows the juxtaposition between Australian and Korean art to come to life. This is reflected in the composition of the house, the soft pink drapes adding warmth to the kitchen with its more industrial stone island bench – a coming together of the contemporary and the delicate.

This combination is also evident in the artwork *Seed Portrait 14* by **Ilhwa Kim**, the product of an intense labouring practice that relies on fluid freeform to create an image that celebrates the mathematical complexity of nature.

Although the majority of furniture within the light-drenched home has been newly sourced, a few pre-existing pieces remain. This gave Arent&Pyke the scope to challenge the clients' established expectations. The insertion of rich chocolate and caramel tones, for instance, have been accompanied by shades of pink and blue to create tonal contrasts that are, on the whole, cohesive.

"You do need to be realistic about wall space to ensure a piece will fit, but you need to be led by what resonates with you," says Genevieve – although this resonance will naturally grow and evolve with exposure to new ideas. "With this in mind, do your research and get to know your visual and intellectual bent, then grow from there." ■

