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GLOW UP Bathed in the incandescent GLOW of the Australian sun, this *harbourside* Sydney home is REAWAKENED with clarity, warmth and *purpose* by local design outfit ARENT&PYKE.

By FREYA HERRING Photographed by ANSON SMART Styled by JACK MILENKOVIC



This page in the living room of this Sydney home, Model 2 stool by Floris Wubben from Studio Alm; fireplace surround and mantel in Calacatta Viola marble from Marable; vintage vase (on mantel, left), and Quadrifoglio floor lamp by Harvey Guzzini, both from 506070; Resilience white vase (on mantel, right) by Astrid Salomon; *The Sea In Her Mind While She Sleeps* (2023) artwork by James Drinkwater from Edwina Corlette. *Details, last pages.*



*These pages in the kitchen, Calacatta Borghini marble **benchtop**, European oak timber **ceiling** and **floor** from EuroStyle Floors; Thonet Twiggy leather **counter stools**, enquiries to Space Furniture; vintage Murano Bubble glass vase; Pierre Chareau **wall lights** from Criteria; *Illuminations IX* (2022) **artwork** by Drew Connor Holland from Nasha Gallery.*



This page in the dining room of this Melbourne home, Collection Particulière YBU brushed oak dining table from Ondene; BM10488 table bench by Carl Hansen & Son from Cult; Bottle Tiered pendant light by David Weeks from Criteria; *Treehouse* (2024) artwork by Guido Maestri from Ames Yavuz. *Opposite page* in the hallway, (on far wall) *Multiple Moves* artwork by Daimon Downey from Saint Cloche Gallery.

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olden light' pervades from the moment you set foot in the home," says Juliette Arent, on the house she worked on of the same name on Sydney's Upper North Shore. "The name evokes the beautiful light that seeps into the main kitchen and living spaces in the afternoon, and the formal rooms that flank the entry vestibule, which are painted in a sunshiny shade of golden yellow."

Arent reimagined the six-bed, five-bath house with senior interior designers Thea Kiel and Brooke Perry, who work at Arent&Pyke, the Surry Hills interiors studio she runs with Sarah-Jane Pyke. It didn't start as a whole-home renovation; it was only supposed to be one room. "The home was originally built in 2007. It was fairly spacious, but the arrangement of spaces needed to be rationalised," she says. "The kitchen was too small for a large family, so we increased the footprint and capacity to make it an eat-in kitchen for four children sitting at an oversized island bench. But what

started as a kitchen renovation grew into a refit of the entire house."

It soon emerged that the client wanted light to take centre stage in this renovation. The team started as they meant to go on, festooning the front door with textural, rose-toned stained-glass designed in-house. "They add a romantic gesture on arrival," notes Arent. Inside, a plethora of sconces pepper the rooms, delicately generating an intimate atmosphere whilst adding sculptural texture to the walls. "Ambient lighting played an important role in creating softness within the home," she says. "The alabaster wall lights by Pierre Chareau glow, becoming sculptural pieces of art."

Natural light comes to the fore in daylight hours, with the team choosing to emphasise it in unexpected places. "With the custom domed ceiling above the primary bath we created this curved shape that adds complexity and a moment of respite," states Arent. Any hindrance to the flow of natural light was eliminated, so in the selection of David Weeks' Bottle Tiered Pendant to illuminate the casual dining area, Arent sought subtlety rather than emphasis. "It created a dynamic layering to the dining setting without it feeling cumbersome or obstructive to the view of the kitchen and living room," she explains. "It needed to have slightness and transparency, so the open-plan room never felt compromised."

Layering, indeed, is fundamental to the success of this home's design. It is enacted with deftness, mixing vintage with new and custom pieces to create spaces that open up as you enter them, and continue to do so as you dwell within. "Our clients had a creative vision for this to be a welcoming family home, rich with colour, artwork and furnishings that included special vintage pieces and finishes that felt warm and textural," says Arent of the brief she was given. "They wanted a home that epitomised practicality, refinement and warmth."

Vintage pieces were utilised not only for the distinction and enrichment they give to spaces, but also for the moments of pause they create. "The vintage sideboard that we sourced from Nicholas & Alistair in Melbourne is key in the casual living space," asserts Arent. "It grounds the Guido Maestri work that hangs above, and helps the hallway between the kitchen and the children's playroom feel less like a transitional space."

The clients are keen art collectors, with a passion for small, vintage finds. Because of the large size of this house — the interior spans a whopping 605 square metres on a 1944 square-metre plot of land — Arent encouraged them to resist buying multitudes of small pieces, and instead concentrate on finding larger scale works that would bring focus to the sizable walls. "The scale of the home meant that fewer large pieces would have greater impact than a multitude of small vintage pieces," she says.

Fine art even extends to the most practical of spaces: the kitchen, which Maestri's *Treehouse* (2024) overlooks. It is moves like this, along with unobtrusive cabinetry in grassy tones that match Mario Bellini's *Camaleonda* sofa for B&B Italia beyond, and a European oak-panelled ceiling that links the spaces from above, which help to create a kitchen that sinks into its context. "This space was an open-plan room that needed delineation from the long portal it once felt like," says Arent. "Adding timber to the ceiling created an intimacy that softened the space, and the new beams created rhythm which helps to break down the large space into smaller volumes."

The kitchen is where this project began, and it remains at the heart of this family's home. It feels inviting, informal; somewhere where the kettle is always just-boiled and the wine ready to be uncorked. It serves as the encapsulation of what Arent & Pyke wanted to achieve with this project. "To do away with the formality of the spaces and encourage more activity, more comfort, more atmosphere," says Arent. This house has been transformed into a home that serves and delights its family in equal measure, drenched in the embracing tones of golden light; warm and enveloping. A treasure in plain sight. ■ arentpyke.com



*This page in the dining room, French Regency dining chairs from Miguel Meirelles Antiques reupholstered in Amber Velvet by Cloth & Print Co. from Ascraft; (on far wall) *Oi* (2023) artwork by Lottie Consalvo from Nanda/Hobbs; (on sideboard) small ceramic vase from Stephanie Hart; (on dining table) large vintage ceramic vase and Baltensweiler desk lamp both from 506070; Floation pendant light by Ingo Maurer, enquiries to Space Furniture.*

This page in the wine room Libreria Del Vino wine rack from Living Edge; Calacatta Viola marble **benchtop** and **wall niche**; (on benchtop) large glass **vase** from Fanuli; vintage ceramic Japanese **vase** from 506070. *Opposite page* in the living room Bzippy Cloud **side table** by Bari Ziperstein from Criteria Collection; X+L 01 **coffee table** by Xander Vervoort and Leon van Boxtel from Tigmi; vintage Japanese **bowl** from Studio Gardner; Camaleonda **sofa** by B&B Italia, enquiries to Space Furniture; Tabouret Berger **stool** by Charlotte Perriand for Cassina from Mobilia.





This page in the bathroom Utzon JU01 stool by Jørn Utzon for Fritz Hansen from Cult; black Japanese bowl from Planet Furniture; French Art Deco ceramic vase by Sainte Radegonde from Secondi Oggetti; Armac Martin tapware from The English Tapware Company; Slim wall sconces by Articolo; *Illuminations XIV* (2022-2025) artwork by Drew Connor Holland from Nasha Gallery. *Opposite page* in a bedroom, Lato LN8 side table by &Tradition from Cult; Ringvide Weave 86 cabinet by Lukas Dahlén from Criteria Collection; vintage vessel from 506070; *Landscape 1* (2024) artwork by Oscar Nimmo from Nasha Gallery.



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This page in the rear bedroom (through the doorway), cane stool by Franco Albini from 506070; bed linen by Society Limonta from Ondene; Fly wall light by Pierre Chareau from Criteria Collection. *Opposite page* in the main bedroom, Art Deco bedside tables, in the manner of Gaetano Borsani, from Tamsin Johnson Showroom; vintage armoire from Secondi, designed by Adam Standfield Cabinet Making for Arent&Pyke; custom carpet from Halcyon Lake. *Details, last pages.*

