

AUSTRALIAN

CHILDREN'S SPACES: Smart rooms for bright young minds

# HOUSE & GARDEN

*The ultimate family home*

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comedian  
**TIM ROSS**,  
*a man who  
takes his  
DESIGN  
seriously*

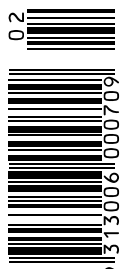
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FOREVER HOMES

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*Inspiration abounds!*

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**FORMAL LIVING** *This image and opposite* The brilliant colours in Rhys Lee's *Painting 1* (above mantel) bring this space to life. Moroso 'Longwave' armchair from Hub Furniture. Sofas from Camerich and Natuzzi Italia. Monza rug, Halcyon Lake Rugs & Carpets. Petite Friture Vertigo pendant light, Pad Furniture. Sneaky artwork by Jacob Leary from Flinders Lane Gallery.





# CREATIVE SOLUTION



In the hands of a designer who took a curatorial approach to its transformation, this Melbourne home is now itself a work of art.

STORY *Sarah Pickette* | STYLING *Swee Lim* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Shannon McGrath*



**CASUAL DINING** *This image and opposite, bottom left* A striking artwork titled *Directionless* by Marisa Purcell was commissioned specially for this space. Molteni&C table and chairs, Hub Furniture. Modo 'Ombrella' light, Espo Lighting. **STUDY** *Opposite, top right and bottom right* Home Hotel writing desk, Poliform. **NICHE** *Opposite, top right* The three beautiful pieces of art glass by Mark Douglass Design were made to fit into the existing wall perfectly. ►

## THE PALETTE

Dulux  
Spinach Green  
(study)

Dulux  
Natural White  
(interior,  
main walls)

Dulux  
Capital Blue

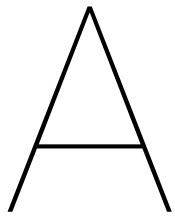




“THE DARK GREEN COLOUR MAKES THE STUDY FEEL COSY AND COCOONING.” *Swee Lim, interior designer*



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



Art sits at the very heart of this Melbourne home. When the businesswoman who owns this 1920s property first bought it, the house was in excellent shape but needed a complete interior refit to become the kind of space where the owner could demonstrate her love of contemporary art and design.

Enter Swee Lim, who happens to be an art consultant as well as an interior designer. She took on the task of transforming the shell of a house into an elegant and sophisticated family home. "The artworks were largely commissioned specially for this house," says Swee. "They played a very important role in establishing the mood of the interiors."

Glass artist Mark Douglass created a series of iridescent glass sculptures that slot perfectly into the existing wall niches near the formal dining room while acclaimed abstract artist Marisa Purcell delivered a dazzlingly beautiful green painting for the casual dining area. "Marisa's large-scale painting draws the green of the garden inside and plays beautifully to the idea I had that the furnishings be based around the concept of jade, a semi-precious stone," says Swee. Greens and blues abound throughout the home, in the rugs Swee specified and in the deep-green study. Dark timbers such as smoked oak and ►



**FORMAL DINING** *This page* Nomon Delmori clock and marble-topped Bonaldo dining table, both Pad Furniture. Ipanema dining chairs, Poliform. Rug, Coco Republic. Vases, Domo. Artwork to the left of the clock is by Rosslynd Piggott. Glass bowl, Natuzzi Italia. Floor lamp, Mobilia. **GUESTROOM** White marble wall mural, Wallsauce. Bruce bed, Poliform. Arflex 'Sigmund' bed-end bench, Space. Kundalini Kushi lamp, Radiant Lighting.





## THE LAYOUT



### THIS IS THE LIFE

The owner of this Melbourne home regularly travels to Australia and the US for work and wanted a place that was elegant and that reflected her international taste in art and design, says Swee. "As well as having the house set up for family visits, it was important that it be a sophisticated space in which she could entertain business associates when required. The formal dining room serves this purpose beautifully."



**CASUAL LIVING** *This page* Minotti 'Freeman' sofa and 'Jacob' coffee table in Bardiglio Nuvalato marble, both from Dedecce. Sheer curtains, Lovelight. Rug, Hali Rugs. Artwork by Rosslynd Piggott, vases from Natuzzi Italia (blue) and In Good Company. **GARDEN** *Opposite* Tosca club chair, coffee table and sofa, all Cosh Living. Sfera Vani Murano glass vase from Natuzzi Italia. *For Where to Buy, see page 192.*



**"THE DESIGN WAS BUILT AROUND THE LUSTROUS FINISHES AND COLOURS."** *Swee*





wenge are teamed with lustrous furnishings that offer up the iridescent sheen of glass, silk and brass.

The lights and key pieces of furniture were carefully selected for their sculptural qualities. Oversize pendant lights, redolent of Chinese lanterns, create movement and form in the air; floor lamps play the role of 'jewellery' in each room. There is a strong sculptural element to the shapely Molteni&C casual dining table and the curvaceous Moroso 'Longwave' armchair - another striking blue item - in the formal living room.

Marble also plays a starring role in this home, with the real thing used extensively in the bathrooms and on coffee tables, and its likeness making an appearance in the form of wall murals that steal the show in the home's bedrooms. The bedrooms have been simply furnished so as not to compete with this punchy print. "It was all about creating a luxe-hotel feel in these rooms,"

says Swee. In the generous main bedroom, glass doors open out to a private balcony where the owner can sink into a warm bath and take in views of the garden and pool.

Given that the homeowner was overseas for much of the renovation period, this was a logistically challenging project for Swee. "I'd source items I thought would suit the house, send photos to the owner and then we would set up a video call to sign off on them or to look at other options. It's not the usual way of doing things, so the project took longer to complete than normal."

The result, though, clearly reflects the attention to detail and time that has been put into it. "This a luxurious and elegant home and the owner tells me she's thrilled with it. It's a wonderful hybrid of cultures and styles and suits her to a tee."

**H&G**

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