

# two worlds COLLIDING

*Old meets new in this North Shore abode*



Creating harmony between the front and back of the home, the two spaces share a common thread that's all about style and fluidity

Words Annabelle Cloros  
Photography Maree Homer

There's something about homes built in another era. From the sturdy workmanship to the heritage elements, capturing a resident's style is the golden ticket to creating a timeless masterpiece. For a family of six living on Sydney's North Shore, it was high time they update their 1935 property, focusing on old-world sophistication with a contemporary twist.

The brief for interior designer Andrew Waller of Mr Waller Design revolved around creating an interior that reflected the homeowners' style and love of all things antique. Originally a four-bedroom home, additions were made to the front of the residence, with the rear property containing a number of separate, smaller rooms.

To boost flow and capitalise on space, the architect on the project developed a single open-plan space to the rear, establishing a formal dining room. The original rooms to the front of the home were retained, featuring a formal entertaining and games room, while the master suite on the first floor was extended. Two additional bedrooms and a family bathroom were added to the rear first floor above the new family room.



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A fireplace offers warmth and sophistication throughout the seasons



ABOVE LEFT Metallics combine to create a glamorous atmosphere  
ABOVE RIGHT French doors open out to the manicured garden

## Inspired by the homeowners' timeless furniture collection, the interior scheme is a subtle balance of old and new

Collaborating with the architect to refine the layout, Andrew restructured the main family reception area, leading onto the kitchen with bi-fold servery windows that open onto the outdoor dining area. "The kitchen island defines the space, with structural columns and services concealed in an upright bookcase/appliance cupboard," says Andrew. "The space was further defined into more intimate zones — family eating and lounge — through furniture specification and placements. Large-scale furniture and artworks were selected to anchor these zones while also reducing the cavernous space to more intimate areas."

Inspired by the homeowners' timeless furniture collection, the interior scheme is a subtle balance of old and new. "Close attention to detail was paid to ensure the newly acquired items did not compete with the existing antiques," says Andrew. "The

selection of new pieces had to work with these antiques, so the upholstered seating was specified in earthy, neutral tones with the materials comprising a layered mix of leather, linen, velvet and cotton."

Natural tones form a large part of the palette, with added emphasis placed on texture. "The textiles were specified to have a well-travelled appearance, so the home didn't feel like it had been all created at the same time," says Andrew. "More refined textiles were used to the front of the house, with larger-scale patterns and open-weave textiles to the rear." The master suite was furnished with a combination of original antique and period-style furniture to ensure the room works with the original spaces. In keeping with a classic, clean style, the bathrooms feature a similar palette, with natural stone floors and white gloss tiles adding a contemporary element.



“The project presents a unique home with a personal narrative — through the flow of spaces and furnishings that formula interiors don’t offer” — Andrew Waller



The family's pet cat makes the most of the dining table

Creating harmony between the front and back of the home, the two spaces share a common thread that's all about style and fluidity. The layered use of materials, pattern and colour along with the utilisation of modern pieces and antiques form the highlight of the project for Andrew. "The project presents a unique home with a personal narrative — through the flow of spaces and furnishings that formula interiors don't offer," says Andrew. "We were able to express our clients' personality by echoing their past and introducing them to a relaxed way of living." **HD**  
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 THE MASTER SUITE,  
 WHICH IS A MELANGE OF  
 SUBTLETY AND STYLE



A neutral palette in the bathroom  
 never goes out of style