

AUSTRALIAN

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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

inside 136

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BATHROOMS & MORE

REAL HOMES

ELEGANT FAMILY
TERRACE

WATERFRONT
RETREAT

WAREHOUSE
APARTMENT

FRENCH
RESTORATION

luxurious
SUMMER LIVING

COVER STORY

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right at the water" p85

win

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DETAILS

LOCATION

Paddington, NSW

OWNERS

Nicole Gunnis, her husband Simon and daughter Georgia (above with Nicole). Nicole co-owns hair and beauty salon Yummy Mummies, (02 9328 4418)

BUILDING

Three-storey 1870s terrace

ROOMS

Formal living room, formal dining room, kitchen/dining/living area, 4 bedrooms, 1 with dressing room, 3 bathrooms, attic room



1 Collages by Contessa Patrizia Medail, bought from Barry Stern Galleries, (02 9331 4676), hang in the hall above a 1750s dresser

2 Nicole's armchairs are from Carlos Malta, (02 9799 2820). The shutters are by Hugh Meagher & Associates, (02 9712 2955)

deluxe facelift

SALON OWNER NICOLE GUNNIS GAVE THIS VICTORIAN TERRACE A SMART MAKEOVER USING TRADITIONAL TOUCHES, WRITES MELANIE SZETO



SOMETIMES A HOUSE is desperate for more than a pick-me-up facial – it needs a full beauty treatment. “We moved into this house when I was 22 weeks pregnant, gutted it, renovated it and moved in the furniture four days before the baby was born,” says Nicole Gunnis of the Paddington terrace she lives in with daughter Georgia and husband Simon.

Living in one of Sydney's well-manicured suburbs, Nicole is in with the ‘yummy mummy’ set – literally. She's co-owner of Yummy Mummies, a hair and beauty salon with creche, where mums are pampered while their kids are looked after. “Because I'm English, I don't have family here to help with Georgia,” explains Nicole, of the concept she dreamed up with fellow mum and business partner Sandra Thoma.

Naturally, the restful mood of the new salon – which was conjured up by First Class Constructions – has spilled into Nicole and Simon's house. “We wanted to create a home that's comfortable, as well as enhancing its original features,” says Nicole.

Structurally, the three-storey terrace didn't require major changes. “The living areas downstairs, bedrooms and bathrooms upstairs, remained the same,” explains Simon, whose architecture and project management company drew up the plans.

Other than opening the west-facing family area to the rear courtyard and enclosing a small bedroom to create a dressing room and en suite, most of the work was aesthetic. This included painting, redoing the ➤



The elegant formal dining room teams a dining suite from Graham Geddes Antiques, (03 9509 0308), and an ornate chandelier from The Country Trader, phone (02 9698 4661)

"I PREFER A NEUTRAL PALETTE. THEN YOU CAN DO A LOT WITH PAINTINGS, FURNITURE AND FABRICS"



kitchen and bathrooms and reinstating period details. "The tiled black and white hallway was the only original feature that had survived," says Nicole.

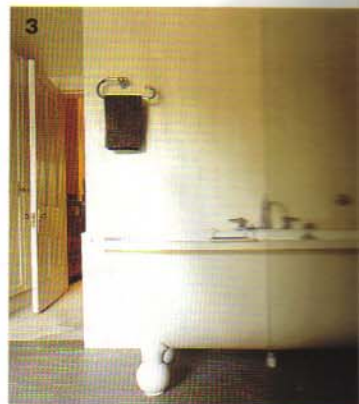
A chalky Porter's paint called White Clay was used throughout the house and a simple backdrop maintained with wide plantation shutters and dark polished floorboards. "I prefer a neutral palette. Then you can do a lot with paintings, furniture and fabrics. I love fabrics," she says. "Especially those by the London-based company Colefax & Fowler. I guess that's an English thing."

Nicole has retained some formality in the front living room by pairing a bold botanical print on the Louis XV-style sofa with Mulberry plaid on her matching armchairs. But there's no fancy fringing or tassels in this comfortable family home – just a plumped-up cushion or two for sophisticated comfort.

"Even though the furniture is traditional, you can make it look modern with the fabric you use," says Nicole, who updated a bold check print on the dining chairs to a taupe linen from Geraldine Cooper.

"Modern furniture can cost the same as antique," she continues, "yet it doesn't have that history and beautifully aged timbers – you can't replicate that". Oak, cherrywood and walnut pieces, bought from local dealers, a gilt mantelpiece mirror, paintings by





1 Benchtop and splashback mosaic tiles from Pazotti, (02 9327 1850). Joinery by Bigway Interiors, phone (02 9757 1177)

2 Restored walnut kitchen table by Major & Tom Furniture, (02 9557 8380)

3 The freestanding en suite bath by Kohler, (02 9714 3900), is a modern version of the classic claw-foot style

4 Abaca heart hemp chairs from Ligne Roset, (02 8354 6222)

5 The master bedroom features fabrics from Geraldine Cooper, (02 9327 3566)

contemporary Australian artists and chandeliers add presence to the living and dining rooms.

Nicole says she likes displaying photographs and belongings that say something about the family. And she adds a fresh touch by purchasing regular floral arrangements from international florist Susan Avery.

As with most family homes, the casual areas get more use. "I try to use the formal front rooms more, but we tend to sit out the back," admits Nicole.

In the casual open-plan kitchen, dining and lounge area, she and Simon can keep watch on Georgia. But they have managed to maintain a stylish look here, too. "For the kitchen, I was inspired by the American Shaker look," says Nicole, of the turned leg detail on the huge island unit. Honed granite benchtops, muted colours and stainless steel abound. In fact, the most intense hue in the house is on the front door, which is lacquered in red. As visitors soon find out, it highlights a home that's seriously well-groomed. **25**

GET THE LOOK

Combine floral prints and striped fabrics. Nicole achieved a harmonious look in the bedroom using delicate designs from Colefax & Fowler

