

H&G
RENOVATION SPECIAL
Terrace transformation

Personal SPACE

A thoughtful revamp of this graceful Sydney terrace gave its owners everything they wanted – and more.

STORY ROSA SENESE / STYLING JANET JAMES
PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER

COURTYARD / Owner Katie and her daughter Grace share a moment in the light-drenched courtyard. Landscape design by Melissa Wilson, construction by Matthew Wood of Earth Stone Wood. Cedar battens. Mqooi Container table, Space. Laser-cut aluminium screen and planters, Garden Life. Travertine paving, Granite & Marble Works. Cushion, Grace Garrett. Barbecue, Electrolux. **Designer buy:** Tio chairs, \$515/each, Spence & Lyda. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 194.

FEATURE PLANTS

Snow pear
(*Pyrus nivalis*)
Star jasmine
(*Trachelospermum
jasminoides*)
Japanese box
(*Buxus japonica*)
Geraniums
(*Pelargonium*)

THE PALETTE

**Dulux
Dieskau**
interior, throughout

Try these accents

**Haymes Paint
Plumage**

**Taubmans
Hampton Inn**

This is the life

By opening up the heart of this 19th-century terrace, interior designer Tonka Andjelkovic brought the property into the current day – and future-proofed it. The bright, streamlined layout works equally well for day-to-day living and social scenarios. Multiple living and dining spots enhance the entertaining potential. “We can all be in the same space but have enough room to do different things,” says owner Katie.



‘The first step was to look at the volume of spaces, how they will be used and how people will interact with, and within, them.’

Tonka Andjelkovic, interior designer

KITCHEN / this page and opposite The island bench is the visual and social focal point in the kitchen. The Vintec wine fridges are lit from within, adding another element of sophistication to the slick kitchen at night. Ilve stove. Carrara marble benchtops and splashback, Granite & Marble Works. Vola mixer tap, Candana Bathroomware. Cab stools, Cult. Artwork by Colin Pennock. Flowers from Susan Avery Flowers and Events (throughout).

Designer buy: Gervasoni Gray 07 armchairs, \$4375/each, Anibou. **FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 194.**

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

Design compatibility deserves some credit as a predictor of marital harmony. When Katie fell for the man who would become her husband, the two discovered they had a great deal in common, not least their tastes in residential architecture. So the couple was thrilled to find a three-level Victorian gem in Sydney’s inner east that offered all the romance of a classic terrace with few of the usual drawbacks. “We loved the old-fashioned look of the place and it had a wonderful feel,” says Katie. “It’s also unusually wide for a terrace, with a good amount of natural light.”

Despite a partial renovation in the late 1980s, the house needed professional expertise to bring it into the 21st century. The new owners turned to interior designer Tonka Andjelkovic to create a comfy, liveable home for themselves and the children they wanted in the future.

Tonka devised a detailed plan to transform the interior, both aesthetically and structurally. On the ground floor, a wall between the hallway and front living room was demolished and an awkwardly situated laundry removed in order to open up the layout. Next, the kitchen was remodelled and a long island bench installed to direct the eye through the house and out to the sunny courtyard.

Upstairs, the changes were less dramatic. On the first floor, one of two bathrooms was renovated and one of the three bedrooms on that level converted into a study. The main bedroom, on the second floor, was simply redecorated.

Across all levels, elegant and timeless decor unites rooms and eras. “We were after a classic Parisian feel,” says Katie. Beginning with ▶

'We wanted the decor to be classic and calming, but also practical for young children.' Katie



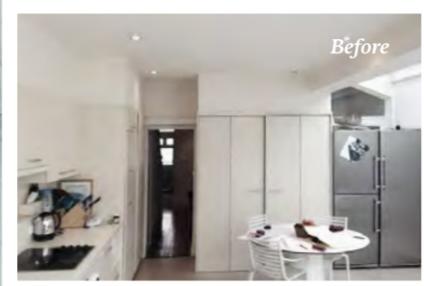
THE LAYOUT



LIVING / The B&B Italia Charles sofa from Space was a judicious splurge. "My clients loved the look and its comfort, and considered it an investment," says Tonka. The Tufty-Too ottoman/coffee table, also from Space, was selected for its child-friendly soft edges. W Collection rug, Whitecliffe Imports. Artworks by Jeff Gardner.

Designer buy: B&B Italia Tufty-Too ottoman, from \$2620, Space.

DINING / The Roll & Hill Modo 10-globe chandelier from Space is a modern interpretation of the chandelier that might once have illuminated dinner parties here. Dining table and chairs, Cavit&Co. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 194. ▶



Reno snapshot

Renovation cost \$450,000.

Goal To adapt a classic Victorian terrace to reflect the way a modern family lives, relaxes and entertains, while honouring the home's heritage characteristics.

Solution The ground floor was reconfigured to improve indoor-outdoor flow. The courtyard was transformed into a dreamy useable 'room'.

Words of wisdom "Tonka had to push us into being realistic about the amount of storage we needed," says Katie. "Now that we have a family, we know how important it is."



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'Storage is so important. Wherever I can find a space, I like to build something in.' Tonka

GRACE'S ROOM / Sunshine yellow is a fun counterpoint to the soft grey palette. Armchair, Jordan. Lamp, Space. Carpet, Carpet Forum. Artwork by Craig Clough (left). 'Grace' work by a family friend. Elephant print bought in Bali.

Designer buy: Leander convertible cot/junior bed, \$1400, Danish by Design.

MAIN BEDROOM / "I had the bedhead hand-stitched in velvet to create another layer of detail," says Tonka. Michael Anastassiades pendant light, Hub Furniture Lighting Living. Framed photograph by Tim Georgeson.

BATHROOM / Floor-to-ceiling Carrara marble, including a custom-made basin, feels wonderfully luxurious. Vola tapware, Candana Bathroomware. Pendant light, Hub Furniture Lighting Living.

FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 194.

◀ the shade of grey the owners had already used on the walls, Tonka built up a moody palette with subtle golden highlights. The scheme is full of details that ooze sophistication – brass tapware, sumptuous Carrara marble and hand-stitched soft furnishings, to name a few.

The result is a well-balanced merger of traditional architectural forms with contemporary fittings and furnishings. Character-rich details such as architraves, ceiling roses and fireplaces were retained; the perfect foil for new designer furniture.

When it came to practicalities, Tonka's design experience proved invaluable. Katie and her husband were hesitant to sacrifice precious space for extra cabinetry, but after moving into the newly renovated house with baby daughter Grace, now three, and all the paraphernalia of parenthood, they recognised the value of Tonka's storage strategies. Today, with five-month-old Harriet having joined the family, they continue to be thankful for the home's child-friendly features.

The chic, cosy ambience of the interiors extends into the courtyard, which is enclosed in warm timber panelling. Together with newly planted trees and relaxed indoor-outdoor furniture, this creates a warm and utterly private zone. It's only when you catch sight of the surrounding high-rise buildings that you remember the home's urban location and fully appreciate its best-of-both-worlds character.

"It feels like a retreat," says Katie. "Sitting out there, I feel as though I'm getting away, even though I'm in the middle of the city." **H&G**

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