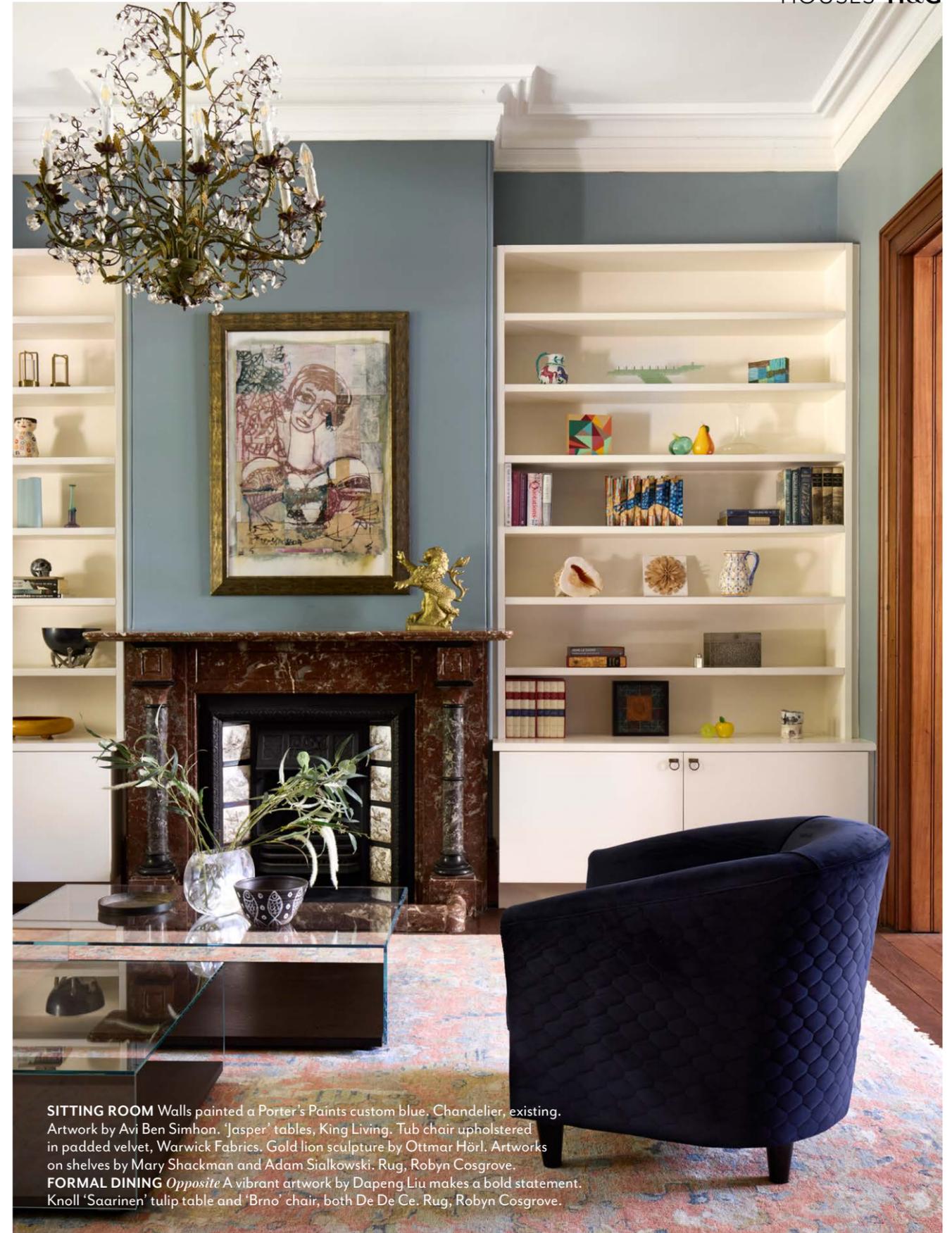




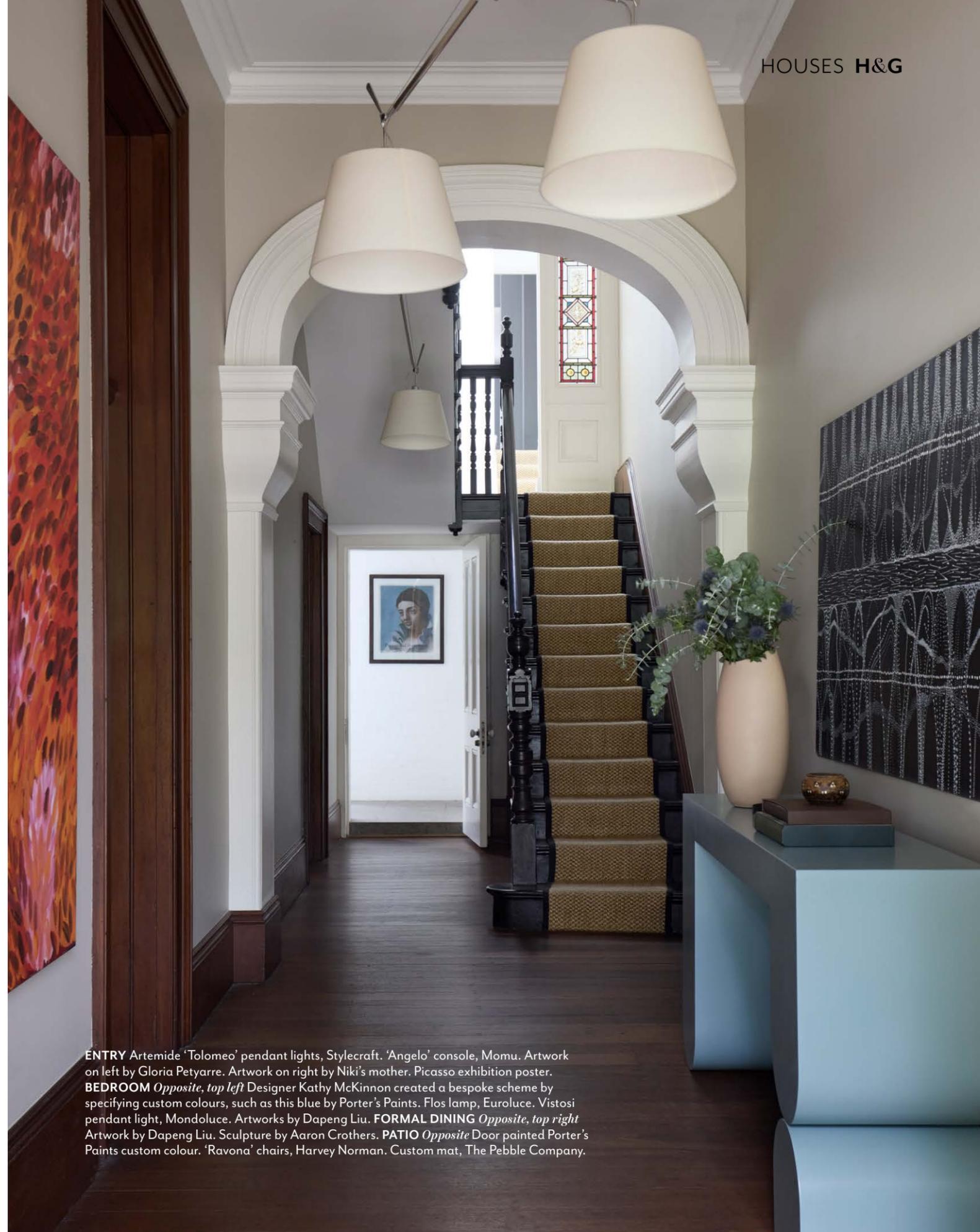
COMING OF AGE

A Victorian terrace is brought to life with a contemporary makeover, while honouring its grand heritage features.

STORY Rachel White | PHOTOGRAPHY Prue Ruscoe



SITTING ROOM Walls painted a Porter's Paints custom blue. Chandelier, existing. Artwork by Avi Ben Simhon. 'Jasper' tables, King Living. Tub chair upholstered in padded velvet, Warwick Fabrics. Gold lion sculpture by Ottmar Hörl. Artworks on shelves by Mary Shackman and Adam Sialkowski. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove.
FORMAL DINING Opposite A vibrant artwork by Dapeng Liu makes a bold statement. Knoll 'Saarinen' tulip table and 'Brno' chair, both De De Ce. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove.



A rare piece of Sydney's history, this heritage-listed Eastern Suburbs terrace gives its owners a unique insight into the city's past. One of nine built in a row between 1888 and 1891, the Victorian Italianate-style building boasts details and proportions from a grander era. "We feel very lucky to live in a house that has so much history and character," says owner Niki. "It really is something special." Niki, who lives in the three-storey home with husband Brad and their three sons, Joel, 17, Oliver, 16, and Toby, nine, enlisted interior designer Kathy McKinnon to bring the Victorian-era home into the 21st century.

"My brief was to weave the narrative of the home into the fabric of the interior," says Kathy. "All while respectfully maintaining the grand heritage features of the house."

Having been renovated a decade ago, by owners with a vastly different lifestyle, the terrace wasn't in completely original condition. "The renovations were done by a couple who were super stylish - they did an amazing job," says Niki. "We absolutely loved it, but it just wasn't practical for a family with three boys and a dog." ▶



ENTRY Artemide 'Tolomeo' pendant lights, Stylecraft. 'Angelo' console, Momu. Artwork on left by Gloria Petyarre. Artwork on right by Niki's mother. Picasso exhibition poster. **BEDROOM** *Opposite, top left* Designer Kathy McKinnon created a bespoke scheme by specifying custom colours, such as this blue by Porter's Paints. Flos lamp, Euroluce. Vistosi pendant light, Mondoluce. Artworks by Dapeng Liu. **FORMAL DINING** *Opposite, top right* Artwork by Dapeng Liu. Sculpture by Aaron Crothers. **PATIO** *Opposite* Door painted Porter's Paints custom colour. 'Ravona' chairs, Harvey Norman. Custom mat, The Pebble Company.

THE PALETTE

Porter's Paints custom shade
(exterior)

Dulux Whisper White
(bedroom trims)

Porter's Paints Aubergine
(front door)



“While we needed a functional home, we didn’t want to interrupt the original beauty.”

NIKI, OWNER

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

FORMAL DINING “Every room has a different feel, but everything works together,” says Niki. Artwork by Dapeng Liu. Knoll table and chairs, all De De Ce. White sculpture by Aaron Crothers. Black cabinet, LivingStyles. **EXTERIOR** The terrace was refreshed with trims painted Dulux Lexicon Quarter and the front door painted Porter’s Paints Aubergine.



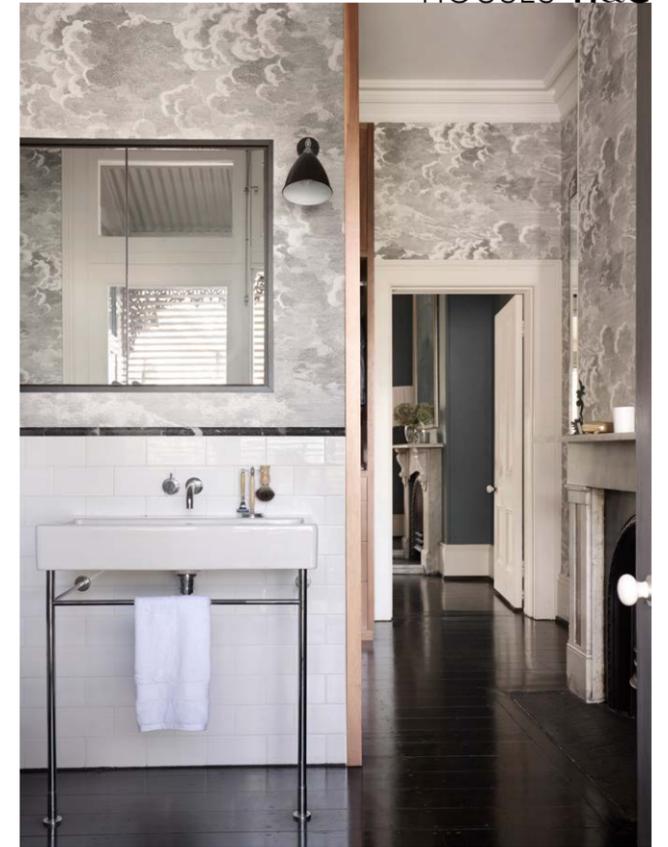
THE LAYOUT



KITCHEN/DINING Walls and lower joinery painted Dulux Lexicon Quarter. Overhead joinery painted Porter's Paints Dew. Benchtop in Dekton Bromo, Cosentino. Kristalia 'BCN' stools, Fanuli. 'Nordmyra' dining chairs in White/Birch, IKEA. Vintage table lamp, Twentieth Century Modern. **GARDEN** *Opposite* Niki and Brad love to entertain at their 'Ravona' outdoor rectangular dining setting, Harvey Norman.



BEDROOM A cosy reading nook features an armchair from the *Moulin Rouge* film set, an original from 1930s Paris sourced from Twentieth Century Modern, upholstered in Sahco 'Zero' fabric, Kvadrat. Walls painted Porter's Paints custom colour. Bedhead upholstered in 'Cavaliere' linen, Brochier. Bedside table painted Dulux Irish Moor. Lamp, Viabizzuno. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove. Art by Dapeng Liu. **ENSUITE** Kathy worked with existing fixtures, then refreshed the room with Fornasetti 'Clouds' wallpaper from Sydney Wall Coverings and a new vanity from The English Tapware Company.



The challenge for Kathy was to preserve historic features while bringing the home in line with the family's needs. "We went for an eclectic layering of heritage with contemporary lifestyle, vintage with modern functional design," she says. "Niki and Brad have a dynamic and cultured style. They are adventurous and wanted to explore vibrant colour and finishes."

The connection between function and form was imperative to the overall brief, says Kathy, who expertly preserved the essence of the original building without making it look like a flat reproduction. Instead, she added up-to-date furnishings and bold colours to highlight architectural details.

For Niki, a keen entertainer and home cook, there was one practical consideration that took precedence over everything else. "Storage was one of the biggest challenges we needed to solve," she says. "There just wasn't enough. There were no cupboards in the kids' bedrooms. There was a walk-in robe in the main suite but no long hanging space, and not nearly enough storage in the kitchen either."

A common issue with heritage homes of this era, the storage problem was solved without fuss and everything, both structurally and aesthetically, came together under Kathy's watchful eye in a relatively smooth 12-month renovation. "I thought it was going to be harder than it was," says Niki, "But it's one of those things that just worked out. Everything has its place and it's really easy to curate what we have." ▶



THIS IS THE LIFE

“The house is incredibly solid and well insulated by virtue of how buildings were built in the late 1800s,” says Niki. “The walls aren’t double brick, they’re like a foot of bricks, which makes such a difference for heating and cooling.” In addition, Niki and Brad installed a series of solar panels on the roof, which further reduces energy consumption for the family of five.

Tying together the old and new with a sense of timeless glamour was artfully achieved by Kathy, who sourced one-off items from around the world. “One of [her] superpowers is being able to find pieces that are comfortable and usable, but that are also absolutely perfect in terms of style,” says Niki.

“One example is the incredible vintage Hungarian daybed we have in the formal lounge room. It needed new cushions and upholstery – quite a lot of love. I never in a million years would have thought to put something rattan in a formal room but it looks incredible.”

With an eye for detail and the ability to bring modernity to the traditional character of the home, Kathy and Niki worked together to create a space that elevates the everyday.

“It sounds so pretentious, but this renovation really has enhanced our lives in every way,” says Niki. ▶

Kathy McKinnon: kmck.com.au.

BALCONY Niki and Brad can enjoy their parents’ retreat and park views from the comfort of matching reupholstered vintage rattan chairs, with matching side table, from Ken Neale at Twentieth Century Modern.



THE SOURCE

Establish a serene ambience mixing contemporary and traditional pieces with accents of soothing powder blue.



Produced by Andrea Healy.

1 Mechini Italian painted metal and Murano glass crystal 10-arm chandelier, \$5429, 1stDibs. 2 ‘Arlo’ bar stool, \$449, Domayne. 3 ‘City Panama’ rug in CIT 1343, POA, Halcyon Lake. 4 Printhouse Collection *Caligirl 2* framed printed wall art (38x31cm), \$145, Temple & Webster. 5 Knoll ‘Brno Tubular’ side chair, POA, De De Ce. 6 Mizu ‘Drift MK2’ basin/bath outlet in Chrome (16cm), \$149, Reece. 7 Fisher & Paykel 91cm five-zone freestanding induction cooker with SmartZone, \$16,999, Harvey Norman. 8 ‘50’s Style’ refrigerator in Emerald Green, POA, Smeg. 9 Kartell LAUFEN freestanding bath with overflow in White, \$10,100, Reece. 10 Le Creuset mugs in Coastal Blue and Shell Pink (200ml), \$26 each, Myer. H&G