

AUSTRALIAN 13 incredible Australian homes

HOUSE & GARDEN

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SECOND TIME LUCKY

Striking original features finally have the chance to shine in this thoughtful renovation of a young family's heritage home in Adelaide.

STORY *Georgia Madden* | STYLING *Williams Burton Leopardi* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Caroline Cameron*



FACADE The house has been given a new driveway, fencing, landscaping and pavers. Trims painted Resene Half Thorndon Cream.



Sometimes in life, Plan B turns out to be the better option - at least, that was the case for Laura and Ben who, having narrowly missed out on a house they'd fallen hard for in the Adelaide suburb of Kingswood, ended up with another one right down the street that they felt was its equal.

"We were so disappointed when we were outbid for the first house, a Queen Anne villa that had been beautifully renovated by architecture and interiors firm Williams Burton Leopardi," says Laura. "We actually took architect David Burton to the open inspection for this one to see if he thought he could make it look like the house down the road. He said with its amazing features, it could easily be just as good!"

The couple snapped up the early-20th-century, four-bedroom house and moved in with their family, daughters, Lilla, 11, Eva, nine, Isobel, four, and their Siberian cats, KiKi and Louis. But in terms of making it a liveable home, they had their work cut out for them. "The house was incredibly run down and hadn't been renovated for a long time - everywhere you looked, something needed fixing," says Laura. ▶



FORMAL LIVING The centrepiece Arthur G 'Phoenix' sofa is from Transforma. Kelly armchairs and Memphis coffee table from Jordan. Gubi 'Modern Line' ottomans from Estilo. George Nelson 'Ball Bubble' pendant, Lights Lights Lights. Armadillo 'Savannah' rug, Terrace Floors + Furnishings. &Tradition 'Lato LN9' side table, Cult Design. Onishi sculpture, Kerryn Levy Ceramics. **ARCHWAY**, *Opposite* Steel door from Southern Stainless. Bouquet chandelier, Le Klint.



“We knew if we could open it up and connect the spaces, this would make a wonderful family home.”

DAVID BURTON, ARCHITECT

KITCHEN The benchtops, island and splashback are all in New Savior limestone from CDK Stone. MDF joinery is finished in Dulux Ghosting low-sheen. ‘Anton’ ceramic wall lights are from Volker Haug Studio. ‘Icon’ taps in Ice Grey from Astra Walker. Timber floor from First Choice Flooring. Rangehood finished in Marmorino KS plaster from Novacolor. Oven and cooktop from Miele. The custom concrete dining table (opposite) is from Adelaide Outdoor Kitchens and Walter Knoll ‘Saddle’ chairs from Estilo. ‘Diiva’ stools from Grazia & Co. Tacchini ‘Mantiqueira’ large vase from Stylecraft and small vase by Connie Augoustinos. ▶



FORMAL DINING The Estiluz 'Volta' pendant is from Lights Lights Lights, the artwork is the homeowner's own and the chairs are covered in Lexus fabric in Natural from Warwick. On table, from left, are a Ferm Living 'Bendum' vase from Asser + Co, Luna vase from JamFactory, and plates from Michell Ceramics. **REAR EXTERIOR** *Opposite* The outside of the new kitchen is clad in silver ash with a built-in window seat. The paving is Garonne limestone from Eco Outdoor and the Ferm Living cushions and 'Desert' lounge chair are from Asser + Co. Bandy table, Jordan. ▶

THE PALETTE

Resene Half Thorndon Cream
(exterior trim)

Dulux Ghosting Quarter
(wardrobes)

Dulux Antique White USA

MAIN BEDROOM *This page and opposite top* The bay window features custom upholstery in Designs of the Time 'Bogon' fabric and curtains in Mokum 'Satori' stonewash linen, both from James Dunlop Textiles. Boucle ball cushion made by The Creative Muster. Androgyne side table, Aptos Cruz, Oakford Square wool carpet in Eldon, Prestige Carpets. Wardrobes finished in Dulux Ghosting Quarter. Bedlinen, Hale Mercantile. Wall light, Articolo. **ENSUITE** *Opposite bottom* The custom vanity is topped with New Savior limestone from CDK Stone. City Stik fixtures in Brushed Nordic Brass PVD. Brodware.

With a rabbit warren of long corridors and disconnected rooms plus a single bathroom for the family of five to share, functionality was also an issue. But for all its challenges, living in the house pre-renovation had its positives. "It gave us a clear idea of what we liked and what we didn't, which helped inform some of the design aspects," says Laura.

David re-entered the scene, along with co-director Sophia Leopardi, who focused on the interior. "The house had incredible bones and some beautiful details that captured the character of the property - a decorative plaster ceiling in the front room, a timber ceiling in the dining room and a big bay window at the front," says David. "But it was a maze of corridors and unused rooms with no connection to each other. We knew if we could open up and connect those spaces, this would make a wonderful family home."

The first stage of the project involved creating an entertainer's pavilion alongside the pool and tennis court to draw family life beyond the main house. "This was an important part of the project as they're a very active family and planned to spend a lot of time out there in summer," says David.

Next, David and Sophia turned their attention to the late 1990s rear extension housing the kitchen, casual living and dining area. "It was well built, but little more than a box on the back of the house," says David. "Inside, the kitchen was poorly laid out and hard to access, and it introduced a faux Victorian element to what is not really a Victorian house." They kept the shell, gutted the kitchen and added a small, timber-clad addition to the side containing a new kitchen and butler's pantry. "We kept the colours and finishes restrained to add a sense of calm and create a base that could evolve and grow with the family," says Sophia. "It also creates visual space for some of the stronger elements in the house to come to life. The kitchen is a very light, neutral space, but look closer and it reveals some beautifully refined detailing, such as softly veined marble benchtops and a textural, polished plaster effect on the rangehood."

A new opening to the kitchen with a steel-framed glass door allows for views and access right through to the rear of the house from the front door. The existing openings to the formal dining and front rooms were enlarged, with new paint, window treatments and furnishings in soft, earthy tones creating an understated canvas for the decorative architecture to sing. "The furniture brings a layer of contrast to the heritage elements - it's new, but at the same time sympathetic to what was already there," says Sophia.

The entire eastern side of the house, with the bay window, which previously housed the main bedroom and a rarely used sitting room, was transformed into a showstopping master suite, complete with walk-in wardrobe and marble-clad ensuite. The two upstairs bedrooms were left untouched. "What surprised me most about the renovation is the home's feel. It's incredibly warm and welcoming," says Laura. "We're happy here every day." ▶

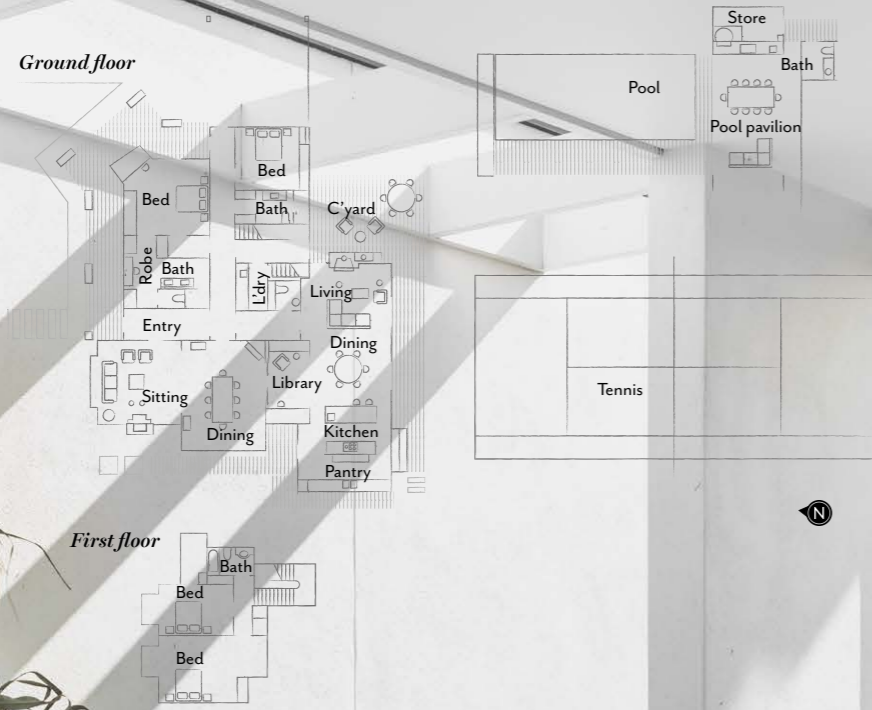
Williams Burton Leopardi, Adelaide, SA; designbywbl.com.au. Bower Construction and Design, Adelaide, SA; bowerconstruction.com.au.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

"The furniture brings a layer of contrast to the heritage elements." SOPHIA LEOPARDI, INTERIOR DESIGNER



THE LAYOUT



THIS IS THE LIFE

Laura says the new pool pavilion has had the biggest impact on the family. "It's a freestanding structure set away from the house, with its own kitchen, bathroom and outdoor fire. It has a relaxed, resort-like feel and we can spend entire days there relaxing or entertaining. In winter, the kids will lie on a rug in front of the fire, toasting marshmallows or watching a movie."

POOL PAVILION The Aruba outdoor sofa is from Globe West. Ferm Living 'Way' cushion in Sugar Kelp, Asser + Co. Tacchini 'Mantiqueira' pot, Stylecraft.



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THE SOURCE

Contemporary pieces and elegant lines help create ease and comfort in a home that merges old and new.



Produced by Saffron Sylvester. Photography by Jarrod Barnes (4).

1 Paper 5mm round beech wall hook with leather loop, \$32, Hardtofind. 2 *Small Silence (III)*, 2020 oil and wax pigment stick artwork by Jenny Topfer, \$5000, Fox Jensen Galleries. 3 Robert Gordon dish wall sconce in Coast, \$455, Norsu Interiors. 4 Essential linen cushion in Fawn, \$89, Hommey. 5 French dining chair, \$699, Provincial Home Living. 6 Aruba 2-seat sofa, \$3605, GlobeWest. 7 Indu terracotta planter set, \$85, Toast. 8 Glasshouse candle in Sacred Heart, \$44, Domayne. For where to buy, see page 190. H&G