

G R A N D



G L A M O U R

Integrating an eclectic art collection into the overall design of this Sydney home, **Camilla Wagstaff** discovers, was the key to interior designer Brendan Wong's masterful approach to colour and texture.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAREE HOMER



LEFT The organic subject matter in Andrew Browne's #1 has been intentionally contrasted with the faceted sculptural sideboard. THIS PAGE Alexander McKenzie's spectacular imagined landscape anchors the dining space.





Shine, matt, plenty of texture and some colour pops make for a really interesting interior. It borrows from 1970s glamour - which is in revival.

Katrina Hill
ART EDIT DESIGN COUNCIL

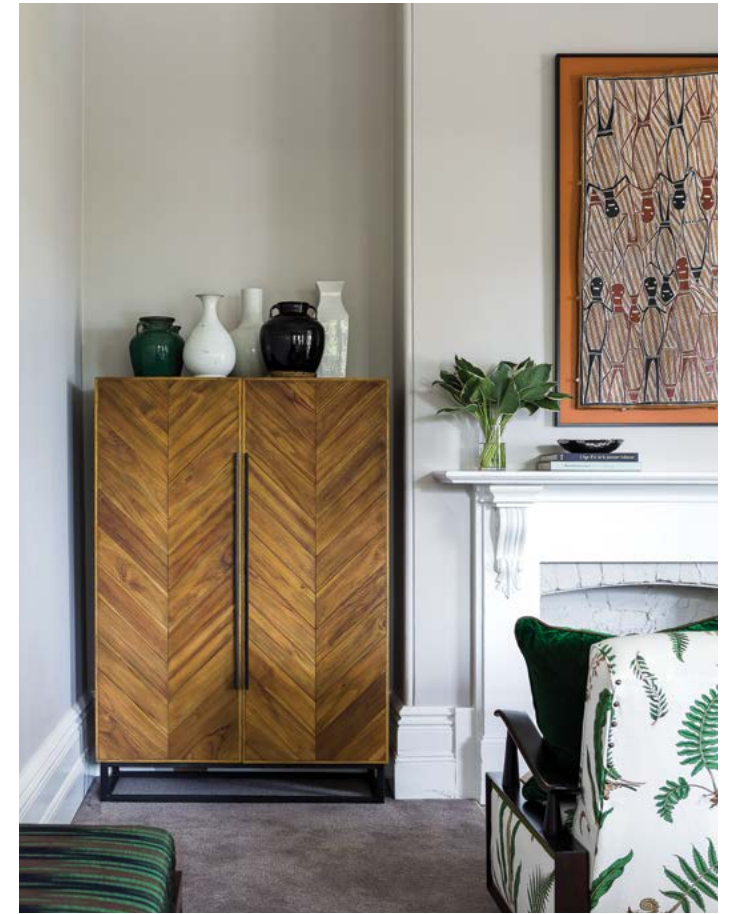
Magnificently proportioned, this grand 1890s home in the Sydney's Eastern Suburbs required a design approach relevant to the client - a professional couple with three children - and their interest in contemporary furnishings, art and period architecture. "Our brief was introduce a convivial mix of warmth and modern elegance to create a space that was both calm and visually inspiring," says interior designer **Brendan Wong**. In his approach, Wong adopts a layering strategy, building up rich textures - wool upholstery, velvet, brass detailing, hand-knotted rugs - on a base palette of soft, fresh neutrals.

The result is a visually interesting yet tranquil interior that respects the gracious existing architecture.

Furnishings are elegant, yet comfortable and robust, their function reflecting the needs of a family of five. "Overall I think the result gives a rich immersive experience within the rooms," says Wong, "whereby finer details continue to reveal themselves well beyond the first glance".

Integrating the artwork with decorating selections that allowed both art and furnishings to have equal importance was crucial for the owners. Their collection is diverse and includes photographs, oils and works on bark. "The most exciting aspect of the house for is the integration of the art in the design," the owners say. "In many instances it was a piece of art that was the first item selected for a space. From here we were able to better understand the tone of

TOP **Tamara Dean's large-scale photograph *By Feel* inspired the palette for this room.** OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP RIGHT **The timber-faced cabinet references the warm ochre tones in the Indigenous work by Jimmy An-gunguna, sourced at Maningrida in Arnhem Land. Grouped ceramics keep it fresh and polished.** OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT **This painting is anchored by the cocktail cart, an approach Wong uses when introducing smaller works into larger spaces.**





To house such an auspicious collection of art you need an interior that exudes opulence and luxury. Brendan is the master of creating this look. This expertly curated home layers colour, texture and pattern that somehow manages to be contemporary and subtle at the same time as it is bold and traditional.

Brett Mickan
ART EDIT DESIGN COUNCIL

the room and the mood that we wanted to create.”

A prime example of this is in the dining room, where **Alexander McKenzie’s** spectacular imagined landscape becomes an anchor for the space. The work inspired the use of the emerald green velvet dining chairs from Lelievre Paris, as well as the stunning faceted foyer console in the adjacent hallway. “The perspective of this work is such that it’s almost like the room has a window to the view beyond. Light streams in from the window at the same angle as the sky is depicted in the painting,” says Wong. “Coupled with bookshelves filled with plants you really get the sense of living within the painting when you are in this space,” say the owners.

Tamara Dean’s large-scale photograph *By Feel*

inspired the palette for the lounge room. A black and white rug by **Robyn Cosgrove** is paired with olive and gold sofas, bringing to life the figures in the work. “Scale is so important,” notes Wong. “Larger rooms need artwork of significant scale to feel in proportion with both the room itself and its furnishings. People are sometimes reluctant, thinking that large-scale artworks will dominate, but an undersized work will actually be more distracting.

“As a collection, the artwork has a similar approach to the furnishings: diverse and curated but not contrived,” says Wong. “Each piece is unique in its own right and certainly speaks to the owners’ appreciation for works from varying styles.”

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TOP The formal living room was conceived like a traditional salon, to be used for conversation, writing, reading and music.