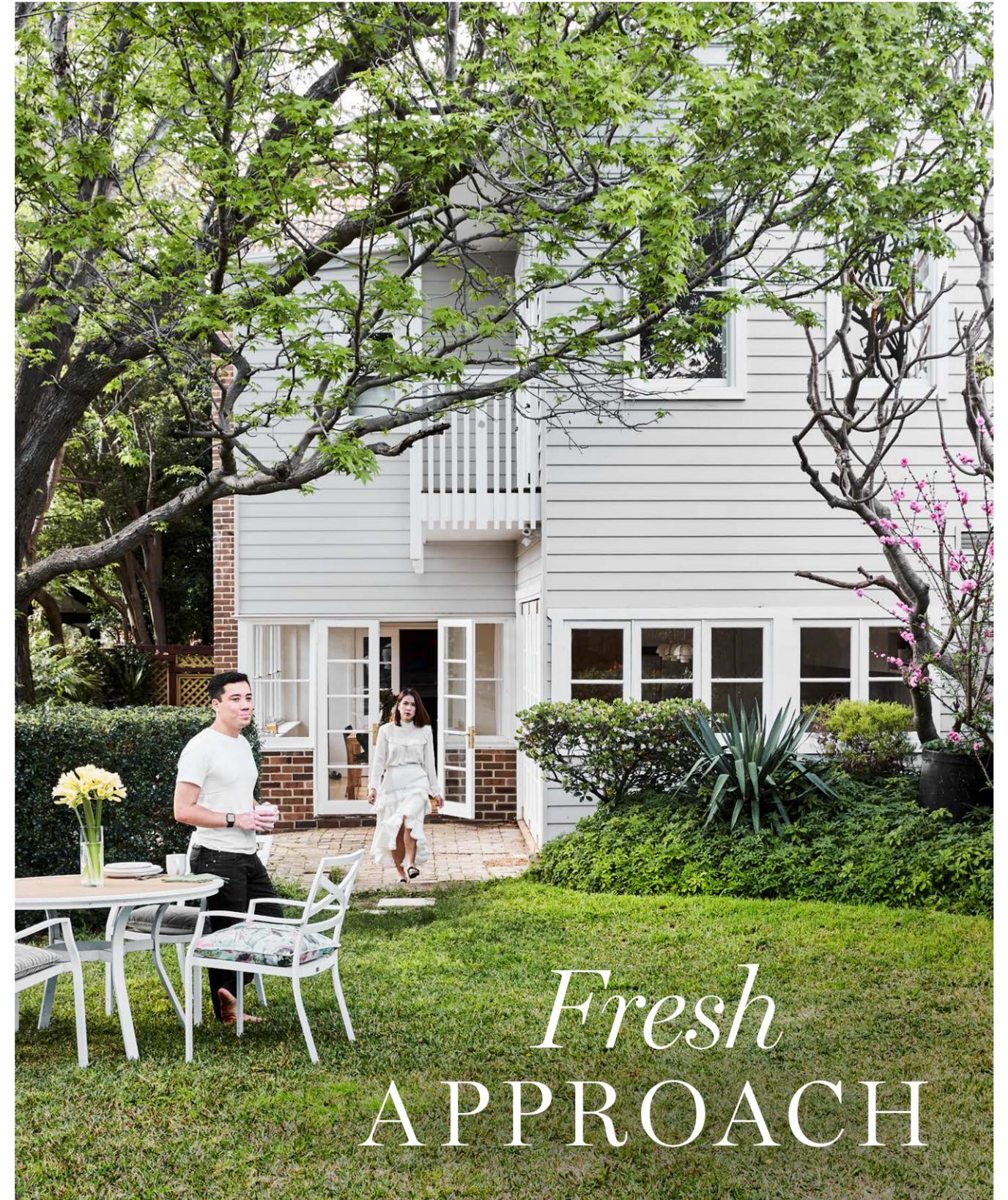


KITCHEN/DINING A Dogal marble splashback in Dark Grey from Surface Gallery steals the limelight in the kitchen. Custom joinery by Lifetime Industries in Dulux Winter Fog is paired with Caesarstone benches in Snow. Neff oven, Franke cooktop and Oliveri double sink, all Winning Appliances. Faucet Strommen 'Pegasi M' sink mixer, Bathroom Collective. Tolix 'Tabouret' stools and Bentwood dining chairs, Thonet. Table, owners' existing. Bowls and vase, Dinosaur Designs. Artworks (on bench) by Claire Stapleton, Sibü Gallery.

GARDEN *Opposite* Homeowners Anthony and Thoa in the garden, now easily accessed thanks to their recent renovation. The exterior is painted Dulux Winter Fog Quarter, with trims in Dulux Natural White.



Fresh APPROACH

A calming palette and thoughtful detailing preserves the classic beauty of this Federation house while delivering a new level of liveability to its owners.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Samantha Torrissi* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Ess.Creative/Sue Stubbs*



KITCHEN A Gubi 'Multi-lite' pendant from Cult counters the harder lines at play in the kitchen. A Neff oven, Qasair rangehood, Franke cooktop and Oliveri 'Santorini' double sink, all from Winning Appliances, are paired with the owners' existing fridge. Faucet Strommen 'Pegasi M' sink mixer Bathroom Collective. Walls in Dulux Natural White. Artworks by Claire Stapleton (on bench) and Anna Curnuck (in study nook), Sibü Gallery. The Meraki T-bar handles in gold-satin brass were a great Etsy find. **DINING** Opposite Thonet 'Bentwood' dining chairs are set around a table the family already owned. Tolix 'Tabouret' bar stools, Thonet.

Marrying contemporary living requirements with a period residence is a delicate dance that constantly challenges architects and designers. None more so than this elegant Queen Anne Federation house in Sydney's inner west that couple Anthony and Thoa bought in 2019.

Built in 1912 for the mayor of the locality, the handsome house in classic brick with decorative timber fretwork commands the 570-square-metre block. Drawn to the beautiful features - wooden floors, soaring pressed-metal ceilings, leadlight windows and fireplaces - as well as its leafy setting, Anthony and Thoa sought the expertise of Leon Varley, director of Progressive Plans Building Design, to renovate and enhance the property.

The generous proportions of the two-storey, four-bedroom house afforded the opportunity to create a luxurious home for the couple and their two young sons, with open-plan living areas seamlessly connecting indoors and out.

Leon initially devised three completely different concepts for the update, based on images of interiors the couple liked. This was eventually distilled into the final design that suits their lifestyle and is complementary to the home's traditional character, rather than simply being 'on trend'. "The aesthetic is timeless and speaks to the original home," says Leon.

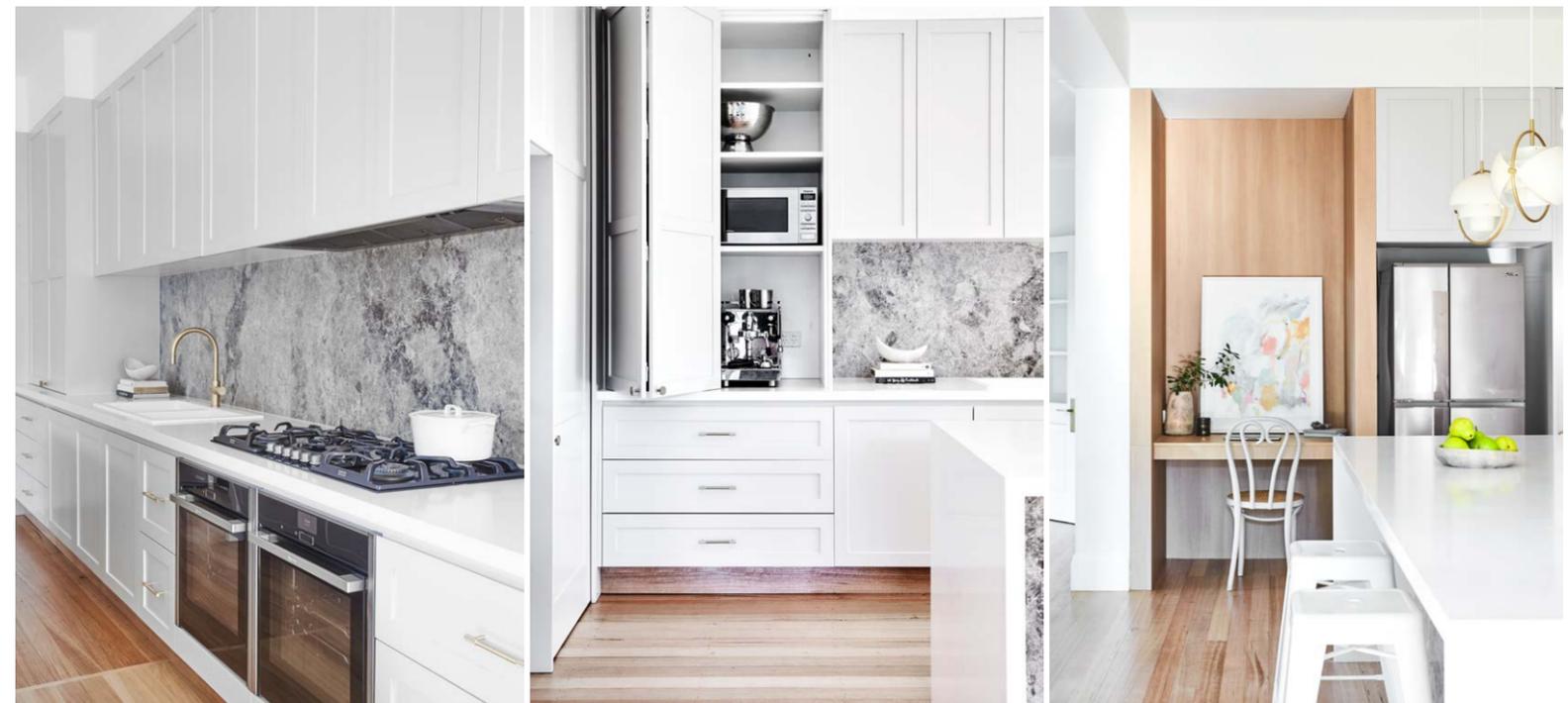
While the planning took a full six months, the structural work was completed more quickly and the family moved in before Christmas last year. Their dream home delivered the space and connection they wished for, with downstairs living areas including a large kitchen and family area for entertaining opening to the established rear garden. Upstairs are the boys' bedrooms and a luxurious, expanded master retreat enjoying treetop views - "a true hideaway", says Leon. Custom detailing throughout has "brought the home to life".

A simple, chic palette of white and grey provides a cool, contemporary backdrop to a well-edited collection of furniture that includes classics such as Bentwood dining chairs, Tolix kitchen stools and an Eames recliner. Repetition of materials and finishes ensures a calm and coherent mood.

"I think the most important thing is how a home makes you feel when you walk in," says Leon. "The warmth, comfort and serenity should be overwhelming - like a big hug. A home is a secure space and it should make you feel enveloped and relaxed."

Anthony and Thoa relish the privacy and flexibility of the home. They spend most of their time in the kitchen area which, by extending into the former formal dining room, was doubled in size from the original. "While it is very spacious, it has also been designed to be divided into smaller zones so that each person can be doing their own thing, but then we can also ▶

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS HOW A HOME MAKES YOU FEEL WHEN YOU WALK IN." Leon Varley, building designer



come together to socialise,” says Thoa. New timber bi-fold doors provide easy access and views to the lush garden courtyard. The space is flooded with natural light and enjoys a relaxed feel. While the plan is to refresh the landscaping, adding a timber deck and a garage with attached office, the home already offers the family the perfect combination of retreat and entertainer.

“It was crucial that we find that balance between making the house homely, functional and cosy while still being a great place to hang out with friends,” says Anthony.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the transformation is the creation of a contemporary home imbued with the past, and this successful integration of new and old is the owners’ favourite element. “We love the easy blend of traditional features and modern simplicity,” adds Thoa.

For Leon, creating something new and fresh without obliterating what already existed is important. “It’s essential to not just pick a ‘style’, but to consider the home you are bringing the style to. You wouldn’t create a beach-shack aesthetic in a city pad,” he says.

Progressive Plans Building Design, Mona Vale, NSW; 0400 699 850 or progressiveplans.com.au. Oscar Clarke Building, Sydney, NSW; @oscarclarkebuilding



THIS IS THE LIFE

Anthony and Thoa’s lifestyle revolves around family time with their two boys as well as socialising with friends. While the flourishing rear garden is the perfect great spot for convivial occasions, the new gas fire that’s been added into the traditional fireplace in the living room has proven to be a real game-changer. “Because it’s an older home, it can get chilly in the cooler months,” says Anthony. “This was a great way of turning an under-utilised space into an attractive place to gather.”

ENTRY The stair treads and floor are Victorian ash that’s been sanded and polished. Walls are Dulux Natural White. Menu ‘TR’ bulb pendant in brushed brass, Surrounding.

LIVING *Opposite* A resin vase from Dinosaur Designs sits atop the original mantelpiece alongside an artwork by Anna Curnuck, from Sibiu Gallery. The owners’ existing sofa is paired with an Eames lounge chair and ottoman, and Lambert & Fils ‘Cliff Suspension’ pendant light, all from Living Edge. Rug, Unitex International. Curtains custom-made by Simple Studio. Walls, Dulux Winter Fog. ▶



“THE AESTHETIC IS TIMELESS AND SPEAKS TO THE ORIGINAL HOME.” Leon Varley



MAIN BATHROOM A Fienza 'Nero' matte white stone bath from Amber Tiles pops against Dogal marble tiles in Dark Grey from Surface Gallery. Faucet Strommen 'Pegasi M' mixer, Bathroom Collective. Waffle towel, In the Sac.
MAIN BEDROOM Opposite 'Oia' marble and oak bedside table, Life Interiors. Flos 'IC' suspension lamp, Living Edge. Bedlinen, 'Harlow' throw and cushion, In the Sac. Linen curtains, Simple Studio. Wall panelling in Dulux Frontier. Samurai 'Pyua' carpet, Carpet Right. Walk-in robe joinery in Tesrol Genuine Oak, Lifetime Industries. Custom mirror, Print Decor. Vase and bowl, Dinosaur Designs. ▶

THE PALETTE

Dulux Winter Fog	Dulux Natural White	Dulux Frontier
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Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



STAIRS *Above left* Storage drawers under the stairs, Oscar Clarke Bulding. Joinery in Dulux Natural White. **POWDER ROOM** *Above centre* Omvivo 'Lune' basin and Faucet Strommen 'Pegasi M' mixer, Bathroom Collective. Splashback in Dogal marble in Dark Grey, Surface Gallery. 'Bjorn' oval mirror, Print Decor. **LAUNDRY** *Above right* The splashback is Dogal marble in Dark Grey from Surface Gallery. Caesarstone benchtop in Snow. Joinery in Dulux Winter Fog, Lifetime Industries. Carysil granite sink, Catch. Faucet Strommen 'Pegasi M' tapware, Bathroom Collective. Walls in Dulux Natural White. **GARDEN** Established trees provide a shady canopy in the garden, a destination point for Thoa, Anthony and their sons.

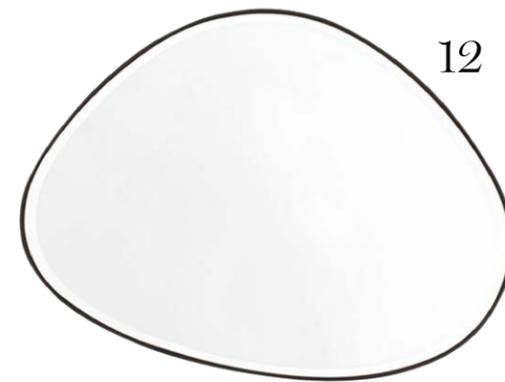


"WE LOVE THE EASY BLEND OF TRADITIONAL FEATURES AND MODERN SIMPLICITY." Thoa, owner



THE SOURCE

Clean-lined pieces are perfect for updating older homes, delivering all the thrills without the frills.



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Produced by Saffron Sylvester.

1 KitchenAid 'Artisan' KSM160 standmixer in Pistachio, \$749, Harvey Norman. 2 Crown dish, \$55, Dinosaur Designs. 3 Ligne Roset 'Eaton' dining table, \$4725, Domo. 4 Tolix 'Tabouret' counter stool, POA, Thonet. 5 Rock bowl, \$920, Dinosaur Designs. 6 Bobo & Peanut art print, \$120, Peter Berg Interior Art. 7 Speckle bath sheet, \$59.95, Freedom. 8 Potted faux pothos, \$139.95, James Lane. 9 Madras rug (155cm diameter), \$199, Freedom. 10 Kado 'Lux Petite' bath, \$1830, Reece. 11 Vivid Slimline mixer in Brushed Gold, \$486, Phoenix Tapware. 12 Pebble mirror, \$388, Life Interiors. 13 Garden Party sundae bowls, \$39.95/two, and matching spoon, \$19.95/two, Robert Gordon Australia. For Where to Buy, see page 204. H&G