



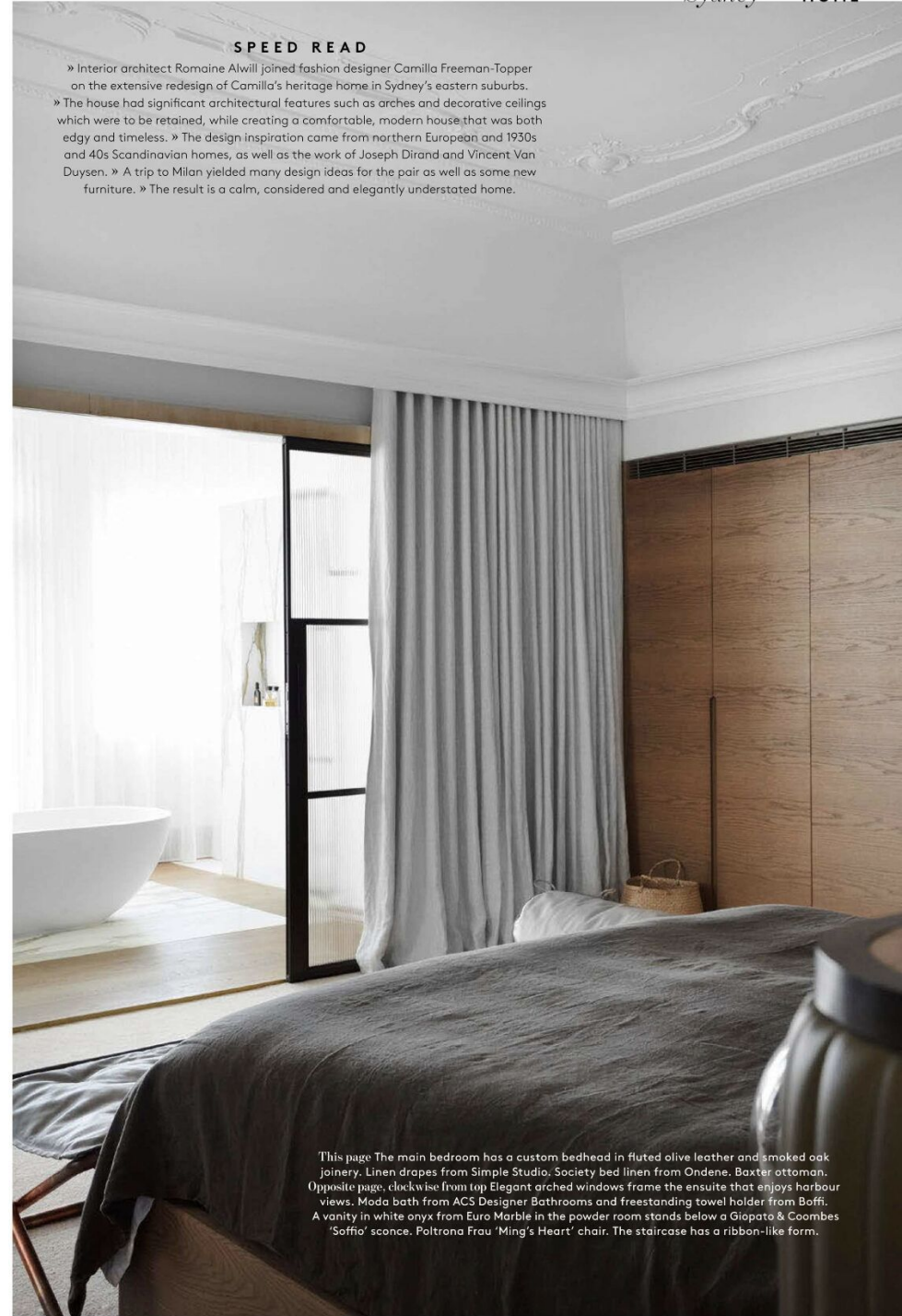
A thread of elegant understatement is woven throughout this heritage home in Sydney's eastern suburbs, reflecting the predilections of its fashion designer owner.

Photographs **PRUE RUSCOE** Words **JUDY PASCOE**



SPEED READ

» Interior architect Romaine Alwill joined fashion designer Camilla Freeman-Topper on the extensive redesign of Camilla's heritage home in Sydney's eastern suburbs. » The house had significant architectural features such as arches and decorative ceilings which were to be retained, while creating a comfortable, modern house, that was both edgy and timeless. » The design inspiration came from northern European and 1930s and 40s Scandinavian homes, as well as the work of Joseph Dirand and Vincent Van Duysen. » A trip to Milan yielded many design ideas for the pair as well as some new furniture. » The result is a calm, considered and elegantly understated home.



This page The main bedroom has a custom bedhead in fluted olive leather and smoked oak joinery. Linen drapes from Simple Studio, Society bed linen from Ondene, Baxter ottoman. Opposite page, clockwise from top Elegant arched windows frame the ensuite that enjoys harbour views. Moda bath from ACS Designer Bathrooms and freestanding towel holder from Boffi. A vanity in white onyx from Euro Marble in the powder room stands below a Giopato & Coombes 'Soffio' sconce. Poltrona Frau 'Ming's Heart' chair. The staircase has a ribbon-like form.

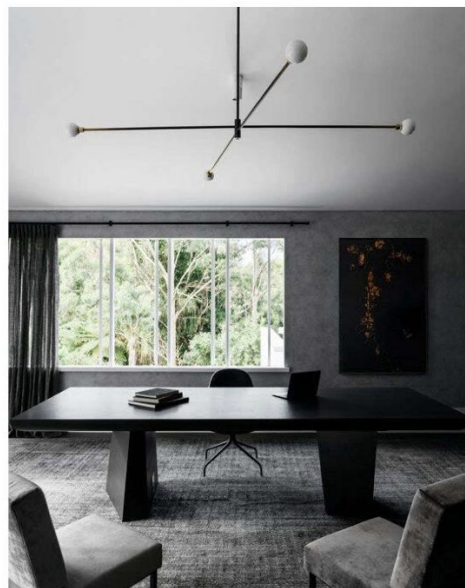
Close to nature

Embracing its *position* amid bushland
this expansive *harbourside* home
references the *landscape* in the tones
and textures of its materials palette.

Photographs **FELIX FOREST** Words **JUDY PASCOE**

Sydney HOME

This page A custom 'Rachis' table by Dylan Farrell Design for Jean de Merry sits under the sweeping curve of the staircase which is clad in ebonised oak. Pendant light fitting is by Matter Made. Artwork is by Nemo Jantzen. The sconce is one of a pair by Allied Maker. Opposite page Looking through the dining area across the kitchen bench to the view of Sydney's Middle Harbour. Custom dining table by Dylan Farrell Design in ebonised and cerused oak with bronze cast and burnished legs. Friends & Founders 'La Pipe' chairs from Fred International with two Baxter carvers from Criteria. Light fitting is by Christopher Boots. The fireplace to the left has a hand-burnished brass surround.



sandblasted and honed, and two different timbers, both wire-brushed, oxidised and cerused, plus a trio of overhead lights by Lindsey Adelman for Roll & Hill that echo the branches of the trees. “The materials are sculptural and beautiful and feel as natural as possible to reflect the elements outside,” says Nicolette. A hidden preparation area ensures that the kitchen always looks pristine.

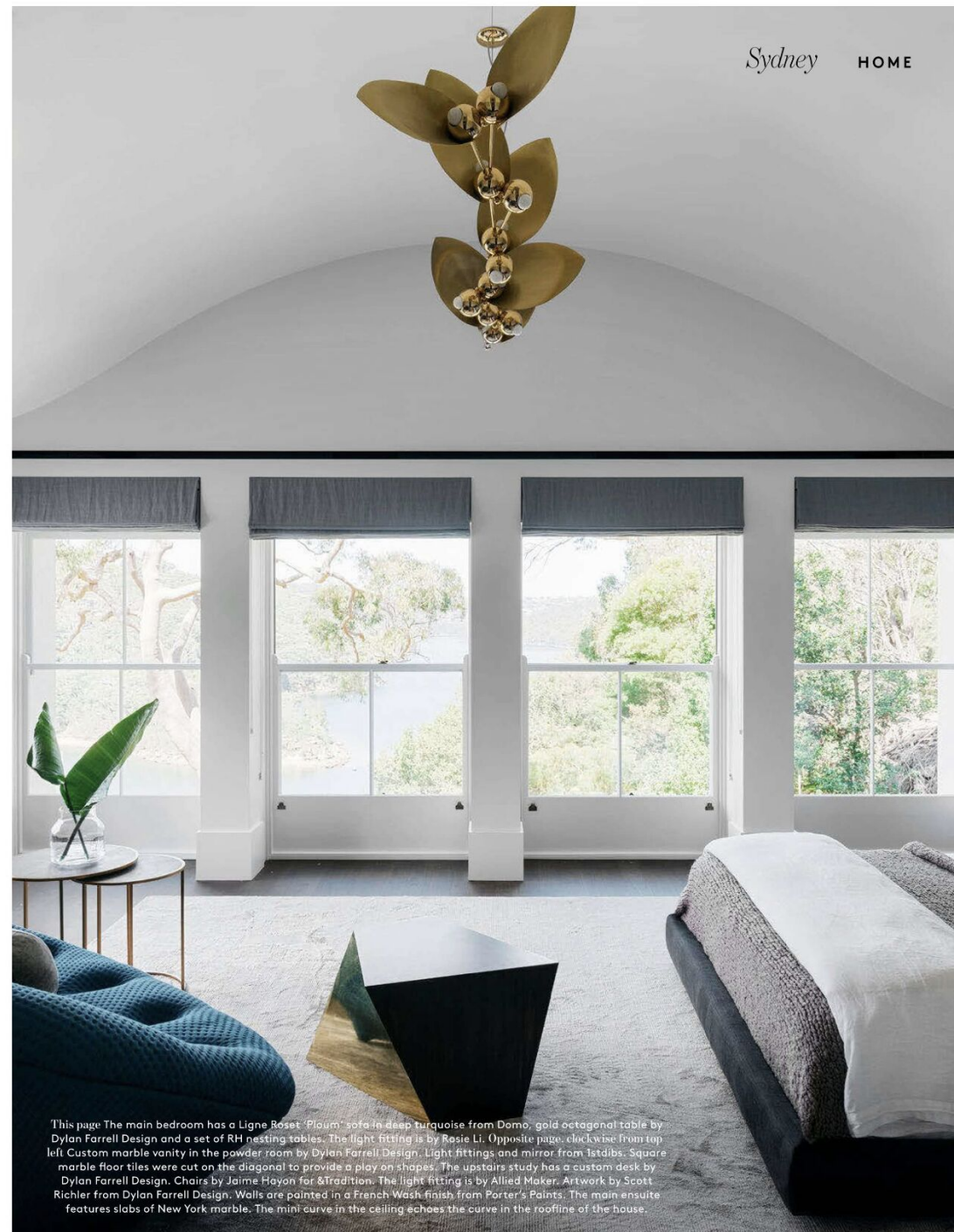
A standout is the splashback which is cut panels of honed Grigio San Marco stone in a randomly assembled format. “Everyone asked ‘why would you cut up a slab like this?’,” says Dylan. “But it was to prevent it feeling too monolithic, and in fact it actually enhances the stone.” The owner agrees, “It’s the thing that people notice above everything else, and is one of my favourite features.”

Nature is never far away – whether it’s the view just beyond the double-glazed sliders or referenced in the fittings, furniture and finishes. The powder room vanity, for instance, a bespoke piece by Dylan Farrell Design, is reminiscent of flower petals. The Petite Friture ‘Vertigo’ light fittings in the family room remind the owner of butterflies, while the Matter Made pendant in the void resembles a vine trailing down the length of the stairway. “When we bought the house we loved that it blends in with nature without being too remote, and Dylan and the team were very respectful of that,” says the owner.

Nature is evident at every turn, but the palette is punchy with a kaleidoscope of colours providing unexpected frissons. A collage of spheres by Nemo Jantzen sets the scene in the entry, a quartet of works by Alesandro Ljubicic in the kitchen/dining slice through the earthy tonal theme, while the turquoise of the master bedside tables is echoed in the Ligne Roset ‘Ploum’ sofa in the room’s sitting area.

Dylan and Nicolette specified many bespoke pieces, some from Dylan’s own line for Jean de Merry such as the ‘Leveller’ leather and metal chair he showed at April’s Milan Design Week, the ‘Rachis’ table and the ‘Tension’ lamp, among others. The curved sofa in the living room was specially designed as “there was nothing available with the exact right curve and length”, says Dylan. These pieces give the home a unique feel, but while it has a grandeur it is not pretentious, and the designers were always conscious of functionality. “This is what I call ornamental minimalism,” says Dylan. “It’s pared-back but not too much. And while the materiality feels luxe it is also robust.” Opulent but grounded – now that’s a magic combination. 🍷

dylanfarrell.com.au



This page The main bedroom has a Ligne Roset ‘Ploum’ sofa in deep turquoise from Domo, gold octagonal table by Dylan Farrell Design and a set of RH nesting tables. The light fitting is by Rosie Li. Opposite page, clockwise from top left Custom marble vanity in the powder room by Dylan Farrell Design. Light fittings and mirror from 1stdibs. Square marble floor tiles were cut on the diagonal to provide a play on shapes. The upstairs study has a custom desk by Dylan Farrell Design. Chairs by Jaime Hayon for &Tradition. The light fitting is by Allied Maker. Artwork by Scott Richler from Dylan Farrell Design. Walls are painted in a French Wash finish from Porter’s Paints. The main ensuite features slabs of New York marble. The mini curve in the ceiling echoes the curve in the roofline of the house.

SPEED READ

» Designers Dylan and Nicolette Farrell were engaged to refresh this expansive home on Sydney's Middle Harbour for a family with three young children. » The owners were after a modern interior with warmth and connectivity, a challenge given the vastness of the spaces. » The designers opened up the doorways and corridors to create a dramatic sense of arrival, frame the views of water and bushland, and provide a better flow of rooms. » Nature is referenced throughout the palette in materials, textures and tones, enlivened by occasional pops of bright colours in artworks and furnishings.



This page The terrace has chairs from Cosh Living with coffee tables from Weylandts. Opposite page, clockwise from top left In the family room, an artwork by Stephen Ormandy from Olsen Gallery provides a punch of colour next to a reupholstered chair from Castorina & Co. To break up the expanse of shelves Nicolette covered panels in a Thibaut fabric from Boyac. The kitchen bench features two marbles – Calacatta Viola and Grigio San Marco. Light fittings by Lindsey Adelman for Roll & Hill. Looking through the dining area to the garden and pool area. Custom table by Dylan Farrell Design, Friends & Founders chairs from Fred International with Baxter carvers. Christopher Boots light fitting. Hand-burnished brass fireplace surround to the right.