



Leadlight windows are a period feature celebrated in the renovation

AT HOME WITH HISTORY

This heritage-listed home required a modern renovation that respected the building's past

Words Lauren Clarke Photography Elise Scott

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There's always been an undeniable charm found in this heritage-listed home, from the soaring ceilings to the leadlight features in the windows, casting playful patterns across the floor. Yet while there was some good to be found in the bones of this building, there were a lot of flaws that had left the homeowners dissatisfied, too. The floors were a plush mint-green carpet, there was dark-stained timber panelling, and the dado was met by stucco walls. "This aesthetic, while evocative of its era, presented a unique opportunity for transformation," says Silvia Roldan, principal interior designer of Studio Esar. "There was an overall lack of natural light internally and the dark-stained timber created an oppressive feel to the home."

The homeowners had a clear brief: to retain the floor plan of the front portion of the home and respect the original architectural detail while bringing the dwelling into a modern design style. "Their vision was to honour the historic charm of the house while creating a space that felt fresh, contemporary and deeply reflective of their lifestyle," says Silvia. "This vision became the foundation of our brief. We worked closely with the clients, embracing their evolving ideas and ensuring that every new element harmonised seamlessly with the essence of the home."

"The design celebrates restraint, warmth and timeless beauty, enhancing the home's legacy with modern refinement"

— Silvia Roldan

Silvia set to work, honouring the abode's original character while layering it with contemporary elegance and thoughtful interventions. This resulted in the whole front of the house being transformed. "The carpet and underflooring was pulled up and new yellow tongue boards added throughout," Silvia says. "New stumps were inserted throughout and the fireplace in the formal living room was re-supported as it was slowly collapsing."

But the work didn't stop there. The stucco was all grinded off the walls. The dark timber panelling, while decorative with a good profile, had been stained a dark brown, so this was all stripped back and repainted as well. New carpet was laid, and each room was methodically transformed.

The master bedroom had wallpaper, which was removed and repainted, with feature dado





ed's fave

THE DINING ROOM IS A STANDOUT, WITH THE RICH, TEXTURED WALLPAPER COUPLED WITH THE PANELLINGS AND DRAMATIC PENDANT

rails added, too. Oversized pendant lights and curved, upholstered furniture were introduced and balanced by vibrant artwork and luxurious, touchable fabrics, achieving a delicate interplay of strength and softness. "The resulting atmosphere is both grounded and poetic to create a retreat that blends masculine structure with feminine fluidity," Silvia says.

"Old overbearing pelmets over the windows in the formal living and bedroom were removed and stunning, heavily textured sheer curtains were installed instead," says Silvia. These add a sense of romance and soften the space. "The existing timber mantels in both the formal living and the bedroom were also both removed and replaced with new Carrara marble mantels."

Use of marble was continued elsewhere in the dwelling, with the bay window in the dining room now boasting a stunning new Appenino River marble top. This continuity adds to the flow of the home and ensures it feels cohesive.

The dining room is a clear hero. Moody forest-inspired wallpaper stretches across the top, setting an opulent tone. This wallpaper is crafted from woven textile rather than paper, offering textural detail that's perfectly paired with the timber mouldings below that serve to emphasise the wall height. Overhead, a bold pendant from Giffin Design finishes the room with just the right amount of elegance.



The wine store cabinet was lovingly restored, with striking marble added to the handles

Marble was used in the window seat, as well as elsewhere in the home, creating a sense of continuity

we love

THE WALLPAPER. FROM THE TEXTURE TO THE COLOURS AND PATTERN, IT SETS A TONE OF ELEGANCE AND GRANDEUR



Romantic sheer curtains soften the bedroom, with textured cushions and an oversized sofa making this space extra inviting



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The wine store cabinet was another feature of the renovation. “The bespoke wine store cabinetry is detailed with timber veneer and adorned with intricately patterned grilles by Joseph Giles, offering a tactile interplay between transparency and texture,” says Silvia. “Elevating the visual narrative, sculptural handles carved from Appenino River marble echo the rich tonal variations of the matching stone benchtop, establishing this piece as both a utilitarian element and a focal point of material sophistication.”

Colour was introduced throughout the home with a palette of deep green and plum threading its way through the furnishings, offering richness and cohesion while underscoring Studio Esar’s commitment to one-off, collectible pieces.

It’s clear that due to thoughtful planning and intent, Silvia has met the clients’ needs and created a home to remember. As she says, “Altogether, the design celebrates restraint, warmth and timeless beauty, enhancing the home’s legacy with modern refinement.” **HD**
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