

(sydney)  
magazine



**Sydney: By Adam Hills, Wendy Harmer, Peter FitzSimons...**

or  
ost

**House proud**

How to live rent-free —  
with million-dollar views

**What are the chances?**

Could Bondi be wiped  
out by a tsunami?

**Plus** Terry Durack gets

all fired up about our  
top 10 pizza joints





# Mc his

A Vict  
terrac  
life wi  
schen  
its her  
parkla

Words and st  
Andrea Millan

Photography  
Prue Ruscoe

Where  
To  
Shop

#### Gineico Interiors

Level 1, 276 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Phone: 9690 1522. Manfredi-Hughes is passionate about Italian lighting and she

#### McLeod Antiques

378 South Dowling Street, Paddington. Phone: 9361 0602. A chartreuse ceramic vase on the lounge mantelpiece, one of

#### Porter's Original Paints

895 Bourke Street, Waterloo. Phone: 9698 5322. Porter's provided the Hot Springs tone of the formal lounge, the

#### GrantPirrie

88 George Street, Redfern. Phone: 9699 9033. The couple picked up New Zealand artist Peter Adsett's

This page  
Julie Manfredi  
(above, with  
Peter Adsett)





le Manfredi-Hughes and her management consultant Larry bought their Italianate-style terrace on Park Road in 2002 they knew they were buying more than bricks and mortar. The house had not been written into the contract of sale but a rich history was woven into the property. It was built in the 1880s by Thomas Moore, a coachbuilder whose workshop produced carriages for the aristocracy. Subsequent inhabitants included the "Coyote" Coates in the 1880s, the strict and stern headmaster of Sydney Boys' High School, and Lance Corporal David McLeod, who died at Gallipoli at the age of 24.

Manfredi-Hughes had to work with the inherited structure and bring it up to date with no major structural intervention," says Manfredi-Hughes. "I wanted the results to be timeless, something that would be enjoyed by the next generations. The house's character and qualities come across through the objects and artwork."

Manfredi-Hughes, the business partner of her former husband, Steve Manfredi, spent months looking for a property that would accommodate her blended family of three children, Isabella Manfredi, 22, and Jasper, 22, and Toby, 27. She fell in love with the stately home and its mix of modern and period features. After months of juggling and breathing new light and life into the restaurant spaces, Manfredi-



Hughes faced some challenges. The three-storey house had been refurbished several times: in the '30s, it was turned into a boarding house and didn't become a family home again until the '70s, while in the '90s, it was extended and modernised. By 2009, family life had taken its toll and the house was looking "shabby".

It was then Manfredi-Hughes brought in the "great colourist" Chrissie Jeffrey, owner of textile retailer No Chintz and her collaborator on projects such as the luxury Pretty Beach House retreat, Bells' sister property.

They took a long, hard look at the house, which includes a self-contained studio and rooftop terrace, and considered the original rooms' dark cedar timberwork. Then they

#### Clockwise from left

The custom-made Lyrebird wallpaper lines the hallway; contemporary furnishings such as the B&B Italia Maxalto dining table mix with antique pieces; the colour scheme and fabrics were chosen to bring the outdoors in; Porter's Paints Hot Springs was chosen for the internal walls.

made some tough decisions. Internal walls were painted chocolate brown (Porter's Original Paints Hot Springs). In contrast, the dark timberwork, including the staircase that runs three levels, got a lick of bright white. "Instead of ruining the timber, the paint has brought it to life."

Manfredi-Hughes says the colour works because it has brought the outdoors in. "I look out at the park across the road — at the browns, burnt oranges, the greens. These colours are carried through inside with the paint shades, upholstery fabrics, even artworks. Plus, I've lived in white houses; this one needed something dramatic."

For the foyer and hallway, Jeffrey used bespoke Lyrebird wallpaper by Oscar-winning



costumier and designer Cathie Curtis, custom-made by special request. The Malt colour. The wallpaper, says Manfredi-Hughes, references the decorative language of the house.

But there are concessions to contemporary tastes, most evident in the lighting and some furniture: a black drum-shade pendant light from B&B Italia; a B&B Italia Maxalto dining table; a painting by Uto Ngale and other striking modern art.

But there's still room for history. The nameplate now reads "McLeod" in honour of the lance corporal's ultimate sacrifice nearly a century ago.