

AUSTRALIAN

Living beautifully with design doyenne *Melissa Penfold*

# HOUSE & GARDEN

*Fabulous*  
**50**

We reveal this year's  
**HOTTEST  
ROOMS**

A LIFE OF COLOUR  
& PATTERN WITH  
*Anna Spiro*

*Not just another brick in the wall*  
**Three HOMES that HERO bricks and mortar**

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## *Taste* MAKER

After a successful career in the restaurant business, Julie Manfredi Hughes is pursuing another creative passion: interior design.

STORY *Sue Ramsey* | STYLING *Megan Morton* & *Julie Manfredi Hughes* PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



## AT HOME WITH H&G

Homeowner and interior designer, Julie Manfredi Hughes in her hardworking and beautiful kitchen. Thonet counter stool, Anibou. *Orange Jar* vessel by Peter Andersson. Custom rangehood by Oliver Tanner Art & Design. Fez tiles in Graphite (splashback) and New Paradise tiles by Mr Jason Grant (island facing), Di Lorenzo Tiles. Island benchtop in Maximum Statuario porcelain panels, Artedomus. Wolf cooktop, Winning Appliances. Terrazzo floor tiles, Fibonacci Stone. **OPPOSITE** The home is painted Porter's Paints Stone Paint Fine in Blue Concrete, a textured neutral that makes a fine backdrop for the green of the refreshed garden by Secret Gardens. Trims painted Porter's Paints River Stone.





## H&G AT HOME WITH

Gervasoni 'Ghost 12' sofa (teal) and 'Ghost 20' daybed by Paola Navone, Classicon 'Bell' glass side table and 'Bow No 3' marble side table, all Anibou. Blarney rug, Robyn Cosgrove. The antique poster was purchased in Paris. Custom french doors, All Metal Projects. Walls in living area painted Porter's Paints Almond White, trims in Porter's Paints French Slate. Terrazzo floor tiles, Fibonacci Stone. Sub-Zero wine cabinet and french-door fridge, both Winning Appliances. **OPPOSITE** Recycled-elm console, Water Tiger. Vessel by Lino Alvarez, La Paloma Pottery. Artek 'A811' floor lamp by Alvar Aalto, Anibou. Garage artwork by Wilmott Kidd.







In 2001, then-restaurateur Julie Manfredi Hughes spent considerable time and effort hunting for a new family home. "My partner Larry has two sons and I have a daughter, Isabella, so we were looking for a house we could live in as a blended family," she says. The new home had big shoes to fill: Julie's previous property was designed for her and her former husband, acclaimed chef Stefano Manfredi, by their good friend, renowned architect, Luigi Rosselli.

"All the homes in our search area were just too small," says Julie. But she had a lightbulb moment while visiting a friend. "My friend lives in the area we like but on a major road and I was struck by how big and rambling the properties were," she says. "Soon after, I happened to see a similar house listed for sale nearby so we went to have a look."

The house in question is a beauty: three storeys and nine metres wide, three-metre-high ceilings and rooms galore - and the asking price was considerably less ▶





than other homes she'd seen. "People weren't even inspecting the house because it's on a busy road," says Julie. "But we fell in love with it straightaway."

Aside from the spacious house being ideal for her family, Julie was delighted to discover its rich history. "It was built in 1873 by Thomas Moore, who was a coach builder. He lived here for some time and when he died it was tenanted," she says. "In 1913, a local family bought the property and their daughter, Miss Mullins, set it up as a boarding house. She invested a lot of money in it, including adding the third floor," says Julie. "It was quite controversial at the time."

Julie and Larry did "bits and pieces" to the home in their first few years here, followed by a more extensive interior refresh in 2010 with the assistance of No Chintz's Chrissie Jeffery, who did the fit-out of Julie's then-business, award-winning restaurant, Bells at Killcare. But in 2018, Julie decided it was time to embark on a major renovation. "I really wanted to ►





## AT HOME WITH H&G

This social space transitions easily from family home to entertaining hub. CTO Lighting 'Ivy' pendant light, Spence & Lyda. Sconce wall light, Studio Henry Wilson. The antique cricket table (in corner) is an inherited piece. The dining table is an antique Larry has owned since the 1970s. Thonet '118H' counter stools and 'S32V' dining chairs, Anibou. Vase (on cricket table), swan sculpture, footed bowl and fruit bowl (on dining table) all by Tina Psarianos. Handmade plates by Katherine Mahoney Ceramics. Custom steel-framed doors by All Metal Projects (throughout). Garden design by Secret Gardens. **OPPOSITE** Vola KV1-500T tapware, Bathroom X. Dishwasher, Miele. Buster+Punch cabinet pulls, Spiggy.







*“THERE’S SUCH EASY FLOW  
THROUGH TO THE GARDEN NOW.”*

*Julie Manfredi Hughes, owner and interior designer*

Julie and Larry’s dog Matilda, a standard poodle, has plenty of room to roam both indoors and out. Palissade outdoor furniture by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec for Hay, Cult Design. Chelsea wall lights, Dunlin. Bedford sandstone pavers, Eco Outdoor. The home’s exterior is painted Porter’s Paints Stone Paint Fine in Blue Concrete. Artworks by Wilmott Kidd (above console) and Marina Strocchi (above kitchen bench). ▶









rebuild the back of the house because, even though it was relatively modern, it was becoming dilapidated.”

The timing coincided with the launch of Julie’s own interior design business, Décor JMH. “I drew up the plans for this house at the same time as I began working on my first client project,” Julie says. Her focus here was to open up the kitchen, refresh the living area and maximise the use of the courtyard, renovate two bathrooms and then build a studio above the garage.

Working on the ageing main bathroom was an enjoyable job, says Julie. “It has lovely arched windows and three-metre-high ceilings,” she says. “I added two new walls to contain a beautiful double vanity and I put a new bath in.”

Downstairs, in the kitchen, an external support wall was removed to open up the space and new full-height steel glazing was fitted, allowing light to stream in to the rear of the home. The floor, however, presented more of a challenge than expected. “We were jackhammering for weeks because it had five different layers of flooring,” says Julie. “So we sorted ▶







Matilda strikes a pose on the second-floor landing. Aurea pendant light by Denis Santachiara for Fontana Arte. Ribbed coir 2660 runner, The Natural Floorcovering Centres. Walls painted Porter's Paints Malt; the Catherine Martin 'Lyrebird' wallpaper in the lower stairwell was custom-tinted to match. Artworks by Peter Adsett (left) and Sokquon Tran.

**OPPOSITE TOP** The glass doors are covered in a low-E window film, supplied and installed by TintFX, to protect furnishings from sun damage. Belgian linen curtains, No Chintz. USM 'Haller' sideboard, Anibou. Artwork by George Byrne.

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT** Julie wears a dress by A.P.C x Sacai from Incu. Captain Flint floor lamp by Michael Anastassiades, Euroluce. Gervasoni 'Ghost 01' armchair by Paola Navone, Anibou. *Desert Pit Stop* by George Byrne, Olsen Gallery. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM**

**RIGHT** The walls of this space, the formal dining room, are painted Porter's Paints Hot Springs. Dining setting by Antonio Citterio for Maxalto, Space. Chandelier, Parterre. Corner table, Manning & Manning. Artwork by Sokuon Tran.







all that out and we now have lovely terrazzo tiles with under-floor heating."

A new four-metre island is the transition point between cooking and entertaining zones. "The kitchen is incredibly functional," says Julie. "I chose Porter's Provence Blue for the surrounding joinery - it makes me happy when I go downstairs in the morning. And there's such easy flow through to the garden now."

Luigi Rosselli again lent his talents to the project, designing the studio Julie wanted above the garage. "It's transformed the property," she says. "It's a really innovative design with a beautiful curved roof that sweeps all the way from the street frontage to the back garden."

Outside, the old garden was completely ripped out. "It was overbearing as it was, so I worked with Secret Gardens to do the replanting," says Julie. She had her heart set on an olive tree, finding just the right one at a mature-tree nursery at Peats Ridge on the NSW Central Coast. "It was a big splurge, but I love it and it's doing really well - and now I can never leave!" ▶

*Décor JMH; [jmhdesign.com.au](http://jmhdesign.com.au).*

*Luigi Rosselli Architects; [luigirosselli.com](http://luigirosselli.com).*

*Secret Gardens; [secretgardens.com.au](http://secretgardens.com.au).*

*Technoform Constructions;*

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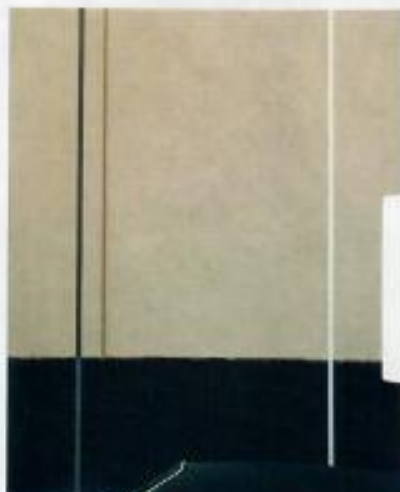


*"WE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE HOUSE STRAIGHTAWAY." Julie*

**ABOVE AND LEFT** Claybrook 'Evolve' bath, Ceramica Catalano 'Zero+' basins, 'Progressive' mixer taps and 'Logic' bath filler, all Rogerseller. Custom vanity and mirror with integrated cabinets by Décor JMH. Flos 'Mini Glo-Ball' wall lights, Euroluce. Handkerchief blinds in Ivory linen from No Chintz. Bianco Gloss subway tiles and XXS-Zellige Nero mosaic floor tiles, all Di Lorenzo Tiles. **OPPOSITE** Fiora sleigh bed, Fanuli. Busatti bedlinen, Casa by Studio Kate. Missoni throw, Spence & Lyda. Bedside tables bought in India. Surface Sconce lamp and brass vide poche, Studio Henry Wilson. Antique French mirror. Antique Chinese vase. Original fireplace. Walls painted Porter's Paints Rubble. *For Where to Buy, see page 204.*







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## LIFE & STYLE

*Julie shares some firsts and favourite things.*

**FIRST ADULT HOME?** A dilapidated worker's cottage that Luigi Rosselli renovated for me. It was featured in *Interior Architecture* magazine in 1991.

**BUCKET-LIST DESTINATION?** I would like to go on safari in Africa. There is a need to reconnect with the wild and the wilderness.

**DREAM RESTAURANT TABLE?** Gualtiero Marchesi di San Pietro all'Orto in Milan in the 1980s – the pinnacle of fine dining.

**FAVOURITE DOWNTIME PURSUIT?** Swimming or lying by a pool in a chic hotel such as L'Hôtel Marrakech (2) or Relais La Somitià in Ostuni.

**FAVOURITE FLOWERS?** Flannel flowers (3) or garden roses.

**FAVOURITE ARTISTS?** With their collective voices about the Australian experience of country: Emma Walker, Peter Adsett (1), Paddy Bedford and Janet Lawrence.

**DESIGNERS AND ARCHITECTS WHO INSPIRE YOU?** Gio Ponti (8) for the length and breadth of his reach and influence; Pierre Paulin (9) for his playful organic shapes and forms; Grant and Mary Featherston for their iconic Australian furniture designs; Pierre Yovanovitch (6, 10) for the avant garde; and Luigi Rosselli because he is simply an artist. His work has a narrative and challenges boundaries.

**FAVOURITE FASHION LABELS?** Right now, I am living in Bassike. Crushing on Wardrobe NYC (5). Throw in some Acne or Prada (4). Mother or Frame jeans.

**FAVOURITE SCENT?** Sandalwood (11).

**A HOMEWARE PIECE YOU COVET?** A Lady Chair by Marco Zanuso for Arflex in black and white checks. I am obsessed with chairs.

**I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...** My bath! The Evolve 1780 from Claybrook (7). I love all the amenities in my new bathroom, but the bath is a necessity. H&G

**MY DREAM CAR? A MASERATI - BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ELECTRIC!**



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