

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S SPACES: Smart rooms for bright young minds

# HOUSE & GARDEN

*The ultimate family home*

We visit  
comedian  
**TIM ROSS**,  
*a man who  
takes his  
DESIGN  
seriously*

124<sup>+</sup>  
pages  
of

FOREVER HOMES

Moving on up, side-sizing or downsizing?  
*Inspiration abounds!*



**LIVING** Artwork by Colin Pennock. Cushions, Studio ALM. Milo sofa and square ottoman, Jordan. Round ottoman, Fred International. Herman Miller 'Crosshatch' chair, Living Edge. Custom joinery made by SED Joinery (throughout). Outdoor chairs and stool, Anibou. The rug is part of the owner's existing collection.

# Get SMART

Reinstated heritage details and thoughtful new additions have transformed this Sydney terrace into a home that's perfectly on point.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Steve Cordony*  
PHOTOGRAPHY *Tom Ferguson*









**LIBRARY** *This page* Eames lounge chair, matching footstool, Eames turned-timber stool and Vitra 'Sunflower' wall clock, all Living Edge. Serge Mouille 'Lampadaire 3' floor lamp, Cult. Aerin 'Corvo' side table/stool, Palmer & Penn. Rug, Cadrys. Fireplace, Jetmaster.

**STUDY** *Opposite* Artwork by Colin Pennock. Fireplace, Jetmaster. Luminator floor lamp, Euoroluce. Chair, MCM House.







his 1880s inner-Sydney terrace had only just been renovated when the current owner bought it. While the location and floor plan were near perfect and it was entirely liveable, it just didn't have the finesse the owner was looking for. It was also lacking character, having had its period detailing stripped out. Enter interior designer Gil Bennett of More Than Space (formerly Zavie Creative), who was briefed to create a home with high-end joinery, improved storage and contemporary furniture. It was important to honour the home's heritage too. "The beautiful historical fireplaces in the library and study had been replaced by flat, silver box-style mantels and hearths," says Gil. "The house definitely needed a modern makeover, but it needed to reference its rich 1880s origins." As the owner had worked with Gil before, he felt confident giving her considerable creative leeway.

Originally, the scope of works was limited to remediating the rather flimsy cabinetry, but that job soon evolved into a full-scale project that took six years from start to finish. It was enacted in stages so the owner could remain in the house during the renovation.

After the joinery, the electrics were next on the hit list. "There was a surplus of downlights in every room," says Gil. "They were completely unnecessary, very unsightly and created a lot of glare." She replaced ►









*WITH SPACE AT A PREMIUM  
IN THE NARROW HOME,  
OUT-OF-THE-BOX STORAGE  
SOLUTIONS WERE NEEDED.*

**KITCHEN** *Above* The compact but ultra-efficient kitchen includes a pop-up niche for small appliances within the island. It's powered by an A250 lift system by Nexus Construction Systems. Tapware, Abey. **BAR AREA** *Right* Handily located next to the entry-level living room, the bar area is cleverly concealed by a Hawa-Folding Concepta pocket-door system by Häfele. Liebherr wine fridge. Dekton benchtop and splashback. Artwork from The DEA Store. Bowl, Orient House. Vases from Ondene and MCM House. Rug, Cadrys. **DINING** Artwork by Colin Pennock. Y chandelier, Douglas & Bec. Dining table and chairs, all Hub Furniture.







### THIS IS THE LIFE

Having worked with the owner before, interior designer Gil Bennett had a good understanding of the owner's style and needs before beginning this project. Improved storage has made this narrow terrace more functional for the owner, who prefers streamlined surroundings. "The pop-up appliances niche and pocket doors to the bar area allow me to hide clutter in an instant," says the owner. "It's like a push-button clean-up."





## THE PALETTE

Dulux  
Snowy  
Mountains  
(throughout)

Dulux  
Smoky Bark

Dulux  
Dark Rainforest



**FIRST-FLOOR GUESTROOM** *This page* Lambert & Fils 'Beaubien' double-shade wall light, Living Edge. Bed spread and throw, all Hale Mercantile Co. Cushions, Cultiver. Tom Dixon 'Fan' stool, Dedecce. **SECOND-FLOOR GUESTROOM** *Opposite, top left and bottom right* A Beoplay wall-mounted speaker from Bang & Olufsen hangs above a custom credenza by SED Joinery. Tulip side table by Eero Saarinen from Dedecce. Vases from Conley & Co (left) and The DEA Store. Buster+Punch wardrobe handles from Spark & Burnish. **POWDER ROOM** *Opposite top right* Tapware, Gessi. Mastella basin, Abey. Hand towel, Hale Mercantile Co. Bluestone wall and floor tiles, Earp Bros. Custom mirrored cabinet and vanity. Dekton benchtop. **MAIN ENSUITE** *Opposite, bottom left* Taps and showerhead, all Gessi. Mastella basin, Abey. Bluestone wall and floor tiles, Earp Bros. ►





*“GIL MANAGED TO FUSE OLD AND NEW PERFECTLY.”* Owner



them with wall-washing blade lights from iGuzzi which distribute light more evenly. They are placed strategically to illuminate the owner's artworks, mostly by renowned Australian artist Colin Pennock. The whole house was then rewired to accommodate solar panels and improve energy-efficiency overall.

The terrace is located on a narrow, sloping site and has a layout that spreads across five levels, creating 210 square metres of useable space on a 120-square-metre block. The front door opens directly into a library that leads to a light-flooded living room with its own bar area concealed by pocket doors. Down a short flight of stairs is the ground floor, which contains the open-plan kitchen/dining space, a second living room, the study and a powder room. Further down is the lower-ground floor, including the garage, laundry and dedicated bike storage. The first floor (above the entry level) accommodates the main bedroom suite and a guestroom, with an additional bedroom on the top floor.

Since the floorboards were in good nick and the architectural 'bones' still evident, Gil met the charm-reinstatement part of the brief by removing those too-modern fireplaces in the library and study, replacing them with Victorian-style hearths and decorative timber mantels.

With space at a premium, storage was a primary focus and Gil came up with some innovative solutions to "maximise the use of every nook and cranny". In the kitchen, the existing island bench was reduced by 20 centimetres in order to increase the capacity of the adjacent pantry, which is now double its original depth. While the footprint of the island is smaller, it's more functional thanks to the genius inclusion of a pop-up niche for small appliances. Nearby, there's a wine-storage drawer tucked under the stairs, complete with slide-out racks for easy access.

"Retaining period character while enhancing the functionality of living spaces can sometimes be a challenge. It's a fine balance," says Gil. "Here, the detailed custom joinery is the key. The layering of textures and materials was carefully considered too."

The owner is absolutely delighted with the outcome. "Gil managed to fuse the old and new perfectly, while also improving practicality with better lighting, thoughtful joinery and clever storage solutions that keep clutter out of sight," he says. "It's also a supremely comfortable home. The perfect package." **H&G**  
*More Than Space, Banksmeadow, NSW; 1300 160 791 or [morethanspace.com.au](http://morethanspace.com.au).*



**GARDEN** The garden was beautifully landscaped by previous owners. Chair from Anibou. **MAIN BEDROOM** Portobello bedhead in Warwick Fabrics Malabar Midnight, Heatherly Design. Bedcover, Hale Mercantile Co. Bolsters, Jordan. Domi scone, Articolo Lighting. Gubi 'Bat' chair, Cult. Bespoke shutters. Artwork by Colin Pennock. *For Where to Buy, see page 192.*

