



Hooked on classic

Decorating is often the most enjoyable part of a renovation, and this home was no exception. "The owners had some wonderful furniture – timeless pieces – which gave me a good base to work with," says interior designer Michael Love. Coordinating furniture and accessories, sourced all over the world, create an easy flow from one space to the next.



PERFECT FINISH

No stone was left unturned when an accomplished design team revamped this 1930s house in Sydney for its well-travelled owner.

PRODUCED BY NERIDA PIGGIN | STYLING KATE NIXON | PHOTOGRAPHY LOUISE LISTER



Flowers throughout from Mandalay Flowers; (02) 9362 5000 or www.mandalayflowers.com.au.



The Raj-like effect is achieved through warm, soft oranges and ebony harmonised with beige, batik-style linens and Victorian-era cane furniture.

LIVING Soft neutrals paired with furniture in dark tones create a sense of luxe livability. Curtains in glazed linen from Rose Tarlow Melrose House. Antique cabinet bought in Hong Kong. Watercolours featuring 18th-century scenes of India bought in London. Throw from Busatti. The wool rug was custom made by Tai Ping in Hong Kong. Armchairs upholstered in linen from Veere Grenney Associates.
Smart buy: Ikat Spot cushion in Cumquat, \$95, No Chintz.

DINING/KITCHEN Elaborate cane dining chairs from Equator Homewares embody the Raj-style appeal. The Victorian dining table is a family heirloom. Timber-panelled cupboards and pendant lights custom designed by Michael Love Interior Design.
For Where to Buy, see page 228.

The best of everything' was the brief to leading Sydney design professionals, architect Michael Suttor and interior designer Michael Love, when they were approached to remodel this property in the city's eastern suburbs.

There followed a generous time frame for the project, which involved Love accompanying the owner on buying trips to pull together the interiors for this 'forever home' for himself and his three adult daughters.

"We travelled from the West to the East buying for the house," says Love. "We visited London and Hong Kong sourcing fabrics, furniture and paintings to give a Raj-like atmosphere to the rooms, with warm, soft oranges and ebony harmonised with beige, batik-style linens from London as well as Victorian-era furniture."

But first, some remodelling was undertaken. The house, located at the end of a steep driveway with only its terracotta-tiled roof visible from the street, was built in the 1930s and had an easy Mediterranean charm. But it needed updating for contemporary living.

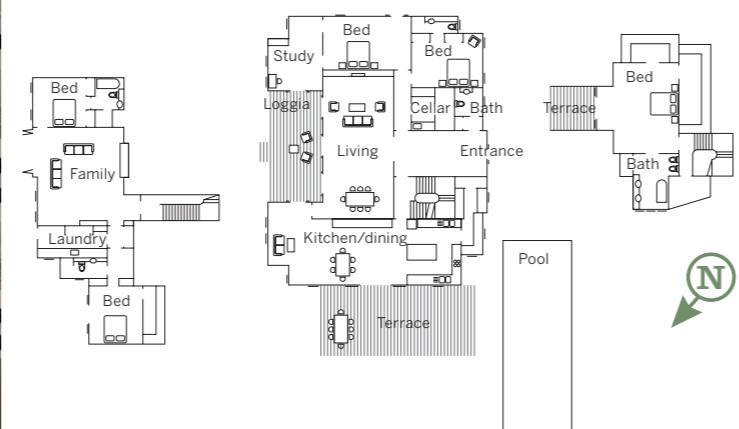
One of the most difficult jobs was relocating the pool, which was at the bottom level of the house overlooking a tropical garden. It was moved up the block, adjacent to a new terrace leading off the ground-floor kitchen and dining room. In place of a hard-to-manage >



LOWER GROUND

GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR



LIVING The paintings of India and lacquered console were sourced in Hong Kong. Armchair from Michael Love Interior Design.

STUDY The soft oriental rug is from Robyn Cosgrove Rugs. Armchairs and ottoman by Michael Love Interior Design.

Smart buy: Orange cushion, \$185, No Chintz.

MAIN BEDROOM The timber-panelled ceiling lends a Raj-style ambience to the bedroom. The four-poster bed and wool-sisal rug by Michael Love Interior Design. Chinoiserie robe from Hong Kong. Armchairs upholstered in Milgate Pierre Frey Shanghai in Ivoire 2.

Smart buy: Velvet cushions in Chocolate, \$195/each, No Chintz. For Where to Buy, see page 228.

< staircase to the lower ground floor, Suttor installed open stairs with classic iron balustrade. These stairs lead to a family room, laundry and two bedrooms, each designed to make the most of the garden views. He also opened up the roof space to allow for a main bedroom with extensive walk-in wardrobes, an ensuite and a terrace.

Suttor thought the now five-bedroom house needed more presence so he moved the original side entrance to the front and added a classical pillared porch enhanced by two large pots planted with magnolia trees. All doors and windows are new too, as he wanted them to be in proportion to one another. Terraces and balconies were given new balustrades and the lighting and floors upgraded.

"I basically copied what was there but the materials are new," says Suttor. "I like to take the best elements of the original building and try to use similar detailing to what was there."

And, with wonderful fabrics and furniture in place, this house is everything you could wish a home to be, says Suttor: comfortable, warm and light, and oozing understated luxury. >

Michael Suttor Architects, Bronte, NSW;
(02) 9369 3366 or www.michaelsuttor.com.au.



'I like to take the best elements of the original building and try to use similar detailing to what was there.'

MICHAEL SUTTOR, ARCHITECT





'With wonderful fabrics and furnishings in place, this house is everything you could wish a home to be.'

MICHAEL SUTTOR, ARCHITECT

ENTRANCE Architect Michael Suttor on the redesigned portico. The terracotta roof tiles were made in Italy.

BATHROOM The oak cabinet, stained an ebony colour, is teamed with a stone top. All designed by Michael Love Interior Design.

Designer buy: Antiquated Piedemonte Franco Italian stone tiles (60x30cm), \$176/m², FGA Granite & Marble.

BEDROOM Moss green is a soothing colour for the bedroom. Chair, footstool and lamp all from Michael Love Interior Design. Rose Tarlow Melrose House Medici wallpaper.

GARDEN The garden is thick with tropical ferns, established trees and giant palms. At the end of the pool is an eastern 'gate to nowhere'. Sunloungers from Equator Homewares. For Where to Buy, see page 228.

H&G

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes will allow.



Colour palette

Dulux Hog Bristle,
half-strength (living areas)

Add a dash of...

Dulux Beauty Spot

Porter's Paints Lava

Porter's Paints
Red Lantern

Rich earthy hues create
a feeling of warmth
without overpowering.