

# Inside

text: Megan Norgate



## Transcending Fashion

This Bronte house project involved creating a warm and robust family hub, dining areas and new wet rooms for a young creative family. Arent & Pyke have created an eclectic, bold and playful home by drawing from modernist, traditional, ethnic and contemporary sources. Using many of the owners' rugs, artworks and furnishings – and the existing architecture of the home as a point of reference – they have added to these elements in a way that is cohesive and communicates a sense of evolution. The result transcends fashion by mixing old and new styles, rough and highly polished textures, and colours in a way that prevents the aesthetics of a space becoming dated.

## Big Rugs

Often in older homes, where there have been additions and alterations over time, there is a mix of floorboard species and sizes. Staining them all a dark colour can help unify the different timber tones and board widths. A large vintage Persian rug from Perryman Carpets anchors the furnishings in the room, adding warmth and vibrant colour to the space. Rugs should be big enough that peripheral seating can sit over the edge of them, helping to anchor the furnishings to the centre of activity. With a young family a vintage and multi-coloured rug is a practical choice as it is more forgiving for a small amount of wear and tear.

[perrymancarpets.com](http://perrymancarpets.com)

Megan Norgate  
is a interior designer at  
Brave New Eco.  
[braveneweco.com.au](http://braveneweco.com.au)



## Artwork

These living areas have been brought alive by carefully chosen and diverse artwork. Art is a very personal choice and designers can be a great resource to introduce clients to a range of artists and suggest key pieces that speak to them, and are the right scale. The work above the dining room fireplace is by Aboriginal artist Makinti Napangangka, who was one of the leading painters of the Papunya Tula Artists. In the living room the artwork above the sideboard is by Australian-British artist Nicholas Harding, known for his exuberant landscapes and portraits in oil.

[kateowengallery.com](http://kateowengallery.com)  
[olsenirwin.com](http://olsenirwin.com)



## Restore

Part of this project was to refurbish the fireplaces to bring them back to their former glory. Decorative and ornate dark timber surrounds can be overbearing in a room, so painting them out in white or black can streamline their appearance whilst highlighting the architectural detailing.

When upgrading a fireplace that is not always going to be functional make sure it is properly sealed so that it does not become a point of heat loss in the room, or retro-fit a self-closing damper in a functional one.

## Footprint

As a design discipline, interior design lends itself to an inherently sustainable design approach through transforming existing spaces both functionally and aesthetically without altering a building's footprint. In residential design this is a multi-layered process that includes identifying and enhancing the intrinsic good qualities of a space, problem-solving elements that are not working, and creating an environment that is an expression of the owner's tastes and way of life. This approach has an heirloom quality and timeless appeal, without being bland or predictable.

## Buying to last

Sitting lightly in the space is the "Habibi" copper side table from Living Edge; these tables feature a spun tray and hand-polished finish. Made of valuable metals these pieces are left untreated and will oxidise and darken over time, creating a beautiful changing patina. The sideboard is the "Oak Wing Cabinet" by Isokon Plus from Anibou. Isokon Plus pieces are based on iconic designs of the 1930s and are handmade in London. The craftsmanship is evident with curved lines in the plywood and timber veneer. This soft sculptural line is repeated with the "Malloy Coffee Table" by Adam Goodrum for Cult design. Durable tan leather will age gracefully on the "Longreach Sofa & Lounge" by Anibou, made with a hardwood frame and removable covers. Vintage furnishings, such as the "Maralunga" armchair by Vico Magistretti, were restored and re-covered, and a retro brass table lamp sourced for the sideboard.

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