

ENTRANCE A series of arches at the entry captures the tone of the house. Front door painted Dulux Black. **EXTERIOR** The front of the house has been painted Dulux Beige Imp and the balcony fitted with an Art Deco-style custom steel balustrade from Minnis & Samson.



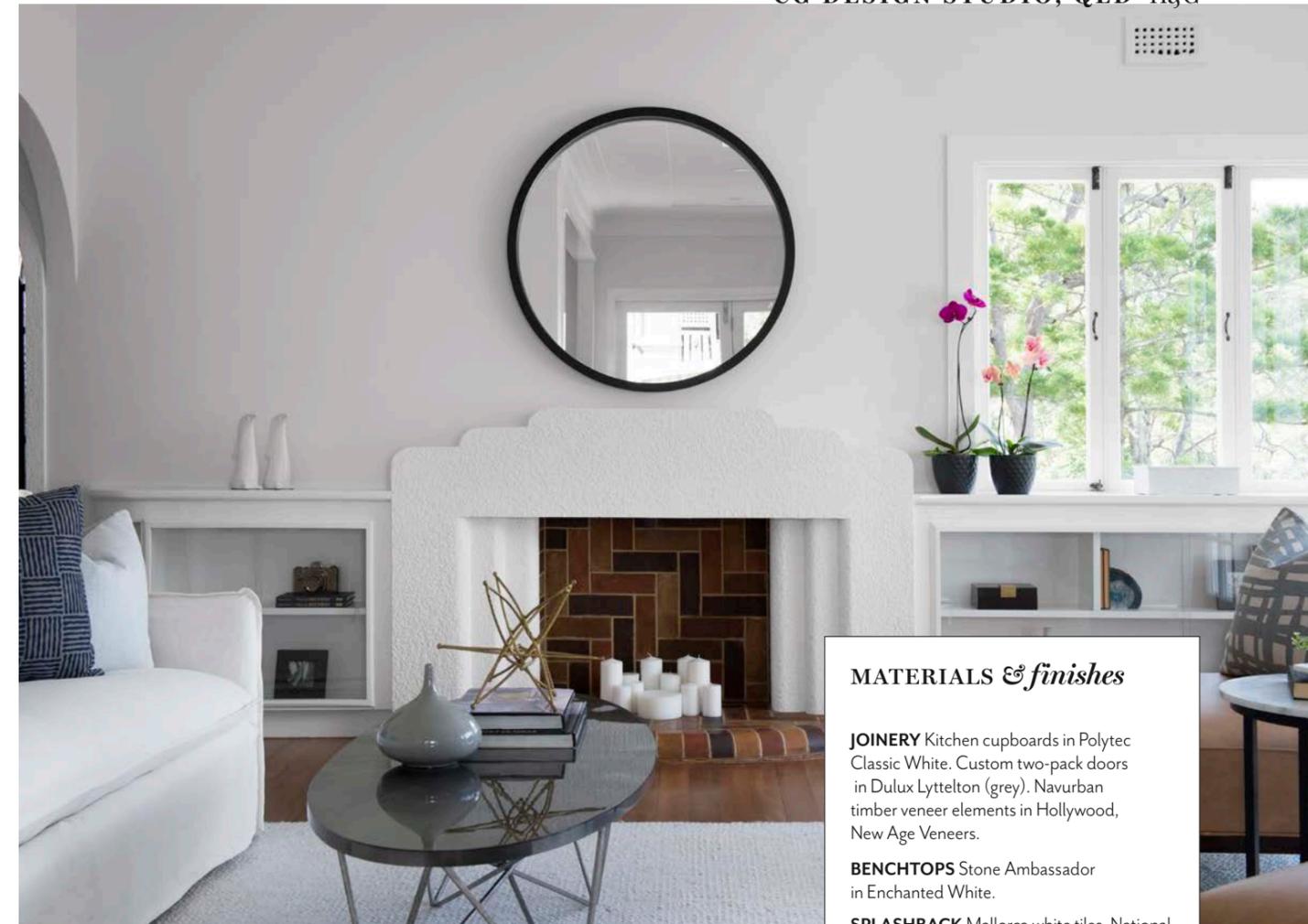
STAMP OF APPROVAL

A tired but *prominent* home on a *LEAFY* street is given the *SYMPATHETIC* revamp it *DESERVES* – much to the *delight* of the locals!

STORY *Stephanie Hope* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Mindi Cooke*

“WE DISCOVERED HOW MUCH THE HOUSE HAD CAPTURED THE HEARTS AND IMAGINATIONS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.” *Christopher Gyzemyter*

LIVING Adel round mirror, CR Essentials ‘Avery’ sofa and ‘Loftus Slipper’ occasional chair, Oly ‘George’ coffee table, Noho side table, Levi rug, and artwork by Max Sparrow, all Coco Republic. French doors, Colonial Warehouse.



MATERIALS & finishes

JOINERY Kitchen cupboards in Polytec Classic White. Custom two-pack doors in Dulux Lyttelton (grey). Navurban timber veneer elements in Hollywood, New Age Veneers.

BENCHTOPS Stone Ambassador in Enchanted White.

SPLASHBACK Mallorca white tiles, National Tiles (kitchen). Spring white subway tiles, Tile Solutions (laundry).

TILES Evostone floor tiles in Ivory (ensuite and laundry) and Rondine Aurelia ‘Grigio Lineare’ tiles (courtyard), Tile Solutions. Paloma ‘Ash’ feature tiles (ensuite) and Japanese Impression ‘Snow Sticks’ mosaics (bathroom), National Tiles.

FLOORING Existing.

MAJOR APPLIANCES Miele cooktop, oven, microwave and integrated dishwasher. Bosch rangehood.

TAPWARE AND FITTINGS Elysian kitchen mixer and bathroom mixer set, Dana showerhead and Oscar floor-mounted bath filler in Gunmetal, Abi Interiors.

SINK Vita double kitchen sink, Abi Interiors. Caroma ‘Luna’ basin, Reece (bathroom).

COLOUR SCHEME Dulux Whitsunday Island (walls), Lexicon Quarter (doors, trims and ceilings), Brume (master bedroom), Beige Imp (exterior) and Black (front door).

LIGHTING Masson Click downlights and Aiden pendants, Beacon Lighting. Bianco single sconce in Bronze, Jimmy Raiden.

On a corner block overlooking a park, this historic home in the leafy Brisbane suburb of Bardon is well known to locals. Built in the 1930s, it has the look of a story book gingerbread house, with its charming brick corbel front facade, sloping entry roof, decorative steel work and sprawling gardens. Having been empty for some time, it attracted quite a crowd when it finally went up for auction last year, and the successful bidders, a pair of seasoned renovators, instantly saw the potential. They engaged interior and building designer Christopher Gyzemyter of CG Design Studio to conceive and project manage the home’s sympathetic but contemporary reincarnation, and Christopher admits he felt a fair amount of pressure in doing so.

“The house had been vacant and untouched for many years, and we discovered during the renovation how much it had captured the hearts and imaginations of local residents,” he says. “It clearly meant a lot to the community and we wanted to do it justice.”

When he saw the house it was “tired and unliveable. Cracks in the walls, creaky floors,” he recalls. “But it had once been a home and we wanted to bring that feeling back.”

The layout was sound, albeit a little small, and there was plenty of historic charm worth hanging onto. In answer, Christopher opted to commandeer one of the bedrooms to effectively double the size of the master suite, which now acts as a private retreat with luxurious walk-in robe and contemporary ensuite. A freestanding bathtub is the hero, framed by the existing French windows. “As soon as we walked into the space, we knew that was where the bath was going, and everything fell into place around that,” he says.

In the kitchen, one wall has been opened up to the dining area and an adjacent store room repurposed as a butler’s pantry. “We got lucky with this layout. The adjacent living



spaces are comfortable but not huge, so the kitchen needed to be simple and not dominate. We kept it sleek and white, introducing detail in small amounts, such as the subtle grey profile in the overhead cabinetry and timber accents for warmth and harmony.”

A light-filled living space features functional joinery and contemporary furnishings that sit amicably alongside the original ornate fireplace. “We weren’t able to get the fireplace working again, but it was important to retain it,” says Christopher. “It tells a story of the history of the house and all the people who would have gathered around it.”

At the rear, a new extension has been added to accommodate three bedrooms and a sitting room, with a covered entertaining terrace that adjoins the main living and dining spaces to create that quintessential Queensland indoor-outdoor lifestyle. With the original house remaining the hero, these additions are modest in scale to complement rather than overshadow the existing building. The gardens have also been designed in harmony with the home - murraya hedges, magnolia feature trees and gardenia shrubs lining the front path are classic and understated choices.

Many of the materials have been chosen to reference the home’s rich heritage. Decorative tiles on the front balcony and a ribbed glass wall light are a subtle nod to a previous era, while warm gunmetal finishes lend an aged feel to the bathroom fittings and door hardware.

Existing features like the entry arches and fireplace have been freshened up with a coat of white paint and the original rich timber floors (concealed under dusty, mustard-coloured carpet) have been sanded back and rejuvenated. Timber windows that previously featured on the home remain and have been replicated in the new extension, while

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Christopher Gyzemyter

DINING Arcadia dining table, Melrose dining chairs and Escarpment framed artwork, Coco Republic. **KITCHEN** Joinery in Polytec Classic White. Stone Ambassador benchtop in Enchanted White. Vita double sink and Elysian pull-out mixer, Abi Interiors. Mallorca white splashback tiles, National Tiles. Aiden pendants, Beacon Lighting. Astor bar stools, Coco Republic.

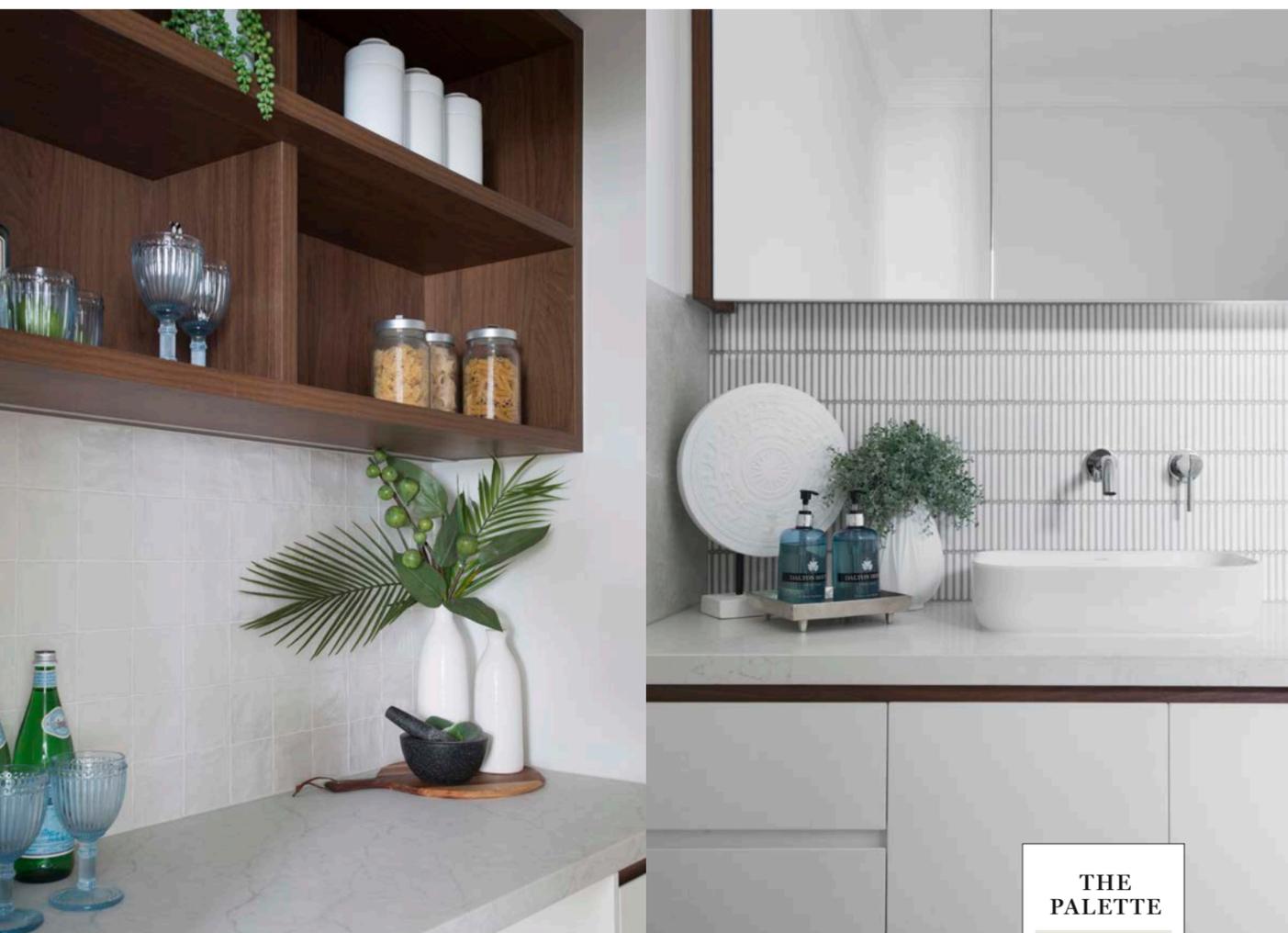




“THE MASTER BEDROOM HAS BEEN KEPT SIMPLE TO HIGHLIGHT ITS BEAUTIFUL FEATURES.” *Christopher Gyzymyter*



MASTER BEDROOM Bed, side table, lamp, rug, owners' existing. Walls painted Dulux Brume. Curtains, Wortley Group. French doors, Colonial Warehouse. **ENSUITE** Evastone wall and floor tiles in Ivory, Tile Solutions. Paloma 'Ash' feature tiles, National Tiles. Kado 'Lux' oval freestanding bath, and Caroma 'Luna' basin, Reece. Calacatta Nuovo benchtop, Caesarstone. Elysian mixer set, Dana showerhead, Oscar floor-mounted bath filler, Abi Interiors. Bianco single sconce in bronze, Jimmy Raiden. **BALCONY** Enjoying district views, the balcony off the master bedroom is furnished with the owners' existing chairs and table. Canvas awning, Beck's Blinds. Warren external wall light, Beacon Lighting. Revival Celtic tiles, National Tiles.



**THE
PALETTE**

Dulux
Whitsunday
Island (interior
walls)

Dulux Lexicon
Quarter (trims,
ceilings)

Dulux Beige Imp
(exterior)

a neutral off-white palette was carefully selected to highlight the striking brickwork on the house's facade.

Indeed, Christopher's attention to detail and diligent efforts to create a stunning home that speaks to its history have not gone unnoticed. "The simple classic palette has gained a lot of praise from the locals. We still get comments from people thanking us for doing a sympathetic renovation and restoring the home to its former glory," he says.

DESCRIBE THE BRIEF AND THE RESULT YOU WERE TRYING TO ACHIEVE WITH THIS RENOVATION? To modernise a circa 1930s home and bring it back to life through a full-scale renovation.

WHAT WAS THE DESIGN SOLUTION? Key original architectural elements have been maintained and the rooms opened up and connected to the exterior.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST HAPPY WITH? The main living area. Opening to the front garden and rear courtyard, it is light and bright.

DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM FOR WOULD-BE RENOVATORS? Try to work with what you have and listen to the house. This will make things easier structurally and can be more cost-effective.

HOW LONG DID THE RENOVATION TAKE? We had a smooth build of five months.

WHAT WAS THE BALLPARK PROJECT COST? \$300,000-\$350,000.

Design and building team Concept and design CG Design Studio; cgdesignstudio.com.au.

Builder Davenport Homes; davenporthomes.com.au. **Joiner** In2Joinery; in2joinery.com.au.

BUTLER'S PANTRY Shelves in Navurban timber veneer, New Age Veneers. Mallorca wall tiles, National Tiles. **LAUNDRY** Spring white tile splashback, Tile Solutions. Ohelu sink and Elysian mixer, Abi Interiors.

COURTYARD Rondine Aurelia 'Grigio Lineare' floor tiles, Tile Solutions. St Martin outdoor dining table and Catalina chairs, Coco Republic. *For Where to Buy, see p4.*

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