

INTRODUCING
STEVE CORDONY'S
CHIC AGENDA

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Inside Charlotte Coote's CREATIVE & CHARISMATIC HOME

Influencing Decus

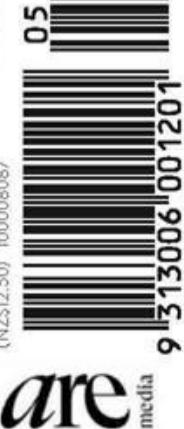
WHAT'S INSPIRING
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Luxe in the **COUNTRY**

BUCOLIC BOLTHOLES FROM BYRON TO BLAIRGOWRIE

MAY 2022

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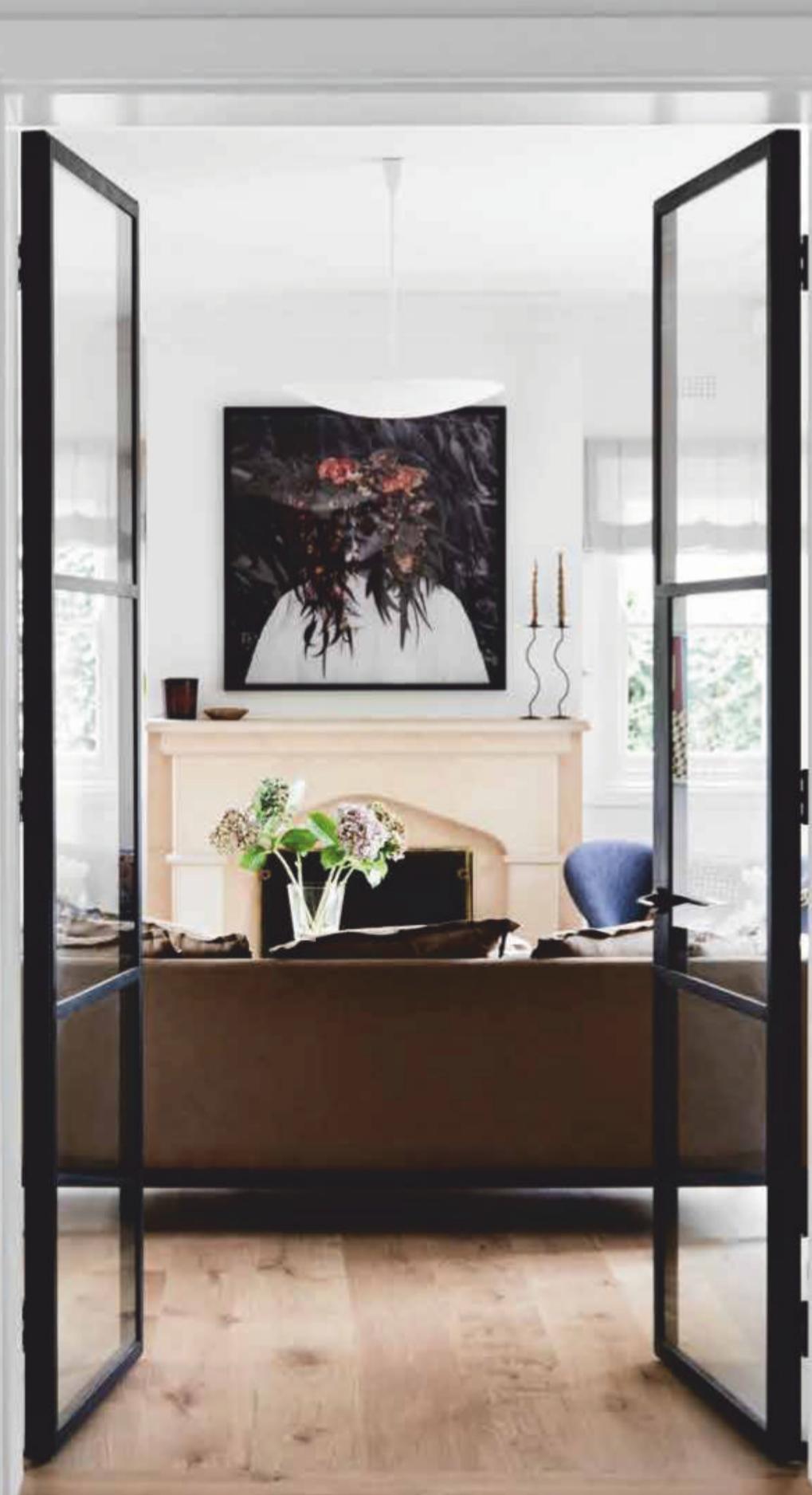


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This page An Italian chandelier from Obsolete, LA, and a vintage hat stand from Curated Spaces frame the entry to the formal sitting room. Sofa from ABC Carpet & Home. Artwork by Christian Thompson. Arbre French oak engineered floorboards in Acre from Bowens.

Opposite page In the casual living space, sofa from Jardan with custom upholstery and assorted linen cushions from Gaudion Furniture. Artwork by Caitlin Lonegan. 'Bandy' side table from Jardan with a bronze wishbone sculpture by Charles Price, small bronze house sculpture from Domo and a coral ceramic sculpture from Antony Todd Home.



CHANCES



Contemporary artwork and new openings have lightened the mood at this renovated 1930s family home in Melbourne.

Words **CARLI PHILIPS** Photography **LISA COHEN** Styling **NATALIE JAMES**

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In 2016, Australian designer Lisa Buxton packed and prepped a container full of art and furniture that she had accumulated over seven years spent in New York. After studying at the Parsons School of Design, Lisa had gone on to work for fellow New York-based Australian Antony Todd in event design, helping to style parties for the likes of Elton John and Anna Wintour. Then, just as she was heading back to Melbourne, Lisa met Ari (on the day he arrived in New York) and her plans changed. Together, they ended up in the city for another three years before moving back to Australia and getting married.

In 2020, during the pandemic and a pregnancy, Lisa and Ari began renovations on their newly purchased 1930s home in

Armadale – timing she admits was challenging but a stress eased thanks to the help of her friend and collaborator, interior architect Lucy Bowen. “Lucy is great with space planning,” says Lisa. “She has a family and understands those needs so we were on the same page.” While Lisa had long-held visual ideas, functionality was still of primary importance. “You have to love what you live in, but it also has to be practical and I’m acutely aware of that with two young kids. My clients are mainly families so I know that’s the number one priority at the end of the day.” However, Lisa still deferred to her dream mood board – a bold scheme of visual and decorative concepts she had been adding to over time but never quite managed to convince clients to try. »

These pages 'Dita' stools in sheepskin with bronze legs from Grazia&Co await at the island bench topped in Arabescato Vagli marble from CDK Stone. Rear bench joinery in Brown Orleans Oak from Nikpol Australia. Next to the rangehood, which is clad in Venetian plaster by Novacolor, are little paintings on subway tiles by Joel McKenna. Oven from Gaggenau. Astra Walker tapware in aged brass. 'TW' solid downlight cylinders in oak by Terence Woodgate from Temperature Design. In the breakfast nook the custom banquette, designed by Lucy Bowen and Lisa Buxton and constructed by Cumming Brothers, is upholstered in aubergine leather by Martel. Custom egg-shaped dining table by Lisa Buxton made by Joel Elliott. Sculpture by Sanné Mestrom from Sullivan+Strumpf. 'Stripe Square Peg' tabouret from Worn Store. Apparatus 'Bowl' sconce in aged brass from Criteria. On ledge, sculpture by Kate Tucker from Daine Singer and bowl by Astier De Villatte from Nickey Kehoe, LA.



THE HOUSE HAS OLD-FASHIONED DETAILING WITH A MODERN TWIST. ORIGINAL CORNICES, PANELLING AND CEILING ROSES JUXTAPOSE WITH EDGY ART AND LIGHTING.



« Now, with her own renovation, the time was ripe, especially for the wavy aubergine leather banquette and sherbet-pink powder room with a Rosa Calmante stone basin, both of which were her design ideas that had been bubbling away for years.

The home had been subject to adjustments over the years and while appealing in its grandeur and traditional design details, Lisa says it was “so pitch dark in some areas that you needed a torch”. Tall trees in the front yard obscured the windows, there was no connection to the outside and brown carpet only compounded the dreariness. “It felt as if the house was purposely built to block out natural light,” she recalls. In response, a bank of new windows was added to the rear in the casual family living area, the foliage at the front clipped back and existing doorways widened. Lining the whole ground floor with French oak floorboards also helped.

The house opens into a grand, double-height foyer with a playroom and study to the left and interconnected formal living and dining rooms off to the right. Straight ahead, a powder room was knocked out in order to widen the passage and insert a new window. Winding around under the stairs, the home unfolds into the southern wing where the majority of the work was undertaken. An awkwardly positioned laundry in the centre of the room was removed in order to open up the space, and the kitchen – which originally faced the back wall – was reoriented with an open-facing central island and adjoining banquette for casual meals. A wall dividing this space from the family room was demolished for a more open-plan footprint. »



This page, from top In the casual rear living space a vintage rattan lounger from Curated Spaces with Nordic pelt from Abode Living sets a relaxing tone. Zanat 'Nera' stool in walnut from Garde, LA. 'Canoe' plaster sconce from Anna Charlesworth. Neighbouring the breakfast nook, the new rear living space features a Jardan sofa with cushions from Gaudion Furniture. Artwork by Caitlin Lonegan. 'Pebble' coffee table by Nada Debs. The 'Bandy' side table from Jardan holds a bronze wishbone sculpture by Charles Price, small bronze house sculpture from Domo and coral ceramic sculpture from Antony Todd Home. Basket from RH. Striped vintage Turkish kilim purchased in New York. James Malone 'Spartan' curtains in colour 52 from Curtain Machine. **Opposite page** Salvaged wood trestle dining table from RH paired with dining chairs and Astier De Villatte glasses, all from Antony Todd Home. Vase from Mark Douglas. 'Utopia' pendant light by Kelly Wearstler in aged iron from Becker Minty. A sandstone and powder coated sculpture by Luca Lettieri from Modern Times rests below artworks by David Rosetzky (left) and Jane Burton. In the sitting room to the left, an artwork by Brent Harris hangs above a lion head bergère.



These pages In the dining room, sculpture by Sandro Nocentini and vintage Poliform console, both from Leonard Joel. Purple hairy mirror by Elliat Rich from Sophie Gannon Gallery. In the formal sitting room, original sandstone fireplace with candlesticks in iron from Fourth Street Home. The artwork above the fireplace is by Christian Thompson. Sofa from ABC Carpet & Home. Molteni&C armchair from Hub with cushion from Tigger Hall Design. Black and white stools by Antony Todd Home upholstered in Cedar fabric, available from Lisa Buxton Interiors. Coffee table from Tamsin Johnson. Henry Dean glass stool from Ondene. 'Dish' pendant light by Anna Charlesworth. Murano Rostrato wall sconce from The Vault Sydney. James Malone curtains in 'Spartan' colour 52 from Curtain Machine. Rug from The Rug Collection on Arbre French oak engineered floorboards in Acre from Bowens.





S P E E D R E A D

» Lisa Buxton worked on the renovation of her own home with her friend and collaborator, interior architect Lucy Bowen, during the peak of the pandemic. » Lisa and husband Ari loved the 1930s heritage features of their home but it was extremely dark. » To capture natural light and create a greater connection to the patio, more windows were added to the rear. » Lisa wanted to keep the home's heritage canvas, retaining the traditional cornices, panelling and ceiling roses, but adding contemporary elements by way of art and lighting. » The kitchen, living and meals area along the southern side needed the most work and was reoriented for a more open-facing kitchen and better connected open-plan space. » Lisa had a long-held dream mood board of ideas, which included the wavy aubergine leather banquette and pink powder room popping with a Rosa Calmante stone basin. » "There are bold elements, and while you have to love what you live in, it still needs to be practical," says Lisa of the interior concept which strikes a balance between classic and contemporary. » Much of Lisa's furniture and artworks are from her early days in New York. » "I still love them and they have travelled across oceans with me, they are just as important now as then."





This page, clockwise from top left The original, overly ornate balustrade on the staircase was removed and a refined iron handrail installed. In the master bathroom, custom mirrors with bronze frames sit on the wall finished in Venetian plaster by Novacolor. Joinery in Gladstone oak laminate from Nikpol and Arabescato Vagli marble from CDK Stone. Victoria + Albert 'Amalfi' basins from The English Tapware Company. 'Icon' tapware in aged brass from Astra Walker. 'Melange' elongated sconce by Kelly Wearstler in bronze and alabaster. Filetti 'Garonne' floor tiles from Eco Outdoor. Curved shower in Venetian plaster by Novacolor. Towel from Loom. **Opposite page** In the master bedroom, custom bedhead by Lisa Buxton upholstered in natural linen. Bed linen from Abode. Phillip Jeffries wallpaper from The Textile Company. 1940s plaster lamp from The Vault Sydney. Vase from Dinosaur Designs.

« The ornate balustrade was stripped back and replaced by a pared-back iron handrail and original panelling along the entry walls was kept intact. Upstairs, the floor plan remained unchanged, oriented around a landing with a passage of three bedrooms running the length of the south side, and a master bedroom with ensuite winging out to the north. In its new iteration, the bathroom features limestone Filetti 'Garonne' floor tiles and a curved shower in Venetian plaster.

The couple had to let their "grand plans" for a pool house go once they discovered that the dwelling needed to be re-stumped. During construction, a network of mysterious little rooms with odd access points and closed-off cellars was discovered underground. "It was a bit 'murder-y,'" Lisa recalls. "We covered them up but I'm not sure what was happening back there in the 1930s. I don't like to think about it!" Above ground, the home's heritage details were hugely important. Striking a fine balance, the house has "old-fashioned detailing but with a modern twist", with the original cornices, panelling and ceiling roses juxtaposed with edgy new lighting and artwork. She cites the dining room as an example, with its timber trestle table and conservatively upholstered chairs sharing space with a sandstone and powder coated sculpture by Luca Lettieri and a mirrored artwork with a lavender wig by Elliot Rich. "There are moments of the contemporary but there are also classic pieces too. It's how I like to design – a bit of a mix." ▶

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