





Opposite page
Bunk beds and an abstract print are used to bold effect in the children's room.

Left
Tana Turnbull has used Broadhurst designs throughout the home.



Left
A beech table that extends to seat up to 12 people blends with the fabric-covered chairs and a raspberry-coloured carpet.

Right
The retro theme continues into the kitchen and casual dining room.



Words Margie Blok
Photography Anson Smart
Styling Megan Morton

absolutely fabulous

A bungalow in Bellevue Hill has been turned into a tribute to designer Florence Broadhurst and the swinging set.

Inspired by Florence Broadhurst, the designer best known for the wallpaper studio she established in Sydney during the 1950s, Tana Turnbull has transformed her Bellevue Hill house into a mid-20th century cocoon for her *Brady Bunch*-style family of four children.

Originally a Californian bungalow, the house had been modernised by several owners before Turnbull and her partner, Gary Hardwick, a 42-year-old media consultant, bought the property in 2002. "About 10 years ago, Stanic Harding Architects redesigned the front facade, the entry hall and the bathrooms for the previous owners," says Turnbull. "We didn't touch those sections. We liked the design, especially the hall with its floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that block off the bedroom wings to create a wide entry."

But, she says, "we needed to open up the living areas and renovate the kitchen to make the rooms more family friendly. We knew what we wanted to achieve – and most of the changes were internal – so we engaged Greg Natale, an interior designer, to pull it all together and make it work."

The 36-year-old mother also had firm ideas for the decor, with colour and wallpaper at the top of the list. "My mother is seriously into textiles; I grew up in houses with beautiful wallpaper and fabrics," says British-born Turnbull, who is named after the Tana River in Kenya where her parents once lived.

The couple both like 1950s, '60s and '70s interior design, Charles Eames and unusual retro pieces of furniture, as well as Florence Broadhurst prints so they asked Natale to incorporate those preferences into the design. "When he came back with what he thought was an extreme response to our request, we said, 'Love it, let's do it.' Greg told us he nearly fell over when we gave him the green light because he's used to clients paring back his ideas."

Turnbull and Natale collaborated constantly during the six-month project. "I was pregnant at the time and very tired – but in a way that was good because I made decisions quickly," she says. "I have a 12-year-old daughter, Biba. Gary has two children, six-year-old Ben and eight-year-old Lili, who spend a lot of time with us. And our son, Hugo, is now two. We wanted the bedrooms to express each of the kids in a different way."

In Biba's room, the wallpaper has a flamboyant peacock feather design. Hugo's room is decorated in blue and white wallpaper etched with egrets. Ben's and Lili's room has walls featuring a bold turquoise and white abstract print. Each bedroom has fabric light shades matching the wallpaper. "The rooms are very, very co-ordinated," says Turnbull. "It's such an old-fashioned look."

The main bedroom features Broadhurst's luxurious Florentine Tapestry in contrasting shades of charcoal and red for the walls, as well as the curtains, cushions and bedspread. →



Above
An artwork by Murray Hilton – a gift to Gary on his 40th birthday – hangs in the main bedroom.

Below
The lines of '60s styling are perfectly matched with Broadhurst fabrics in the living room.



“There’s even a bar with a red glass splashback – all very Austen Powers. It’s my favourite room.”

The plush fitted carpet is in charcoal, as are the fabric shades on the acrylic bedside lamps. The room’s centrepiece is a crystal chandelier dangling inside a reflective acrylic shade.

Broadhurst bobs up again in the living room. A geometric print fabric in a retro shade of avocado green was chosen for floor-to-ceiling curtains as well as the upholstered chairs around a beech dining table that extends to seat 12 people. Above the table, a pair of ball-shaped pendant lights with a mirror finish reinforces the retro theme, while a raspberry-coloured wool carpet and a pair of abstract paintings by Scott Petrie provide a sharp contrast to the soft green walls.

Other works throughout the house are by Murray Hilton, a Sydney-based artist working in photographic mixed media. “In our bedroom is a Hilton artwork I gave Gary for his 40th birthday. Another Hilton hangs in the entry hall but the one I really love is the big African picture in the living room of Masai warriors,” she says. “I was born in England after my parents left Kenya but I have Africa in my blood. I have visited a number of times because my godmother lives there.”

Another cherished item is a small painting of a cheetah hanging in Hugo’s bedroom. “That picture is by Simon Coombes, a noted artist who was my godmother’s ex-husband,” she says. “Although he lived in Kenya for 50 years and was used to wildlife, Simon was killed tragically last year by a rogue buffalo.”

At the back of the house, the renovated kitchen and family living area opens onto a covered barbecue terrace overlooking the swimming pool. “It was a pebblecrete nightmare until *Good Manors* redesigned the area around the pool last year. I suggested building a curved wooden wall to form a poolside seat that lets you dangle your legs in the pool. Now it’s the most fantastic space.”

On the lower level of the house, adjacent to the pool, is a multi-purpose room decorated in distinctive Japanese bamboo-design wallpaper of red on a silver background. “It’s the Florence Broadhurst wallpaper I initially fell in love with,” says Turnbull. “The choice of other wallpapers and fabrics throughout the house stemmed from this design. With four children and family coming to stay, we needed a fun room with many different uses. This is our spare room, home cinema, piano and party room. There’s even a bar with a red glass splashback – all very Austen Powers. Gary loves this room for it reminds him of his childhood when his parents ran nightclubs decorated with amazing flock wallpapers. It’s my favourite room, too.”

Turnbull sings the praises of Natale and couldn’t be happier with the results now the house is finished. “It’s a wonderful house to live in; it’s exactly what we wanted – bright and fun. At the end of last year, we threw a Peter Sellers-themed party because we think the style of this house reflects his heyday.”

Where She Shops

Signature Prints

Unit 2, 3 Hayes Road,
Rosebery.

Phone: 8338 8400.

“I absolutely adore Florence Broadhurst designs. All the wallpapers are from here, also the fabric for the dining chairs and curtains in the living area.”

Living Edge Studio

74 Commonwealth Street,
Surry Hills.

Phone: 9212 3542.

“This is where Greg sourced the Eames round table and orange chairs for the family area.”

De De Ce

263 Liverpool Street,
Darlinghurst.

Phone: 9360 2722.

“All the light fittings in the living area are from here.”

Fanuli

269 Military Road,
Cremorne.

Phone: 9908 2660.

“We bought the extending table for the dining area here.”

Greg Natale Interior Design

Studio 6, Level 3,
35 Buckingham Street,
Surry Hills.

Phone: 8399 2103.

“Greg oversaw the renovations and interior design.”

Parterre Garden

493 Bourke Street,
Surry Hills.

Phone: 9356 4747.

“I found the large shaded daybed for the pool deck here. It’s made by the Spanish design company Gandia Blasco.”

Good Manors

32 Halloran Street,
Lilyfield.

Phone: 9818 3377.

“This company redesigned the back garden and swimming pool area.”