

AUSTRALIAN ISSUE
TASMANIAN *coastal garden* + DINING IN *Adelaide & Daylesford* + LUXE ESCAPES

AUSTRALIA

belle

**KITCHEN &
BATHROOM**

50 PLUS pages of
AMAZING
IDEAS



**LANDSCAPE
ARTISTS**
OUR GARDEN
DESIGNERS
TAKE A BOW

David Collins
REMEMBERED



sparkling
NEW LOOKS

Beautiful AUSTRALIAN homes embrace the arrival of Spring

THIS PAGE Marble floor tiles in the entrance have been ground back so the grouting all but disappears for a seamless effect. The study has a Regency 'Drum' table from Pecare Trading Company, 'Utopia' sunburst plaques and C. Jeré 'Urchin' wall art from Jonathan Adler. OPPOSITE PAGE The orange-sorbet-hued front door pops against the expanses of white.



GILT COMPLEX

Gold accents and ornate finishes have brought a movie-star quality to this glamorous Sydney home designed by *Greg Natale*.

PHOTOGRAPHS ANSON SMART WORDS CHRIS PEARSON





In the 1957 romantic comedy *Designing Women*, Lauren Bacall's beau-to-be, Gregory Peck, describes the fashion designer's living room as "very chic". When viewing the film recently, interior designer and movie buff Greg Natale thought so too. He couldn't resist using that glamorous space as inspiration for the living room in this home on Sydney's lower North Shore.

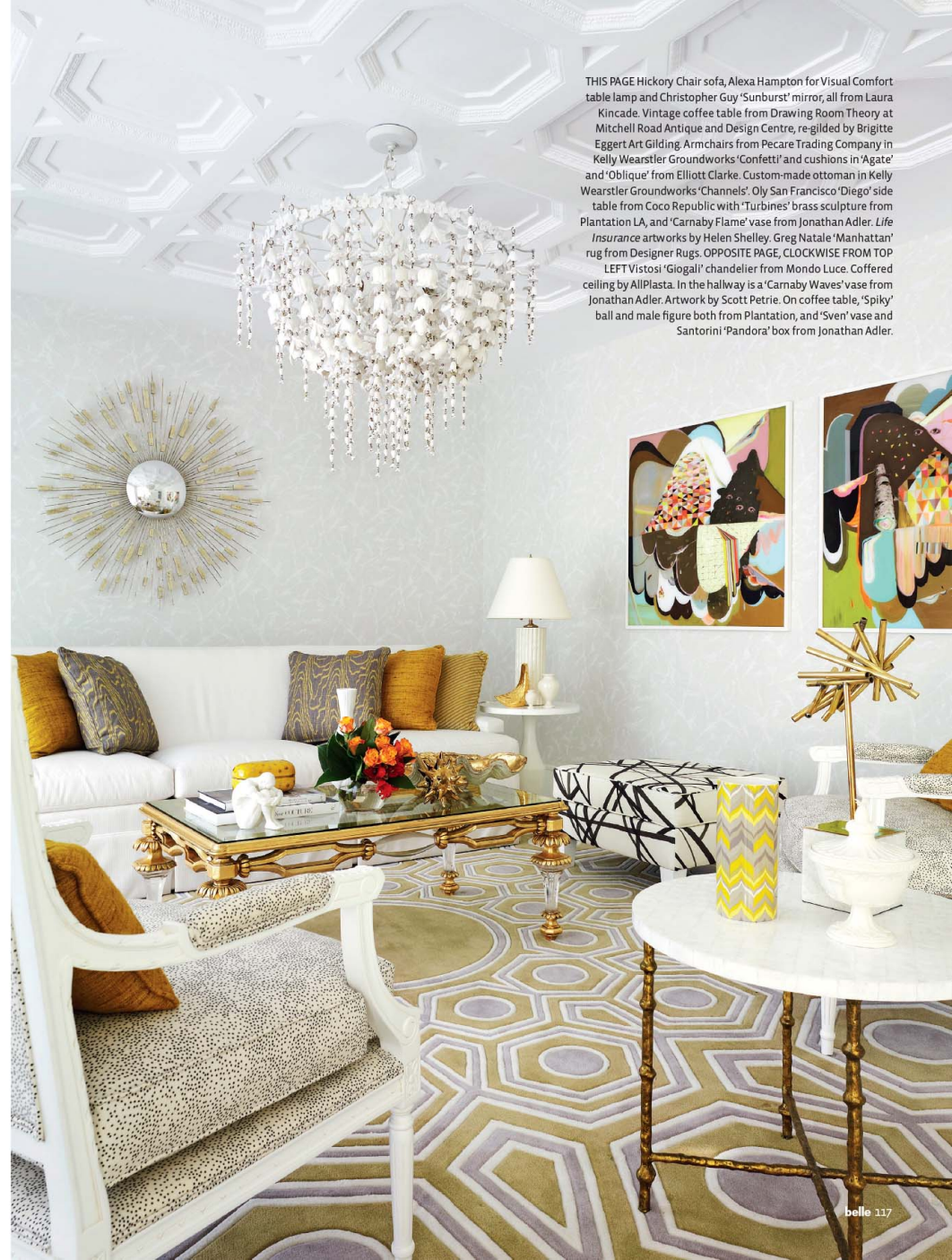
The movie *Frost/Nixon* inspired another room. The moody media space, which contrasts with the light and airy living areas, references a 1970s hotel room featured in the film, in which UK talk-show host David Frost grills former US president Richard Nixon. "It had this wallpaper. I loved it," says Greg. But the house is no movie set – it has the drama, but it's also a comfortable home to Angela and Daniel Perikic and children, James, nine, and Charlotte, seven.

Throughout, Greg has created a fresh and breezy take on Hollywood Regency. Popular in the 50s and 60s, the style evokes mid-century Bel Air and Beverly Hills, generously peppered with Palm Springs and Palm Beach. Celebrated in movies of the era, the look layers clean, organic forms and ornate, classic pieces in often surprising combinations. It also has a gilt complex – sprinklings of gold lend sparkle and glamour.

While the likes of Peck, Bacall and the Rat Pack may have inhabited those original rooms, the aesthetic sits easily in Australia for homeowners wanting relaxed elegance, says Greg. "It's a mixture of classic and clean, with lots of gold and a mix of styles. It was so cool then, and it's still very current."

On this project, Greg found a keen and amenable client in Angela, who owns a vintage clothing store and shares his passion for retro. A humble brick bungalow stood on the site when she and Daniel bought it nearly three years ago, but the couple had more ambitious plans. After trawling the net for a suitable designer, they knew Greg could give them exactly what they wanted. "I love how he does decorative kitchens as furniture and the way details, such as rugs, just pop out at you," she says. "His style is unique." As well as designing the interiors, Greg tweaked the exterior by architects Playoust Churcher.

While the interiors in the new build are more L.A., Greg fashioned the exterior into 1950s Florida. With its classic sash windows, wide eaves, Besser-block



THIS PAGE Hickory Chair sofa, Alexa Hampton for Visual Comfort table lamp and Christopher Guy 'Sunburst' mirror, all from Laura Kincaid. Vintage coffee table from Drawing Room Theory at Mitchell Road Antique and Design Centre, re-gilded by Brigitte Eggert Art Gilding. Armchairs from Pecare Trading Company in Kelly Wearstler Groundworks' 'Confetti' and cushions in 'Agate' and 'Oblique' from Elliott Clarke. Custom-made ottoman in Kelly Wearstler Groundworks' 'Channels'. Oly San Francisco 'Diego' side table from Coco Republic with 'Turbines' brass sculpture from Plantation LA, and 'Carnaby Flame' vase from Jonathan Adler. *Life Insurance* artworks by Helen Shelley. Greg Natale 'Manhattan' rug from Designer Rugs. OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Vistosi 'Giogal' chandelier from Mondo Luce. Coffered ceiling by AllPlasta. In the hallway is a 'Carnaby Waves' vase from Jonathan Adler. Artwork by Scott Petrie. On coffee table, 'Spiky' ball and male figure both from Plantation, and 'Sven' vase and Santorini 'Pandora' box from Jonathan Adler.

THIS PAGE The open-plan living area flows to the kitchen. Christopher Guy wing chair from Laura Kincade sits at the head of the table. 'Kora' dining chairs from Casa Mia. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP Kitchen has black granite benchtops, with the splashback and island benchtop in River White marble from Saba Bros Tiling. 'Olde English' kitchen mixer from Astra Walker. Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort 'Bryant' pendant light over the island bench, and Barbara Barry for Visual Comfort 'Bowmont' chandelier over the table, both from Laura Kincade. Coffered ceiling by AllPlasta. BOTTOM 'Ella' upholstered chairs and 'Dorothy' chairs all from Casa Mia. Regency 'Drum' table from Pecare Trading Company. Accessories on shelves from Plantation, Melzai and Jonathan Adler. Ceiling in Designers Guild 'Rheinsberg' wallpaper from Radford Furnishings.

"I designed the room and really the whole house around the incredible coffee table. I love it."



dividing walls, orange-sorbet-hued front door, palm trees and pool cabana, the house conjures up this romantic and elegant era. The salt air wafting from the beach nearby completes the allusion.

With its cinematic references, this home had to have a theatrical entry. The double door is faux – only one side opens – but the illusion gives a sense of arrival and lends gravitas to the marble hallway, separated from the open-plan area by a floor-to-ceiling screen with a bamboo motif.

Luminescent and sparkling thanks to the crisp white walls and gold accessories, the living room is the star of the house. "I designed the room and really the whole house around the incredible coffee table. I love it," says Greg of the retro ornate gilded table with Lucite legs. "The faux marble wallpaper, too, was inspired by the Gregory Peck movie. For this room, you need that richness in the wallpaper."

Also in the open plan are a dining area and kitchen with an island bench that resembles a piece of furniture floating off the floor. Beside the living area is the study-cum-library, which is especially family friendly. "I love doing beautiful studies," says Greg. "You can turn them into libraries, and books work so well to help create a warm interior." Angela adds, "We spend a lot of time in here, the kids drawing and studying."

Another distinctive feature of the house are the coffered ceilings in the family areas – Daniel owns a plasterboard company, so it's not surprising the ceilings are a focus. "We kept everything for the ceilings and walls. They create a grand gesture," says Greg. The bedrooms have ceilings papered in graphic geometrics for a cocooning effect.

Angela is entranced by the results. "It's like a resort. The home feels fresh and glamorous." And her favourite space? "Right now, it's the living room. It's like a piece of art, it's not like any normal living room." She has Greg and *Designing Women* to thank for that. ❏

For more go to gregnatale.com.



SYDNEY HOME



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: San Francisco 'Ingrid' bed from Coco Republic. 'Manhattan' bedside table from Casa Mia. Visual Comfort 'Helena' table lamp from Laura Kincade. Kravet wallpaper from Elliott Clarke. The media room has Cole & Son 'Palm Leaves' wallpaper from Radford Furnishings. Alexa Hamilton for Visual Comfort 'John' table lamp from Laura Kincade. In the ensuite, 'Theoretical' mosaic tiles from Trend Australasia. Vistos 'Diadema' wall light from Mondo Luce. Christopher Guy 'Ovum' mirrors from Laura Kincade. Bedhead in Warwick Fabrics 'Aldeney'. Cushions in Hingham Plaid fabric from Duralae. 'Richard Nixon' throw from Jonathan Adler. Piero Fornasetti for Cole & Son 'Frutto Proibito' wallpaper from Radford Furnishings. On ceiling, Romo 'Fougere Octa' wallpaper in Whitewash from Marco Fabrics. Suzanne Kasler for Visual Comfort 'Soleil' pendant light from Laura Kincade. OPPOSITE PAGE: Talenti 'Bend' sofa from Insitu. Cushions in Schumacher 'Trellis' and 'Peacock Print' from Orient House. Emu 'Heaven' vases from Ke-Zu.



SPEED READ

Having bought a site on Sydney's lower North Shore which was occupied by a humble brick bungalow, a couple with two young children engaged interior designer Greg Natale of Greg Natale Design to create a home that embraced their love of all things retro. +With its wide eaves, classic sash windows, palm trees, pool cabana, and orange-sorbet-hued front door, the solid new build references breezy 1950s Palm Beach, Florida. +Greg took his cue for the sparkling and luminous living area from the 1957 movie *Designing Women*, which celebrates Hollywood Regency style. Its white and gold palette contrasts strikingly with the rich and moody media room, which was in turn inspired by a hotel room in the film, *Frost/Nixon*. +Throughout, clean, uncluttered forms are cleverly layered with the ornate and classic.