

# FROM BOWIE TO BANKSY

Completed last year in Sydney's eastern suburbs, this eclectic home contests traditional notions of art and colour

WORDS ALEXANDRA LONGSTAFF  
PHOTOGRAPHY ANSON SMART

**T**his decadent design began life as a mere shell of what you see here. Neutrals swept through the home like a sandstorm against a backdrop of desert. Not a touch of vivid colour graced the walls, floor or ceiling. This didn't bode well for the occupants; a young, professional couple with two small children. After all, if you're a lover of modern art and the colour it brings, neutrals simply won't cut it. *V*

## GENIUS TRICK

The elegant Lake Como rug by Designer Rugs flows through several rooms in the house, not only connecting the black and white found in the monochrome living spaces, but also tying each of the rooms together

A Lake Como rug by Designer Rugs adds the finishing touch to the monochromatic space and a Minotti Huber coffee table adds a dash of chrome



The gold chevron wallpaper that adorns the ceiling is part of Greg Natale's new range, designed in collaboration with Porter's Paints. A Jules coffee table from Baxter and a Tracery rug by designer Kelly Wearstler play on the golden hues within the room

"The house was all beige and brown," explains Greg Natale, the designer of this revamp. "They initially wanted everything in black and white, but one of the homeowners is a great collector of art and so the brief became to re-colour the home around the artwork he had collected."

The range of this artwork is broad. Dotted around the home are pieces by talented popular artists including the infamous street artist Banksy. A graffiti theme flows through the collection, which would have been a bit of a challenge to match with Greg's signature suave interiors. "It was," says Greg. "Making everything tie-in was hard."

The idea was to draw the colour out of the artwork and develop an interior style that matched."

This, of course, was not as easy as it sounds. For starters, each of the artworks is different. Some pieces, such as the David Bowie picture by Mr Brainwash, feature pinks and gold, while the Marilyn Monroe piece is purely monochromatic. Not only this, the homeowners have very different tastes. The man of the house (who most of the pop-art pieces belong to) loves the contemporary look, whereas the lady of the manor prefers a much more classical look. V



Two Wingback chairs by Tom Dixon reflect the hues found in the butterfly print by Damien Hirst



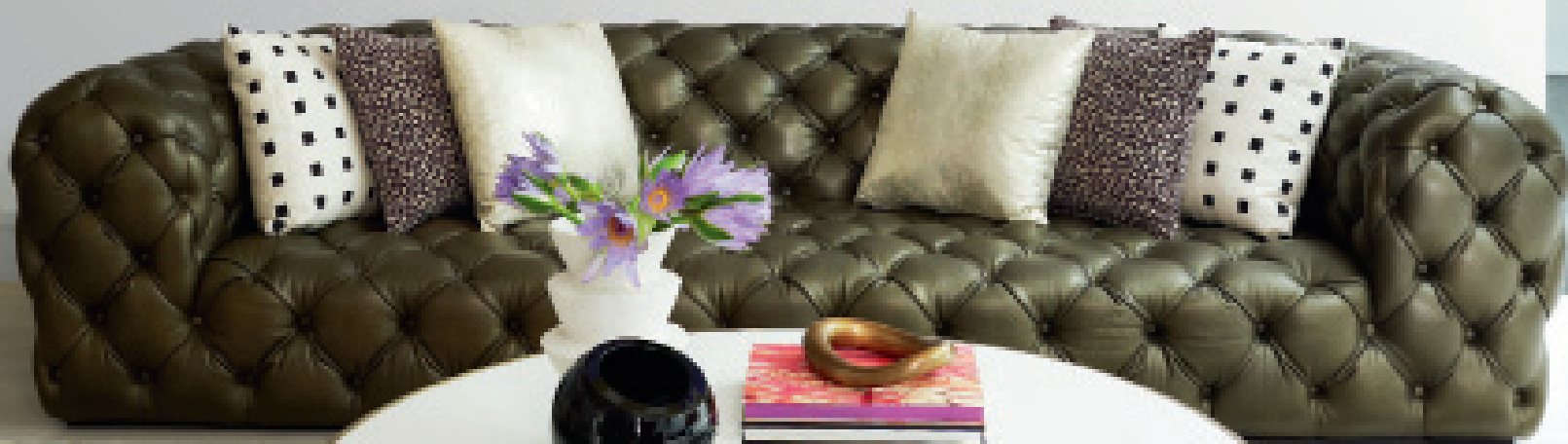
This striking pop-art image by Mr Brainwash represents David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust period. The splash of pink and the gold frame inspired the room's design



### COPY THAT

Elements within the artworks have been used as inspiration for the interior design

AFTER ALL, IF YOU'RE A LOVER OF MODERN ART AND THE COLOUR IT BRINGS, NEUTRALS SIMPLY WON'T CUT IT



So how do you tackle a project that not only has to incorporate a variety of colours, but also needs to respect the differing preferences of the occupants? Greg's answer was to simply project the variance in artwork and tastes directly onto the interior. Rather than create a space that matches throughout, he created separate areas that are completely different from each other. This proffers more conundrums though, because Greg then had to tie each of the spaces together while simultaneously respecting their vast differences. "This was difficult," Greg says, "but we always came back to the artwork and this directed the styles." V

Monochrome features dominate the living room, led by Andy Warhol's picture of Marilyn Monroe



SO HOW DO YOU TACKLE A PROJECT THAT NOT ONLY HAS TO INCORPORATE A VARIETY OF COLOURS, BUT ALSO NEEDS TO RESPECT THE DIFFERING PREFERENCES OF THE OCCUPANTS?

**ABOVE** Lilac domination in the master bedroom, which is feminine and classic and quite different from the rest of the home

**LEFT** The elegant hand-painted wallpaper from Fromental is an artwork in itself

The formal living room is probably the most eccentric space. The image of David Bowie takes prime position on the back wall, bedecked in an elaborate gold frame, and leads the colour palette for the rest of the room. A tufted gold Chester Moon lounge by Baxter, a Jules coffee table (also from Baxter) and a Tracery rug by well-established designer Kelly Wearstler contrast with the modern nature of the artwork by adding a vintage aspect. Adorning the ceiling is a busy chevron wallpaper in gold. It is part of Greg's new range, which he has designed in collaboration with Porter's Paints. It connects the living

space to the dining room and adds a bit of eye-lifting intrigue to the room.

In the dining room, the use of pink is arresting. There are two very different artworks; one by controversial British artist Damien Hirst and the other by local Australian sculptor Dion Horstman. Both have pink in volumes and — along with the hot pink found in the David Bowie image — they've inspired the inclusion of pink in the furniture. Gold is still the leading colour but, with the addition of Wingback chairs by Tom Dixon, it is certainly given a run for its money.

Move into the more casual living spaces and the variation in styles really becomes apparent. The contrast to the vivid pop-art style that we've just seen is huge. Now we are greeted by an incredibly minimal and V



Monochromatic features spread from the relaxed living room to the guest bedroom where Emilio carpet from Designer Rugs provides a beautiful meeting point of colours



#### IN SHORT

❖ Greg Natale Design has given this home in Sydney's eastern suburbs a refreshing interior makeover ❖ Previously, the home featured neutrals only and as the occupants are great lovers of art, they wanted to add some colour ❖ Greg Natale Design utilised artworks already collected by the family as inspiration within the home ❖ Three main styles are showcased: pop-art inspired, minimal monochrome and classical feminine ❖ Tying the styles and spaces together was a challenge. However, Greg Natale Design fused everything by choosing details in the art and using them in the interior design

HIGH CEILINGS AND FLOWING WHITE CURTAINS MAKE FOR AN ELEGANT SPACE THAT IS BROUGHT BACK TO EARTH BY THE BLACKS FOUND IN THE BED LINEN AND FURNISHINGS

monochromatic environment. Gone is the pink, replaced by white, grey and chrome. The space is defined by Andy Warhol's iconic image *Marilyn Monroe*, printed in black and white.

This isn't the only black-and-white area of the home. The guest bedroom — once again led by its artwork — is also entirely bedecked in monochromatic shades. High ceilings and flowing white curtains make for an elegant space that is brought back to earth by the blacks found in the bed linen and furnishings. Greg has chosen to use dark, patterned Emilio carpet from Designer Rugs, a bold move given that it flows through not just one bedroom, but all four. It does, however, complement each space beautifully, creating a meeting point between black and white in the guest bedroom and providing a grounding contrast to the lilac in the master and daughter's bedroom.

The lilac, of course, deserves mention. It is the feminine touch that really rounds off the diversity within the house. The master bedroom and the daughter's room carry a decidedly classical look compared to the rest of the rooms, contrasting with both the pop-art and monochromatic looks we've already seen. While artwork is absent from the master bedroom, Greg has given the room an artistic touch by using hand-painted lavender wallpaper from Fromental. It dashes across the back wall in a wave of lilac, leading the colours in the rest of the room.

The varying spaces come together beautifully within this home. Who would have thought that three so very different styles could flow into one another and tie together so seamlessly? To be so inspired by artwork is nothing new, but to allow the pieces to be integral to the interior design — so much so that each area becomes an artwork itself — is, however, extraordinary. It's almost as though the home has become its own evolving art gallery, created by art, led by colour and orchestrated with interior design. ☺

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