

# COUNTRY BEAUTY



Renowned Sydney based interior designer Greg Natale introduces us to his latest luxury project. Set in an idyllic location upon 20 acres of rolling countryside the once again conveys the bespoke elegance he is known for. The moody and dramatic interiors of the NSW Southern Highland property offer an unexpected element of glamour not often found in a countryside retreat. Signature geometric elements and a gentle regency influence paired with the subtle rustic elements of wicker and wood complete this fusion of rural elegance with the ultimate finesse.



## **WHERE IS THIS HOME LOCATED?**

The home sits on 20 acres in Sutton Forest in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, about 1.5 hours out of Sydney.

## **IS THIS AN HISTORIC (OR PERIOD) PROPERTY?**

No actually it's quite the opposite. It's a new house built in around 1995, by a builder for himself who designed it around the style of the Edwardian Federation era.

## **WHAT WAS THE CLIENT BRIEF?**

This home belongs to a couple and their two children, with a third on the way. They were inspired by a past project of mine where I had used a monochromatic palette including white mouldings and a bold black kitchen. Since this house already displayed a lot of ornamental details such as mouldings, we used these features as a starting point for the project. The client also wanted a French feel without looking Provincial, so we employed a mix of different French periods and influences.





## WHO OR WHAT ARE YOUR MAJOR DESIGN INFLUENCES?

I've got to say the late and legendary David Hicks (English) 1929-1998, especially in this project. In fact, the carpets used in this home are designs from the David Hicks collection by Stark Carpet in LA. He often used carpet to delineate rooms and spaces and similarly we used amazing wall to wall carpet in the master bedroom.



## **WE LOVE YOUR USE OF COLOUR AND PATTERN TO CREATE A SENSE OF DRAMA. HOW DID YOU CONVEY THIS VISION TO THE CLIENT?**

The client was really familiar with our style and in many ways this project was an evolution of our work. We had shown the client our rug range which they loved so we decided to keep the walls very simple while using pattern on the floors. This is something we've employed throughout the design and you can see it has been continued right through the house. It's just another way of looking at a scheme.

## **WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DO YOU BELIEVE COLOUR HAS IN A DESIGN SCHEME?**

Most of our clients come to us for our use of colour and this client also wanted colour in the scheme. Being that the property is in the country it also felt appropriate to bring through shades of green and the client specifically requested Eau de Nil. The front doors of the house are reclaimed pieces from Le Forge in Sydney and still bear their original colour although we touched them up!

## **WHAT DESIGN CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE IN THIS PROJECT?**

The bones of this house were incredible so on that level it was a really straightforward refurbishment. However the house seemed to lack a connection to the outside so we really wanted to open up the space. The original layout and scheme felt dark and used a lot of timber and we wanted to create something light and airy which we achieved by installing a series of French doors, creating a bigger archway and building a new deck. All of these elements were important to create the connection of space.

## **THERE ARE SOME INCREDIBLE RUGS AND CARPETS THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE. ARE THESE BESPOKE PIECES?**

Apart from the David Hicks carpets, all the rugs are from the Greg Natale range for Designer Rugs. We've just added two more designs to the collection which can be viewed on our website.

## **WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PART OF THE DESIGN?**

I love the carpet the best. It's not something we've done to this extent before and the wall to wall carpets create a sense of luxury which makes the house feel like a hotel.



































