LITTLE VIGNETTES AROUND THE GUESTHOUSE COVER EVERY ASPECT OF THE CLIENTS' INTERESTS IN WHAT GREG TERMS A "FEAST FOR THE SENSES"

Here, on a sprawling Brisbane estate, the owners had built a contemporary home – sophisticated and minimalist in every aspect – but alongside it was a turn-of-the-century Queenslander with a more classic outlook on life. It had seen the years pass, scoring more battle wounds with every tick of the clock, so by the time the owners approached Greg Natale Designs to reinvigorate it, there was plenty of work to be done.

"This classic Queenslander residence was in need of a restoration of its exterior and a completely new interior," says Greg. "The owner wanted a guesthouse and office space on the same estate as the main house, but in a very different style."

Inspired by the Ralph Lauren aesthetic and New England's old-world style, the home was to feel like a grand country estate, richly textured and detailed with furnishings evocative of the past and great adventures. Unlike the more modern main home, the guesthouse employs a layered look in a palette of rich wood tones and navy. Plaid pairs with preppy stripes; pewter and silver are a gleam in the eye of the sitting room and study. Textures upon textures are layered through rugs, through trestle tables, though leather chairs, through accessories – it's essential, Greg says, to creating the 'pleasingly cluttered' look. "I found one particularly attractive way to achieve this was to feature groupings of repeated items."

To counteract the home's angled roof – which cut into the characteristic high ceilings and challenged the natural design flow – Greg installed a band of navy blue grasscloth wallpaper in the rooms. Not only does this now add aesthetically to the home's layered theme, it also links the spaces stylistically.

It's also the perfect backdrop for the clients' collection of accessories, which range from equine photos to 18th-century armorial engravings on the wall. Little vignettes around the guesthouse cover every aspect of the clients' interests in what Greg terms a "feast for the senses".