



# ELEGANT AND TIMELESS

Rather than work to a rigid formula, Noela Coffey of Mageia Design prefers to stylise and adapt a theme to suit a home's environment and the client, as was the case with this project





The clients' brief for this southern Sydney project was to create an environment that was inviting, while maintaining an open and spacious look. It was important that the style be elegant and timeless but it was also important to incorporate the look and feel of today.

An art-deco flavour was introduced to provide soft flowing forms, which would flow with the curves of the home and combine the style of the old with the new. Continuity and a neutral base were created using natural French limestone on the floors and a similar colour on the walls. In the foyer, Deco pieces in faux Wenge and silver leaf provide a striking contrast. Also in the foyer, a feature wall of calligraphy script writing by artist Marilou Palazon creates an interesting focal point. Continuing into the bar area are the base colours of Porters Paints – Evening Slipper and Ecru. The bar itself is curved and fluted and has been hand-painted in faux marble with a bronze in Axolotl bronze.

The formal area is minimalist, incorporating a modern Natuzzi lounge in natural suede with a contrasting shag pile rug by Deco Rugs.

The fireplace and the obelisk also offer a solid contrast, with a soft background on the windows of luminate blinds by Luxaflex.

A contemporary screen of three panels and Dulux suede walls help to achieve the ambience. The ceilings also reflect the movement of this home with all of its curves and split levels.

The pavilion-style dining area is bordered by a scroll design balustrade in patina wrought iron. The buffet was designed to be reminiscent of the Art Deco era.

A combination of American myrtle burr by Briggs Veneers and gilded silvers work in with the fluted dining bases. The dining chairs from Moran are upholstered in Warwick Fabrics' macro-suede Raison for its warmth in colour and practicality. Plain textured fabrics were also used throughout to enhance the modern aesthetics.

The family and kitchen areas were designed to be more practical to accommodate a young family. Timber floors were used for their warmth and simple lines while the furnishings and feature wall provide a tranquil setting. The lounges were upholstered in leather for easy

maintenance. The cabinetry in New Age Veneers was once again designed to follow the shape of the walls. These pieces were wall hung so as to create a floating effect and maintain the open, spacious look. Combinations of chocolate, celadon and ochre hues were used to complement this atmosphere. A contemporary Deco rug provides accent while an Art Deco cabinet combines the old with the new.

The fireplace, a dominating feature of the room, houses a Jetmaster open fire for a warm centrepiece. All detailed fixtures and furniture have been designed and custom-made to suit the clients' needs.

#### PROJECT DETAILS

##### **Mageia Design**

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The owners of this truly Italian villa-style home wanted a little piece of Italy, reminiscent of a more elegant time. A feeling of warmth and security is felt throughout the home, as well as a strong sense of being somewhere else.

One of the main constraints when designing this home was the relatively small site; there simply wasn't a lot of space to waste and every square metre had to count. The object was to achieve maximum living area and style on a compact site and Charleston Homes was able to show that a luxurious and spacious home can be achieved even with site limitations.

Superb fittings, open spaces and private courtyard areas, combined with a fabulous gourmet kitchen and indulgent bathrooms, make this a grand residence. The Italian-style architecture is apparent from the street, with balanced palettes of colour authentic of true Tuscan styling.

The handcrafted entry door with Pavtom hardware enhances architectural design and lends an old-world flair, while the architectural window detailing is striking, with Keystone sill mouldings and quoining in rich Italian style.

A beautifully crafted staircase in the lobby was inspired by the Italian theme and features a gold leaf finish. Classic French doors throughout the home add natural light and beauty and maximise courtyard living.

The residence's open plan results from the use of volume ceilings, which add dimension and beauty, as well as separate living and accommodation areas. The master suite is located on the ground floor, offering an intimate sitting room, magnificent ensuite and double walk-in robes with plenty of drawers and storage space.

Situated on the first floor is the study and media room for leisure time, as well as the three remaining spacious bedrooms, all boasting impressive storage areas.

The main bathroom and ensuite are tiled from floor to ceiling with white mosaic tiling and feature elegant bevelled mirrors, an enormous frameless shower and an inviting oversized tub, surrounded by ceramic tiles and Bottoccino

marble countertops and splashbacks. The owners chose the Kohler range for the bathroom fittings and polished plumbing hardware to make bathing a luxury.

Porcelain chequerboard tiles were laid through to the lobby, while the breakfast and leisure room has rustic ceramic tiles. Gorgeous timber floors were chosen for the living and dining areas, while the bedrooms have wall-to-wall carpet.

Only the best would do when it came to the kitchen, which was thoughtfully designed for form and function by a team of professional culinary consultants. The kitchen has become a popular meeting spot for family and friends because of its bright and sunny aspect, making it ideal for everyday family dining. Polyurethane custom-style European cabinets with feature glass cabinets in the kitchen store and display fine china, while stainless-steel St George appliances give a clean and modern look.

The countertops were created from slab Caesar stone, with full-height splashback tiling for the walls and an island bench for convenient meal preparation.

Once the house was complete, the next project was the gardens, which also had to fit in with the Italian theme. A formal landscape was used to highlight the design and to complement rich colours and features. Hedges were created to match the grand appearance of the home, while limestone pavers were set in a decorative chequerboard design in the central courtyard.

While the owners had a clear idea of the concept, the client/designer relationship was one of give and take; there was a mutual respect for each other's ideas and an objective to achieve a high standard of finish and a creation of space and character.

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