

THE POWER OF TEXTURAL STYLE & THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Interior designer Greg Natale has created the ideal family home – one that deftly balances differing tastes, where everyone can celebrate together

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When it came to transforming the four-storey London bolthole of financiers Laura Hui and her husband, Rob, into a family home, Greg Natale's vision soon took shape. He'd worked on their Sydney home 10 years previously, so he knew that this project was the perfect opportunity to blend British, European and Australian influences and create a cool, comfortable, four-bedroom, six-bathroom space – one imbued with the award-winning interior designer's penchant for touches of high-octane glamour.

Based in Sydney, Natale established his eponymous design studio back in 2001. For Hui, 'working with Greg is always such a great experience', one that is 'collaborative and creative'. Before he started, he made sure to ask all the family – including the couple's two teenage daughters in the process – to submit Pinterest boards of what they were thinking in terms of mood, hue and finish. While Natale was already familiar with their mutual modernist tastes, he also knew that he would need to find a way to balance Hui's love for traditional touches and her husband's 'cleaner' tastes with his own inimitable style.

In the top half of the house, there are fresh, airy shades of pink, lavender and lilac, sky and teal blue, underlined with glimmering gold. Natale countered this with a much 'darker, moodier and more masculine' media room, cellar and study in the basement. Pairing those 'hyperfeminine colours' with contemporary, not traditional, furniture (some curvy, some clean-lined, from Gubi and Minotti to Cassina) 'created a good balance here', he says.

Natale's passion for layering bold, graphic patterns is inspired by the style of Gio Ponti and David Hicks, and it's intrinsic to his design DNA. It also feels 'nostalgic' to him, reminding him of his 'parents' house, built in the late 70s – patterned tiles everywhere', he says. However, his recent work has become 'more textural than



high pattern'. Lively, veined marbles are used for the fireplaces and vanity units, the floors are marked out with his own collection of geometric tiles, the ceilings are trimmed in criss-cross beading and suede-like polished plaster is swathed across the walls of the cellar bathroom.

An earlier renovation had made the house open-plan and a little topsy-turvy, so Natale rearranged the floor plan. He put Rob's 'man cave' in the basement and the kitchen was moved to the ground floor to capitalise on the skylight; a light-filled house was one of Hui's priorities. Natale converted two first-floor bedrooms into a generous main bedroom, bathroom and walk-through dressing room. In the living room, he reinstated cornicing, mouldings, panelling and a fireplace ripped out by earlier owners. Soothing arches were also added to 'help define each space', he says. 'I know people like open-plan living, but it just felt soulless.'

A 'knockout' powder room – 'one of our biggest indulgences; even the builders were like, "Wow, this is gorgeous,"' laughs Hui – was also incorporated, along with a laundry room. And the combined kitchen, dining and sitting room is the ideal spot for relaxed entertaining, she says. 'Guests can have a drink sitting at the table or on the sofas to the side, while I'm getting the canapés ready. That way, everyone feels part of the group.'

Boundaries were also pushed, but in a fun way – from the main bathroom's ceiling, painted pink to match the marble bath, to the stairwell jazzed up with an ocelot-patterned carpet, Vistosi chandelier and balustrades in Tiffany Blue. 'Greg said, "Please trust me, Laura", and, of course, I love it,' she says, beaming. The result is calm and flattering; it's 'a home that makes you feel good', enthuses Natale. 'But it is also definitely glamorous. With all those layers, we've put charm back into the house.' gregnatale.com

Living room Even on a grey London winter's day, this room's shimmering palette feels fresh against walls in Benjamin Moore's 'Steam'. The Norwegian rose-marble fireplace was made by the project's builders Chelsea Construction; above it hangs a gilded artwork by Australian artist Anya Pesce, reflecting the golden tones of the Lladró 'Seasons' pendant. The sweep of the 'Audrey' sofa by Massimo Castagna for Gallotti & Radice meets the curves of the Tradition 'Margas LC3' sofa, while Gubi's 'Bat' chair and Louise Liljenkrantz's 'Cloud' coffee table add softness. The 'Tassel 3' sconce lights are by Apparatus, the 'Bell' side table is by Sebastian Herkner for ClassiCon and the rug is by Natale for Designer Rugs ▶





Kitchen/dining room In this skylit space where everyone loves to congregate, Moooi's 'Meshmatics' chandelier, the Baxter 'Ronchamp' table and Patricia Urquiola's 'Dudet' armchairs for Cassina make a dramatic statement against the creaminess of the Crema Evora marble island. The plum tone of the Verpan 'Series 430' counter stools echo the mottled hues in Natale's 'Vapour' rug for Designer Rugs. The lights over the island are Michael Anastassiades' 'IC C/W1' for Flos and the 'Hydrotap G5' is from Zip Water ►

Cinema room A 'Hamilton' sofa and 'Jacques' ottoman, both by Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti, provide the perfect set-up for movie nights. The russet hue of Pierre Paulin's 'Pumpkin' swivel armchair for Ligne Roset – complemented by the glint of the Cattelan Italia 'Sting' table (in front of the sofa) and the 'Atollo' lamp by Vico Magistretti for Oluce – resonates with Benjamin Moore's 'Ruby Dusk', used across walls, woodwork and ceilings.

Study Greta M Grossman's 'Gräshoppa' table lamp from Gubi sits on Bodil Kjaer's famous office desk for Karakter Copenhagen, teamed with a 'Conference' chair by Eero Saarinen for Knoll. A three-arm ceiling light in the style of Angelo Lelli for Arredoluce hangs overhead. On the floor is Natale's 'Fizz' rug for Designer Rugs; on the far wall is Fornasetti's 'Vista Mediterranea' wallpaper for Cole & Son. Hanging in an alcove between the custom shelving is a painting by Polish artist Tycjan Knut



Hallway This space enjoys its own moment of gilded glamour with an artwork by Tycjan Knut, a bronzed Cattelan Italia 'Chelsea' cabinet from Alveena Casa and a vintage 1970s Murano-glass chandelier

Basement bathroom Custom mirrors and 'Quadrant and Sphere' wall lights by Square in Circle hang on polished plaster walls tinted to match Benjamin Moore's 'Ruby Dusk' paint, toning in with the Rosso Levanto marble vanity unit and 'Cerchio' marble tiles by Natale for Teranova ▶



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Powder room De Gournay's 'Amazonia' silk paper is teamed with a pink onyx sink from Gemlook, a 'Swan' tap from Astra Walker, 1960s Murano sconces by Barovier & Toso and Natale's 'Presto' tiles for Teranova
Main bathroom Candy shades rule here, from the Meek Bathware tub to the Norwegian rose marble-topped vanity, Natale's 'Puntii' tiles for Teranova and the ceiling in Benjamin Moore's 'Misted Rose'. The 'Leighton' ceiling light is by Kate Spade and the 'Fantini' tap is from CP Hart
Landing Stark's 'Antilocarpa' carpet and Fornasetti's 'Nuvolette' wallpaper by Cole & Son covers the stairs and walls; Vistosi's 'Minigiogali' pendant hangs above



Bedroom From the soft Cultiver linen throw on the 'Yuki' bed by Massimo Castagna for Gallotti & Radice, to the 'Caldera' rug by The Rug Company, the Roche Bobois 'Nativ Dot' armchair by Raphael Navot and Tacchini 'Pastilles' armchair by Studiopepe, this space has a gentle, refined tactility. The criss-cross ceiling beading and art deco corning come from London Plastercraft. On the Poliform 'Onda' bedside table sits a Louis Poulsen 'PH 3/2' lamp. The 'Eden-Rock' dressing table is by Sacha Lakic for Roche Bobois; on top is a 'Metropolis' tray and marble vase by Natale. The 'Gem' pendant light is by Giopato & Coombes See Stockists page for details **ED**

