

HEARTH & SOUL

A MAJESTIC HOME IN THE NSW SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A COSY RETREAT, TAILORED TO COMFORTABLE FAMILY LIVING AND EASY ENTERTAINING

Story CHRIS PEARSON Styling KAYLA GEX Photography MAREE HOMER

Beautiful HOMES

REFINED RETREAT The owners of this luxurious residence needed a bolthole to enjoy with family and friends – what they ended up with is an elegant home that would be hard to leave. Both inside and out, this property was designed with entertaining in mind. “Each of the living spaces opens onto this new outdoor terrace, giving the owners a sense of openness and access to the landscape that did not exist previously,” says architect Michael Kilkeary from Cadence & Co, enlisted to reimagine the spacious property. The new outdoor fireplace, with Barrimah traditional stone cladding from Eco Outdoor, creates a focal point. Foliage punctuates the space in large pots from Myles Baldwin Design, who worked with Cadence & Co on the outdoor spaces. >





Cooler months are magical for the owners of this baronial-style home in the NSW Southern Highlands. They gather around their majestic sandstone fireplace and rug up while observing the shifting seasons through walls of windows. And what a view it is, taking in spectacular gardens, with towering oak and cherry trees turning amber, and serene rolling hillsides with grazing cattle. But, while the vista is spectacular, the inspired interiors match it for splendour.

The couple bought the eight-bedroom home as a getaway in 2019, to be enjoyed with family and friends. But it delivered lacklustre interiors – a 1980s renovation having shortchanged the house with plain joinery, large travertine floor tiles and generic bathrooms. The living areas – separate spaces with a poor flow – were not working well. But perhaps the biggest sin was a galley kitchen with a poky sitting area; anathema to the new owners, who are keen entertainers.

The couple approached local architecture and building firm Cadence & Co with a brief to open up the kitchen for relaxed entertaining. But the project mushroomed, says partner and design principal Michael Kilkeary. “The revised brief was to create a home that allowed for more spacious living areas, with a better connection between them and to the amazing garden beyond.” The renovations focused on the central core of the house, where walls were removed and openings enlarged. “The expanded

FORMAL LIVING In the double-height living area, the chimney and fireplace are clad in Barrimah traditional stone from Eco Outdoor, with a mantel in sandstone from Gosford Quarries. Custom sofas and coffee table, and antique brass harvest candelabras, all from James Salmond Furniture. **DINING ROOM** With its bold natural motif, the Iksel ‘D-Dream’ wallpaper, from James Salmond Furniture, makes a statement. >



Beautiful HOMES

“THE NEW FIREPLACE reflects the scale OF THE ROOM WHILE *anchoring the seating area*”

MICHAEL KILKEARY

ARTWORK: ARTIST UNKNOWN

kitchen has an all-in approach, allowing space for everyone to prep meals if they wish,” says Michael. Adding to the informality is a casual sitting room beside the kitchen, flooded with daylight thanks to an expansive wall of bifolds.

Although the double-height cathedral-style ceiling in the main living area was original, its glories were squandered by the fussy detail of a “quite odd” Juliet balcony in the chimney breast. “To give the room scale, we replaced this with a new sandstone chimney, which we took up to the ceiling, and doubled the size of the mantel,” he says. As a final flourish, he added a statement chandelier. The main bedroom suite immediately above has been expanded onto the balcony area and remodelled. Meanwhile, in conjunction with landscape designer Myles Baldwin, hedges were trimmed to “create more breathing room and an open zone at the front”.

For the decor, the starting point was the original home. “It had the feel of an English country estate. We chose to work with this and expand on that theme,” says Michael. “We played with textures in the sandstone, cut in three different profiles, and created a crest, above the mantel.” Old English tapware in the kitchen

KITCHEN “The generous kitchen allows for easy entertaining,” says Michael. The fittings and finishes, including the Visual Comfort ‘Presidio’ pendants, from Laura Kincade, benchtop and splashback in honed Carrara marble, Perrin & Rowe ‘Provence’ tapware from The English Tapware Company, all look the part. The dark custom joinery, in Porter’s Paints Mineral, offsets the walls in Dulux White Duck, and the travertine flooring tiles, laid in herringbone format, from Eco Outdoor. The suite of appliances includes La Cornue Cornufé 110 cookers and Sub Zero fridges, are all geared to full-on entertaining. >



WE LOVE...
bifold doors

Michael has embraced the garden and the fabulous landscape beyond with these new wall-to-wall bifolds. Three panels open in each direction, making six door panels in total. But, wait, that's not all – there is also a window panel at each end, allowing for cross-ventilation even when the bifolds are closed.

and ensuite, panelled joinery, deep skirtings and generous scale, both in the architecture and furnishings, all explore the theme. And, because just part of the house has been renovated – for now – Michael used sleight of hand. “The new herringbone travertine flooring brings a casualness. But it had to sit alongside original tiles in rooms not renovated. So we opted to retain travertine as a flooring material but changed its format and detailing,” he says.

With their allusions to nature, the palette and textures bring the outside in. “In many ways the new spaces were designed as garden rooms, so the palette relates to and enhances the garden outlook,” he says. Little wonder the owners are spending more and more time in their rural retreat. And the appeal endures throughout the year. “This house now makes the most of the Southern Highlands’ seasons, which bring an ever-changing backdrop of colour and light,” says Michael. “But my favourite aspect would have to be the transformation of the casual living space, including the kitchen. It has given the home a true heart.” >

FAMILY LIVING This room and the bedroom suite above extend beyond the footprint of the original house, borrowing floor areas from a patio and a balcony, respectively. “This new space has been designed to open fully onto the revamped terrace and beyond to the gardens and grounds,” says Michael. The Bella sofa, Bogart coffee table, armchairs, cushions, basket, throw and floor rug, all James Salmond Furniture, are focused around a limestone hearth with gravitas. Pots on the patio, from Myles Baldwin Design, draw the eye towards the expansive vista beyond.

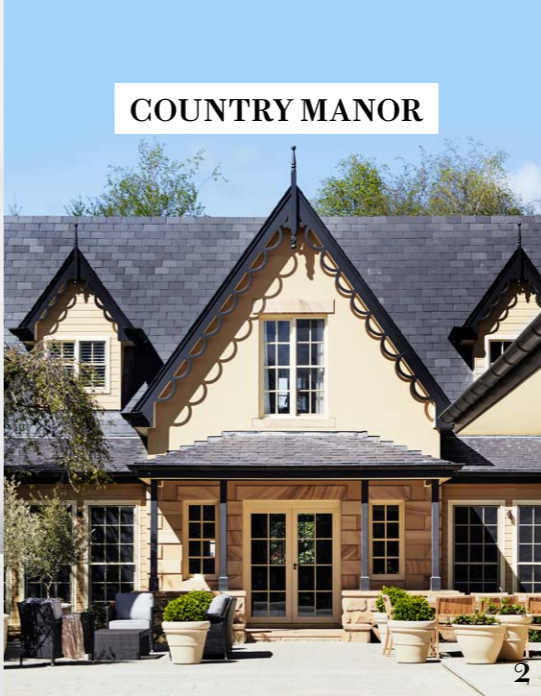


“THE *luxurious* WHITE PALETTE OF THE ENSUITE ALLOWS THE *rich hues of the garden* TO APPEAR EVEN MORE SATURATED” MICHAEL KILKEARY



MAIN BEDROOM “In the original house, the bedroom was set a long way back from the glazing, with a deep terrace,” says Michael. “We pushed the bedroom closer to the view by reducing the terrace, which allowed space for a luxurious dressing room and ensuite behind the bedroom.” The sense of luxury is aided by a custom bedhead and bedlinen, all from James Salmond Furniture, along with a stronger connection to the views, thanks to generous glazing. Phillip Jeffries Extra Fine Arrowroot grasscloth, from The Textile Company, adorns the walls. **MAIN ENSUITE** “The white palette creates a sense of luxury and indulgence, and contrasts with the rich colours of the garden, revealed by the large picture window,” says Michael. The Victoria + Albert ‘York’ freestanding bath and Brodware ‘Winslow’ tapware in Brushed Nordic Brass, from Just Bathroomware, the honed Carrara marble subway floor tiles, from Surface Gallery, and the Visual Comfort ‘Channing’ single and double wall sconces, from Laura Kincade, all emanate old-world luxe. Joinery handpainted in Dulux White Duck semi gloss. Armac Martin Carlton handles in satin brass, The English Tapware Company. >

Source book
Architecture, interior design and construction: Cadence & Co,
(02) 4861 6584, cadenceandco.com.au.
Soft furnishings: James Salmond
Furniture, 0402 970 978,
jamesalmondfurniture.com.au.
Landscape design: Myles Baldwin
Design, (02) 9699 2622, mylesbaldwin.com.



COUNTRY MANOR

INSIDE STORY
Michael Kilkeary, partner and design principal, Cadence & Co
Biggest challenges?
“Ensuring the new spaces felt inherently related to the original house, while still feeling contemporary and elevated.”
Most proud of?
“How we designed in the vein of the original house and created a seamless fusion between the two. We feel the results are, paradoxically perhaps, both contemporary and timeless.”
Going green...
“Giving the home more access to sunlight has made a significant change to both the natural comfort and the home’s green credentials.”
Favourite feature?
“The new sandstone mantel. It gives the room a formality it didn’t have before.”



1. In the main ensuite, Carrara marble subway tiles, Surface Gallery. Brodware ‘Winslow’ tapware, Just Bathroomware.
2. The striking facade of the Southern Highlands home was updated too.
3. Benchtop in honed Carrara marble. Custom joinery in Porter’s Paints Mineral. Travertine flooring tiles, laid in herringbone, Eco Outdoor.
4. Joinery in Porter’s Paints Mineral, hand-painted in Aqua-Satin finish.
5. In the walk-in robe, Visual Comfort ‘Calais’ chandelier, Laura Kincade. Joinery in Dulux White Duck.
6. Collected antiques are made for this outstanding fireplace.
7. In the formal dining, Visual Comfort ‘Lillianne’ chandelier, Laura Kincade. Iksel ‘D-Dream’ wallpaper, James Salmond Furniture.

