



**Far left:** The project was a chance to organise the existing pieces, while adding new in a way that had a historic evolved theme rather than a 'brand new' appearance, which may not have suited the period property  
**Left:** Sydney's inner west is home to numerous Victorian terrace houses

WORDS DANIELLE TOWNSEND  
 PHOTOGRAPHY GEORGIA MOXHAM

## VICTORIAN VISION

In its recent reinvention, this Victorian terrace delicately fuses its long history with its owners' time in Asia

The idea behind the interior design of this Victorian terrace in Sydney's inner west was to enhance and highlight the existing period features. The clients, a doctor and a writer, are well travelled and have spent considerable time working in China, and wanted to express this life experience subtly throughout their home without creating an overly styled interior.

"Our client and their travels was the inspiration," says Andrew Waller, interior designer of Andrew Waller Design, who undertook the project's interior decoration, bespoke joinery, furniture specification and design, soft furnishings, finishes and lighting. "The doctor and family had lived in China for business and already had a few interesting Chinese pieces which we added to in the refurbishment. They didn't want a new pristine home but a lived-in, family feel, which had a layer of history to reflect their lives.

"The brief was to update the interior space and provide much-needed storage... our clients had been living in quite an unorganised space for a while and generally needed a new eye to organise their home life."

"We took the project as an opportunity to organise the existing pieces, while adding new in a way that had a historic evolved theme rather than a 'brand new' appearance, which would date quickly and may not have suited the period property. As part of the project, many personal artefacts were also incorporated into artworks throughout the spaces."



**Right:** In the dining room, numerous artefacts from the couple's time in China were incorporated  
**Far right:** The lounge room with large full-wall bookcases, to house the husband's collection of books



Two areas became the main focus – the master suite (which was to be the wife's main retreat), and the lounge with the large full-wall bookcases (the husband had a large collection of books to be housed).

The master suite, which had consisted of numerous amassed loose cabinets, required a complete overhaul. A large amount of storage was required to replace these

cabinets, but a cleaner plan was required to 'tidy' up the visuals and create some much-needed floor space, despite the room's large dimensions.

In this master suite, one of Andrew's favourite parts of the home, a combination of the new wraparound timber joinery and wing armchair by the fireplace redefined the space as a private sanctuary/reading spot

away from the main living area. The joinery has now created a panelled-room feeling.

The master bedroom exhibits a masculine overtone, with the extensive bespoke joinery referencing a gentleman's tailor shop. The bedroom furniture includes a custom-designed dressing table with intricate bone inlay, handmade in India.

Andrew also loves the lounge room with



new twin bookcases adjacent to the fireplace frame the space with a textural backdrop to the semi to create an inviting lounge space – the first port of call for guests.

Meanwhile, the main entertaining area was designed with the female client in mind, introducing a layer of colour on top of the neutral palette.

“The project evolved over a period of time,” says Andrew of the finished work. “We employed an ‘evolved historic’ approach to the design including the new furniture and bespoke joinery details. We retained and brought focus to some of the beautiful existing elements in the home and reinvented spaces and details which needed a little more attention.” APS

**Far left:** In the lounge room, new twin bookcases adjacent to the fireplace frame the space to create an inviting lounge space

**Above:** In the master suite, a combination of the new wraparound timber joinery and wing armchair by the fireplace redefined the space as a private sanctuary/reading spot

**Above left:** An ‘evolved historic’ approach to the design evolved, including the new furniture and bespoke joinery details

**Left:** The bathroom features many authentic pieces from Chippendale Restorations, Rozelle



The project was designed by:

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The project was built by:

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**FLOORING**

**Living areas/kitchen:** Timber, varnished finish  
**Entrance:** Retained original marble tile  
**Bathroom:** Tiled by Academy Tiles  
**Bedrooms:** Timber stained floor - Feast Watson

**WALLS**

**Living areas:** Dulux Rice Cake Wash & Wear; skirting boards Dulux Rice Cake semi gloss  
**Kitchen:** Dulux Hog Bristle Wash & Wear; skirting boards Dulux Hog Bristle semi gloss  
**Bathroom:** ????  
**Master bedroom:** Dulux Pale Parchment Wash & Wear; skirting boards Dulux Pale Parchment semi gloss  
**Childrens' bedrooms:** Dulux Finishing Touch Wash & Wear; skirting boards Finishing Touch semi gloss

**LIGHTING**

**Living areas:** Silk embroidered lampshades – from Mao and More  
**Entrance:** Custom made in Parchment to Waller Design specifications, from Circle of Light  
**Kitchen:** Pendant light from Chippendale Restorations, Rozelle  
**Bedrooms:** Medusa chandelier from Orson & Blake

**KITCHEN**

**Cabinet doors and panels:** Existing timber sand and new varnish finish  
**Benchtop:** New laminate inserted benchtop with original timber moulding lip-edge detail

**BATHROOM**

**Wall:** Dulux Finishing Touch Wash & Wear; skirting boards Finishing Touch semi gloss  
**Tiles:** From Academy Tiles  
**Bath/shower/vanity:** Chippendale Restorations, Rozelle  
**Additional features:** Towel rail from Chippendale Restorations, Rozelle, bent wood chair from auction

**WINDOWS**

Original timber windows sand, recondition and new paint finish, sash windows mechanism were repaired

**DOORS** (external or internal)

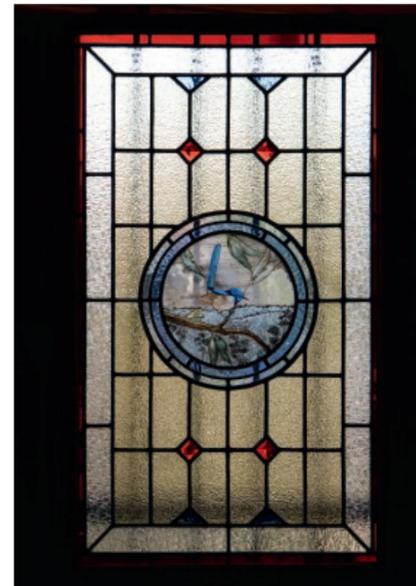
Original timber doors and, recondition and new paint finish

**OUTDOOR**

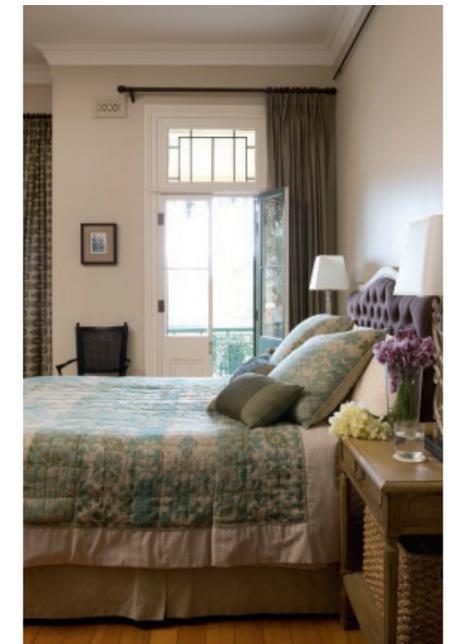
Landscaping by Votre Jardin – Stuart 0410 691 521

**FURNITURE**

**Hallway:** Hat chair – Chinese from Orient House  
**Living room:** Rosewood Mahjong table – original from client  
 Bentwood chairs – auction find  
 Silk-embroidered pendant lamp – Mao & More  
 Rug - Doncaster Furnishers  
 Soft furnishings custom designed by Andrew Waller Design



Feature chair - Arana Chair upholstered in Liberty fabric from Jordan  
 Lounge - Genevieve sofa from Jordan, fabric by Mokum  
**Dining room:**  
 Existing client table and chairs  
 Soft furnishings custom made by Andrew Waller Design  
 Fireplace - upholstered chimney breast in Assam colour Plum - Mokum  
 Armoire - A-frame Jianstr (Gansu?) cabinet – Orient House  
**Family room (off kitchen):**  
 Sisal floor rug - Equator Homewares  
 Kitchen table and chairs - auction find  
 Wicker chest/coffee table - Mandalay Designs  
 Cabinet - Gansu painted front cabinet in poplar – Orient House  
 Love chair – Equator Homewares  
**Master bedroom:**  
 Custom design soft furnishings by Andrew Waller Design  
 Floor rug designed by Andrew Waller Design, made by The Rug Collection  
 Varenne desk chair from La Maison  
 Joinery (wardrobe) - American oak with bronze finish hardware, designed by Andrew Waller Design  
 Armchair - Augustine wingback chair in chocolate linen from Orson & Blake  
 Dressing table and mirror - Bone inlay kneehole dressing table - custom designed by Andrew Waller Design, made in India



**Far left:** The master bedroom exhibits a masculine overtone. Furniture includes a custom-designed dressing table with intricate bone inlay, handmade in India