

KITCHEN ISLANDS

AMAZING DESIGN IDEAS FOR THE HEART OF THE HOME

australian

# home beautiful

30+  
*pages of*  
REAL  
ROOM  
RENOS

LAUNDRIES  
TO LOVE

Clever concepts,  
simple solutions

CLASSIC  
*elegance*

Create a cosy winter haven  
with a modern twist

trending now

ALFRESCO  
LIVING

Outdoor rooms  
for all seasons

HOUSE  
RULES

REVEALED  
The best looks &  
expert advice

*international*

TREND REPORT

NEW STYLE STRAIGHT FROM  
THE WORLD'S TOP DESIGNERS

JUNE 2014 \$7.50 • NZ \$8.40 (INC. GST)



RENOVATING • DECORATING • ENTERTAINING • OUTDOOR LIVING

# modern history

*House Rules* mentor and interior designer Carolyn Burns-McCrave shares one of her favourite projects – a revived 1900s family home in Melbourne

WORDS & STYLING RUTH WELSBY PHOTOGRAPHY MARCEL AUCAR



House Rules  
design mentor



Carolyn Burns-McCrave

Style NOTES

"I pushed for the mirrored kitchen splashback because in such a big space, it seemed odd to turn around and face a wall while cooking. Now you get the reflection of the window opposite."  
- Carolyn, interior designer

**Kitchen** Taking centrestage in the open-plan living zone, the granite countertop adds texture and tone. Stylish cabinetry clad in timber veneer from New Age Veneers provides ample storage space, while integrated appliances deliver a streamlined look. Contemporary barstools from Ikea are ideal for informal meals at the island unit. "We love the kitchen island," says homeowner John. "It caters for large family gatherings with ease."



**BENCHTOP**  
Try polished granite surface in Bianco Romano, \$142/sqm, Apex Stone.



**Bar zone (above)** "You don't go to John's house without having a fabulous coffee," says Carolyn. "So, we thought it would be fun to have a separate bar area for it." The space, located off the dining room, has plenty of under-counter storage and a bluestone countertop, with mosaic feature tiles from Artedomus.

**Dining & living (right)** An eye-catching, oversized pendant light from Richmond Lighting is teamed with a bespoke timber table and sleek white dining chairs from Dare Gallery. The living area is furnished with a Jardan sofa and colourful striped rug (pictured, page 173) - for similar, check out Armadillo & Co. Polished blackbutt timber floors, laid throughout the home, help to ensure a fluid connection between the old and new parts of the home. >



**WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER** Carolyn Burns-McCrave isn't imparting her style know-how to *House Rules* contestants, she's helping her clients create warm and welcoming homes. A favourite project is this striking 1900s three-bedroom home in Melbourne that has undergone countless makeovers - not all positive! Steeped in personal history, the house has been in owner John's family for generations. "It's something of a family heirloom," he says. "But it was in poor condition due to various building misdemeanours performed by my well-intentioned grandfather!"

John, a builder by trade with his own firm Leone Constructions, and his wife Larissa, a business manager, hatched a plan to transform the ramshackle cottage into a dream family home. On the wishlist was a home office, an open-plan living zone and dedicated coffee bar. CBG Architects drew up the design concepts and Carolyn helped infuse the home with elegance and drama.

Maximising light and space were priorities, as were rectifying decades-old rising damp and sub-floor issues, which saw the

original part of the house stripped back to a shell. Ceiling roses, decorative cornices and ornate fireplaces were reinstated, while at the rear, an expansive extension with floor-to-ceiling glass doors was added. "We love entertaining and have a large family, so a spacious kitchen and dining area was key," says John.

With a passion for design and appreciation of the finer details, the couple relished collaborating with Carolyn on the interiors. Pattern and texture were introduced through bold wallpaper and slick joinery at the front of the house, while a neutral palette was preferred for the extension. "John and Larissa embraced all my suggestions," says Carolyn. "I was so excited when they agreed to some of my more adventurous ideas!" Cases in point - the butter-yellow wallpaper in the powder room (page 171) and the oversized pendant light in the dining zone (above). "Playing with scale and pattern creates interest - and great talking points for guests," says Carolyn. "When I walk through the front door I still can't believe what we've achieved," comments John. "It's so welcoming and elegant."



"I wanted the office to have a sharp, New York-inspired feel"  
 - John, homeowner

**WALLPAPER**  
 Osborne & Little 'Clarendon'  
 wallpaper, \$34/roll  
 Seneca Textiles.

**Style NOTES**  
 "We decided to commit to the black-and-white theme. That's why the white shutters work so well and why the chandelier had to be white - it was all about balancing the two tones."  
 - Carolyn, interior designer



**Study** (opposite & this page, top & bottom left) John's office is a vision of masculine sophistication. "I love the way it's turned out - it's one of my favourite rooms," he enthuses. Expansive American oak shelving stained in Feast Watson Black Japan is teamed with a monolithic bespoke timber desk and white Moooi 'Paper Chandelier' light from Space. A vintage *Tintin* poster over a restored Victorian fireplace brings a blast of colour to the otherwise neutral room. On the wall, black 'Pacific Breeze' grasscloth wallpaper from Baresque adds a tactile touch.

**Powder room** (above) Carolyn encouraged the couple to make some bold decorating choices. Here, wallpaper by Osborne & Little makes a statement and ties in with the home's period details. >



**JOINERY**  
Get the look with Navlam sandblasted Bunya timber veneer, \$105/sqm, New Age Veneers.



"The house had great structure; we wanted to return it to its previous condition, with a few modern additions"  
— John, homeowner

**WALLPAPER**  
Nina Campbell 'Jalousie' wallpaper, \$180/roll, Seneca Textiles.

Master bedroom Bronze mirrors and Beacon Lighting pendants add an unexpected twist. "We had this huge verticality with such a high ceiling and we wanted to do something different," explains Carolyn. A feature wall in Nina Campbell wallpaper works in place of a headboard; the other walls are painted in Dulux Linseed. Chic bedlinen from Country Road complements the room's metallic tones. **hb**



**Ensuite** (above & right) Luxury comes courtesy of five-star finishes and a freestanding 'Lanark' bath from Reece. The bespoke wall-hung vanity unit boasts a Catalano 'C3' basin from Rogerseller, Zucchetti tapware and a honed bluestone counter. A trio of Tom Dixon 'Beat' pendant lights adds a sculptural element, enhancing the hotel-style vibe. "The lights are gold inside so that when you lie in the bath, you can see the gleam," says Carolyn. "It was all about finding little surprises."

**Wardrobe** (above right) The walk-in robe connects the bedroom and ensuite, forming an opulent master suite. "The finishes are tactile, warm and natural," says Carolyn. "We created a suite where everything relates." Charcoal-grey 'Wool Elegance' carpet from Victoria Carpets offers softness underfoot.



**CONTACTS**  
Builder  
Leone Constructions,  
leoneconstructions.com.au.  
Interior designer  
Carolyn Burns-McCrave,  
(03) 9894 0586,  
burnsmccrave.com.au.  
Stockists, page 229