

BRISBANE MEETS MOROCCO

When the current owners, Dellarose and Michael Baevski, purchased this home, it had been substantially extended and modernised, but not to the extent of removing all the architectural detailing which today is a visual reminder of former glory, and which sits surprising well with the modern additions.





The original home was small – and what was not absorbed in the renovation now serves as the formal dining, sitting and meditation rooms, with bedrooms and bathrooms upstairs.

The renovation created a loggia which runs the length of the house, and which opens off the new informal family room/dining room/kitchen – an enormous space which functions as the pivotal axis of the home. The loggia has been treated to a slatted timber roof which sheds a filtered light on the Rustico cross cut stone floor and a magnificent rug from Morocco – one of many which are to be found throughout the house along with other souvenirs of overseas travels. Also sourced from Morocco is a series of metal



lanterns which at night shed exotic patterns on the floor – swirling, jewelled shapes of light and shadow.

Furnished with rattan daybeds and an ultra modern table and chairs from Parterre in the valley, these modern and traditional elements sit side by side, with a bronze Ganesh overseeing the whole from above the fireplace which ensures that this area is as comfortable in winter as it is in summer. A recently restored antique rocking horse provides entertainment for the younger generation and is suspended from the ceiling.

This fully furnished outdoor area acts as a prelude to the very individual decorating style of the owners – a style which speaks

Above left: Informal entertaining takes place in the covered loggia which runs down the side of the house

Above: this huge space serves as an informal sitting and dining area with the kitchen off to one side

of a refined taste, and a quirky delight in combining elements fearlessly. It is perhaps not surprising, given that Dellarose owns her own design company, Awaken Designs, and is developing a large parcel of land near The Town of 1770 on the central Queensland coast with her husband, Michael. A unique and very thoughtful plan has been subjected to a rigorous environmental examination and only a small portion of the land is to be incorporated into the resort and the residential component of the development.

The complexities of such a project, and the couple's total dedication to it, are both exhausting and stimulating – so they have created their home as a refuge, a sanctuary where they can replenish their mental energy, recharge their creativity and simply enjoy family life with their young daughter.

Moving to this house from their previous residence the couple have mixed their existing furniture with new pieces they have acquired. In the sitting room, a comfortable



leather corner sofa is positioned in front of the fireplace – with the filmy bronze curtains drawn on a cold winter night, this would be a warm and cosy place to catch up on the day's events; in summer, with the doors wide open, and the breeze drawn through the room from side to side, it would be an equally pleasant spot.

The kitchen spans the room, with a bench top opening onto the living room and dining space, and a servery giving access to the outdoor area, where the couple mostly entertain. A two-pac finish to the cabinetry, textured stainless steel and black galaxy granite were selected for their hard wearing qualities – and also for the very attractive, modern look they deliver – given that the kitchen is

an integral part of this huge room, it had to work with the casual elegance of the rest of this open plan area.

Opening off the kitchen on the opposite side of the house to the loggia is the pool. Solid masonry walls rendered in an aubergine shade create a sun trap and provide privacy and a very attractive outlook from every angle.

In the old part of the house, it is possible to observe the massive change in the ways we live now. Smallish rooms, opening one to the other, indicate the 'closed off' manner of living when this home was built in the 1930s. Where the extension to the house directs the gaze outwards, in these rooms one looks inwards – windows are

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SOUVENIRS AND ARTWORKS FROM OVERSEAS TRAVELS ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE



Above: At the opposite end of this library space the couple share an office

small with obscure glass panels, and the walls enclose and contain. It is a dramatic contrast with the expansive new room at the rear of the house, where the function of a space is delineated through the placement of furniture – not walls.

The formal dining room is moody and is dominated by a very large artwork, one of many throughout the house. The sheer bronze curtains and the muted light from the windows give the room a low light ambience

which complements the timber table and the red, upholstered high backed chairs which sit on a magnificent Moroccan rug.

Dinner guests can adjourn from the dining room to the formal sitting room where a modern, extra large sofa invites one to relax with feet up – or to take one's ease on either of the two very contemporary chaise longue. Artworks dominate in this room also – the vivid colours mediated by the lush white floor rug. Although this rug was also acquired



COSTUME JEWELLERY AND DECORATED AND GEM ENCRUSTED PERFUME BOTTLES JOSTLE FOR SPACE



Above: Gauzy curtains soften floor to ceiling timber shutters and a metallic paint glimmers on the wall behind the bed

in Morocco, it has an understated non-traditional design, which suits the more modern look of this room.

At some time in the past the house was extended to the side, and this is where the master suite is now located. A passageway leads first to a very desirable dressing room, where Dellarose's collection of costume jewellery and decorated and gem encrusted perfume bottles jostle for space with china shoes and other assorted lovelies on top of

an extra tall set of drawers in the middle of the room. Three walls house hanging space, cupboards and shelves for shoes. Further on, in the bedroom, gauzy curtains soften floor to ceiling timber shutters, and a metallic paint glimmers on the wall behind the platform style bed. An en suite adjoins.

Downstairs, additional bedrooms and bathrooms cater for visitors, while the couple share office space in a huge room which operates as a library and reading room.



Built in cabinetry holds display items and shelves full of books, while a comfortable sofa is the perfect place to indulge in a quiet read. Behind the sofa two antique Chinese chairs sit either side of a table where games of chess and Scrabble are hotly contested.

This home is a perfect example of retaining the best of the old and blending it with the new – the exterior is much as it was when the home was built in the 1930s, but the interior has been modernised with a sensitivity which has retained much of the original structure and features of the home while providing for the larger scale of modern open plan living. ■ GOLD

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