

# belle

*Happy browsing: rugs, lights & planters  
+ sourcing Tangier style*

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LIBRARIES

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# Blue darling

65 pages of serene spaces  
from Watsons Bay to the world

# FACTORY FINISH



Embracing the columns and stained-glass windows from an earlier time, a fresh makeover inserts a desired layer of sophistication and intimacy to this warehouse home.

Words CHRIS PEARSON Photography TOM FERGUSON



This page An Arflex 'Botola' sheepskin chair from Poliform invites pause in the space near the kitchen looking through to stairs leading up to the first-floor bedrooms. To create cosiness and intimacy, a hefty barn-style door can roll across to close off the area. Fredericia 'Spine' stools from Great Dane. Stoneware vessel by Katarina Wells from Curatorial+Co. V-groove panels by Benja Build. Opposite page Looking through the portico from the living room to the hallway. Sofa from BoConcept. Artisan 'Neva' dining chair from Spence & Lyda. Walls painted in Dulux 'Vivid White'.



This page Around the 'Locator' dining table from Mark Tuckey are a mix of chairs from Spence & Lydo, including the Artisan 'Nevo', Neri & Hu 'Shaker' and Nichetto Studio 'Vivien', all on a hand-knotted rug from The Rug Establishment. On table Ceramic vessel from Planet, glasses and plates from Montmartre Store and 'Ariel' sculpture by Carol Crawford from .M Contemporary. In the sitting area beyond stands a Maner Studio 'Arc' floor lamp from Great Dane. Untitled, 2019 artwork by Laura Ellenberger from .M Contemporary. Opposite page The library, which features abundant storage by Gumtree Joinery, can be divided off from the open plan with curtains should the owners desire. 'Oslo' lounge chairs and vintage over-dyed rug, both from Coco Republic. Ligne Roset 'Belize' mirror and 'Daphna' vase, both from Domo. Floors finished in Feast Watson 'Black Japan'. In the hallway, 'Lehnstuhl' armchair by Nigel Coates for Gebrüder Thonet Vienna from Space. Maquette A, 2019 ceramic sculpture by Gidon Bing from .M Contemporary.



Like its central courtyard, which forms the lungs of this warehouse in Sydney's inner west, an inspired renovation has been a breath of fresh air to a one-time trouser factory. It strides out with a new-found confidence, thanks to architect Josephine Hurley. The unassuming 1909 brick building, crouched in an alleyway, had been transformed into a home by an eager DIYer years before. Many of the quirky elements that today make it so special were already in place but, says Josephine, they were random and eclectic, and called for a more coherent vision.

These flights of fancy included classical allusions such as the columned portico just inside the entry and decorative mouldings, and a random sprinkling of stained-glass windows. "We fell in love with the open spaces and privacy of the courtyard," say the owners, who bought the property in 2011 lured by its character and vast internal voids. In 2017 they hired Josephine to give it a refresh and address the cavernous spaces that were a challenge to heat and surprisingly dark, and to create "a blend of industrial and modern, incorporating the look and feel of a New York loft. We wanted to make the most of the high ceilings and the open plan while also ensuring the warehouse was more family-friendly and inviting," explain the owners.

Under the 5.6m ceilings, it had a dramatic sense of space, says Josephine. "But nothing was square and the brickwork had been on the move." Bulky, timber-framed doors flanked that crucial courtyard and isolated it from the living areas that depended on it. On the ground level, a study and a library at opposing ends bookend the open plan, which comprises a sitting area, dining area and kitchen all enveloping the courtyard. Upstairs in the loft, the main bedroom perches at one end above the entry, with the other two at the opposite end above the study and service areas. Josephine skilfully edited the DIY inclusions and added a layer of her own. "We worked with the fabric of what was there," she says. The colonnade entryway and much of the panelling was retained, then she inserted steel-framed >

