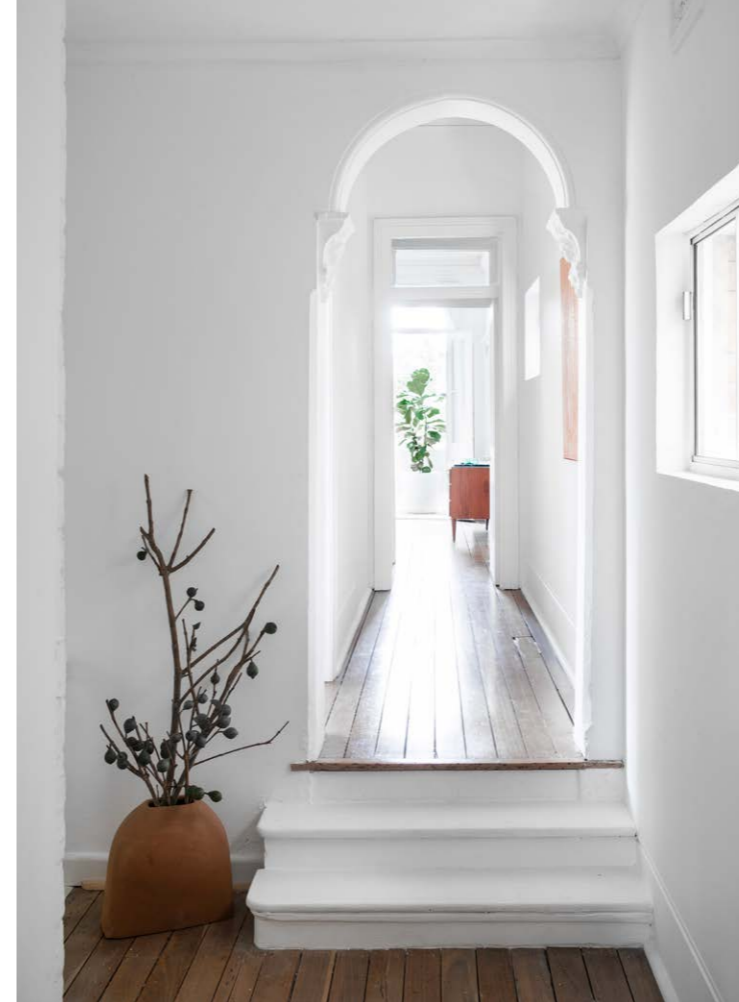




Photography **CHRIS WARNES**
Styling **ANNA DELPRAT**

GUIDING *light*

The fostering of a life well lived is at the heart of each project
Eva-Marie Prineas envisions, not least for her own character-filled home.

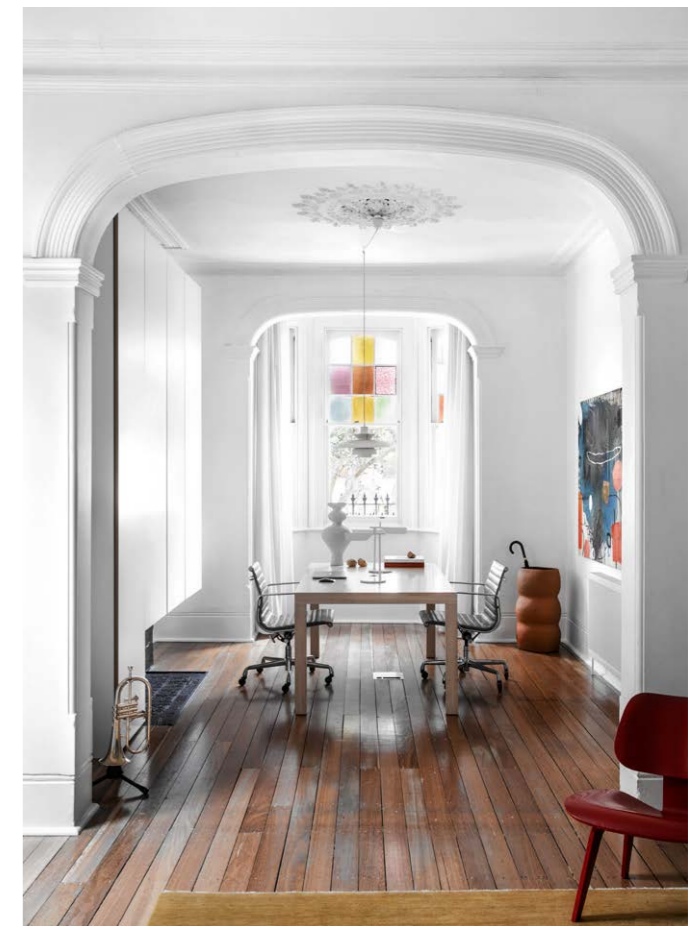


This page, clockwise from top left Original hardwood floors were retained throughout and brought into relief by crisp Dulux 'Vivid White' for the walls. Floor vessel from McMullin & Co. Accessed from the dining space, the deck is furnished with a low-slung 'Tio' table and chairs from District. Pop & Scott pots from Koskela. Under the front room's generous bay window, Herman Miller desk chairs by Charles and Ray Eames from Living Edge flank an 'AC' table from Koskela, on which sits Flos 'Tab' lamps from Euroluce and *Mama Vessel* by Katarina Wells from Curatorial+Co. Opposite page Architect Eva-Marie Prineas in front of Eliá House, her 1890s terrace in Sydney. Facade painted in Dulux 'Silver Tea Set' with 'Vivid White' trim.

WHAT APPEALED ABOUT YOUR HOME? What we were looking for – and what we found in Eliá House – was a project with strong character that had room for us to add our own layering and personality. With two growing boys, it was essential for us that the home would be robust while offering flexibility to suit our changing needs over time. Unlike most terraces, the property was detached on both sides, inviting an abundance of northern light and natural ventilation – a unique offering which immediately appealed.

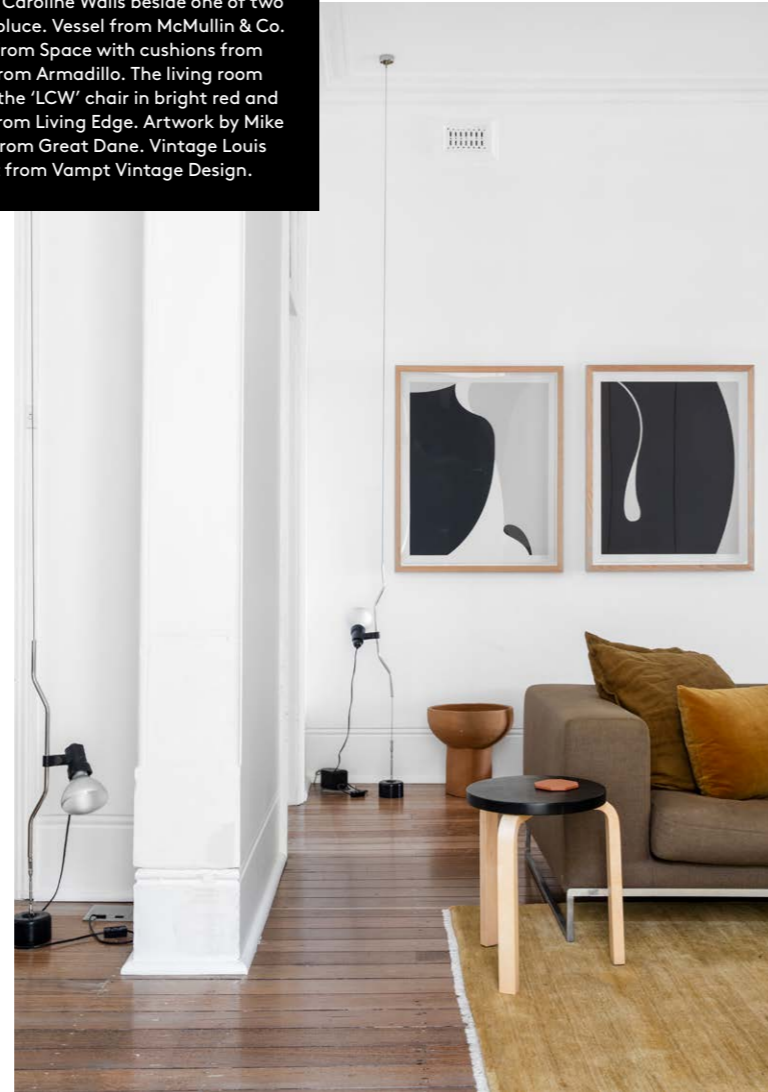
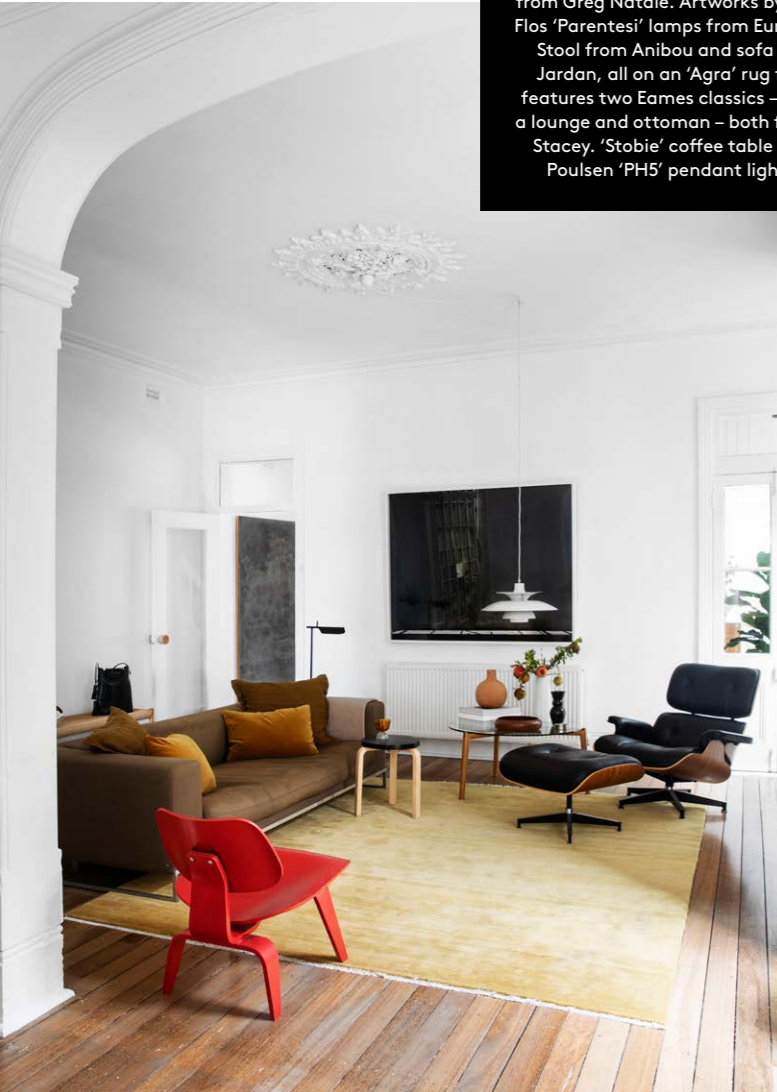
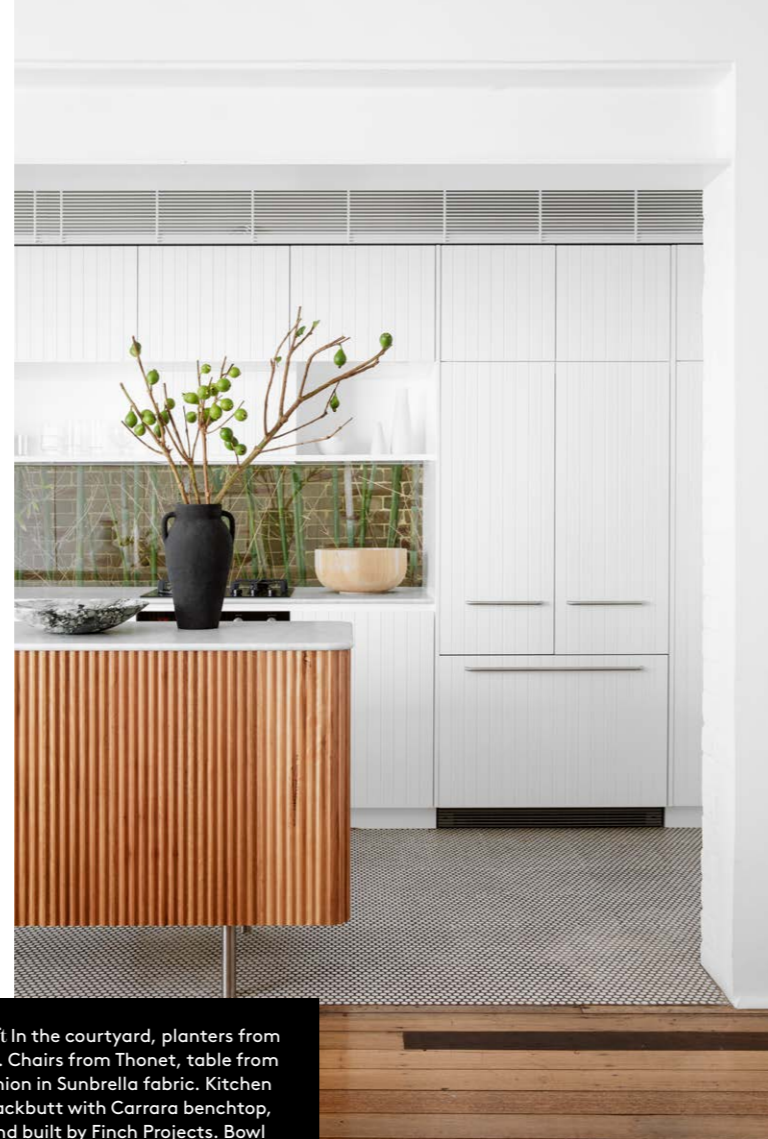
WHAT DID THE ALTERATIONS ENTAIL? Planned to give a greater sense of clarity and purpose, the impact of the renovation goes far beyond the aesthetic. We removed a number of additions, revealing the true scale and proportion of the original building through a series of living and dining spaces that continue from the street to the back garden. A level change allowed for a third floor and internal stairway. This area can be closed off to create a self-contained living space in line with the outdoor area. Upstairs there's a welcome surprise in the generosity of the original home. We incorporated a walk-in robe and ensuite to create a master suite at the front of the house, which includes an original cast-iron lacework balcony. There are two other bedrooms on the same level that have great proportions and connections to the garden. Between them is a generous space that we've used as a playroom, study and gym. The grand rooms with high ceilings at the front of the house were always key spaces so we restored the archways to help form a greater sense of space and connectedness.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE INTERIOR? The nuances between classical and contemporary are all throughout the home, with no clear separation between old and new. Exposed tallowwood floorboards run the length of the house and continue on to the deck that overlooks the garden. The discovery of a dilapidated timber ceiling inspired a reference point for the external





This page, clockwise from top left In the courtyard, planters from Robert Plumb and Garden Life. Chairs from Thonet, table from Ikea and bench seat with cushion in Sunbrella fabric. Kitchen joinery and island in fluted blackbutt with Carrara benchtop, designed by Studio Prineas and built by Finch Projects. Bowl from Greg Natale. Artworks by Caroline Walls beside one of two Flos 'Parentesi' lamps from Euroluce. Vessel from McMullin & Co. Stool from Anibou and sofa from Space with cushions from Jordan, all on an 'Agra' rug from Armadillo. The living room features two Eames classics – the 'LCW' chair in bright red and a lounge and ottoman – both from Living Edge. Artwork by Mike Stacey. 'Stobie' coffee table from Great Dane. Vintage Louis Poulsen 'PH5' pendant light from Vampt Vintage Design.



cladding and kitchen joinery, including a furniture-like island bench that is elevated on steel legs. The palette is neutral and enables the artwork and furniture to really sing in each room. The design has been considered with the kitchen as a main focal point. It connects to the garden and is anchored by an outdoor open fireplace and dining area, comfortable for gatherings of extended family. When the sun sets, it's the perfect spot to spend a long winter afternoon.

HOW DOES THE HOME REFLECT YOUR SENSIBILITIES? At Studio Prineas we believe in the importance of home and the role it plays in our wellbeing. Eliá House is an example of this vision and an embodiment of my values as an architect and designer. Our restoration aimed to reflect the longevity of architecture through bold choices and considered problem solving. The layers we added over the past nine years gently blend the classical and the contemporary in an empathetic way.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT LIVING HERE? There is a place for everything. It's a considerate space for a growing family, with a large amount of storage and built-in joinery that also highlights the heritage character of the original house. I also love the way the kitchen, dining room and deck all work together in unison. A favourite pastime is opening up the doors on a weekend morning to invite the sun inside and enjoying a lazy family brunch at home.

IS THERE A PERIOD OR STYLE THAT APPEALS TO YOU? There is something particularly rewarding about restoring homes that are in their original state. Eliá House is 130 years old, yet it continues to be a relevant model for habitation now as much as ever before.



This page, from top Artist Jimmy Nyalalkaya's 1974 bark painting *Wandurrk* hangs in the dining space above the 'AC' table from Koskela with bentwood chairs by Le Corbusier from Thonet. The pendant light above is a vintage factory fitting. Marble bowls from Greg Natale sit on the kitchen island and on a custom marble slab at the centre of the table. The kitchen floors were covered in 'Pennyround' mosaic tiles from Surface Gallery. Looking from the dining room to the deck, outdoor planter from Garden Life.



This page, from top Flos 'Tab' lamp from Euroluce beside a 'Nook' bed from Jordan with linen from In Bed. Fireplace surround in Dulux 'Silver Tea Set' with artwork on mantel by Bec Smith. Artek table and ClassiCon pendant light, both from Anibou, with Oluce 'Atollo' lamp from Euroluce. Curtains in Warwick 'Aesop' fabric in Parchment and Chios. Vessel by Simone Bodmer-Turner from Criteria on stool from Anibou. 'Agra' rug in Kingfisher from Armadillo. 'Pennyround' wall tiles from Surface Gallery. Tapware from Astra Walker with Villeroy & Boch basin. Ikea desk with chair from Living Edge and lamp from Euroluce. Work on paper by Eva-Marie Prineas. 'Sinclair' bed from Temperature Design with linen from Bemboka. Wardrobe from Trit House.



WHAT INFORMED THE SELECTION OF FURNITURE, ART, FITTINGS AND FINISHES? Where possible, we always choose to source our materials and furnishings locally. Some of our favourite pieces in the house come from brands and retailers such as Mud Australia, Criteria, Marz Designs, Anibou and Koskela.

IS YOUR HOME A SANCTUARY OR DOES IT DOUBLE AS A WORK SPACE? As with all the homes we love to design, Eliá House is all about family and togetherness. It has a kitchen that feels inviting enough for the kids to gather around after a big day at school, a nice garden and place to enjoy balmy nights outside, and spaces of quiet retreat throughout. Yes, we work often in our space – but its primary purpose is to encourage a life well lived. This is the driving philosophy behind Studio Prineas. As architects, we have a responsibility to design in a way that addresses functional and emotional needs in equal measure, and this has never been truer than when we've worked on our own family home.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO? We have a number of unique projects underway. A mid-century gem full of eclectic style and warmth, and a waterfront home we've affectionately called The Fisherman's House, to name just a few. Stay tuned.

WHICH OTHER DESIGNERS, ARTISTS AND ARCHITECTS INSPIRE YOU? I am always inspired by the architecture and interiors of Athens-based practice K-Studio – and was fortunate to stay in one of their hotels a few years back. Particularly now, when we can't travel abroad, it's wonderful to see what's being created in other parts of the world where local climate, materials and influences are so different to here. The furniture of Arno Declercq and Gustavo Bittencourt continues to inspire. Locally, I'm always excited to see the work of artists Saxon Quinn and Marcela Restrepo. We recently commissioned a landscape by Paul Ryan.

IF YOU DIDN'T LIVE HERE, WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU LIVE? Before we had children we lived in the city in a tiny apartment with the harbour on our doorstep. When the children arrived we moved to the inner west for more space and we completely fell in love with the community and everything that this wonderful area has to offer. When the kids grow up, though, I like the thought of dipping into city life again ... studioprineas.com.au

