

NUOVA TRADIZIONE

These pages in the formal living room of this Bellevue Hill home, Vladimir Kagan Curved Cloud **sofa** and *Untitled artwork* by artist unknown from 1stDibs; Butterfly **coffee table** by Hannes Peer for SEM from Moebel; Knoll Platner **chair** by Warren Platner from Dedec; Dune **side table** by Draga & Aurel for Baxter from Space Furniture; Dimoremilano Ventaglio low **table** (background) from Moebel; Floris Wubben **vase** from Studio Alm; Icone Masai **pendant light** (foreground) from Mondoluce; **floor** in pre-engineered oak from Tongue & Groove. *Details, last pages.*

The chance to revisit a project in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs inspires GREG NATALE to distil past expressions of ITALIAN DESIGN into a *sensuous* style he calls *European minimalism*.

By FREYA HERRING Photographed by ANSON SMART Styled by JOSEPH GARDNER

This page in the entry, Celeste **chair** from Bohinc Studio; Double Dish **pendant light** from Anna Charlesworth; **staircase** in custom cement cornice by Unitex; **floor** in Patagonia Verde marble and pre-engineered oak from Tongue & Groove. *Opposite page* in another view of the formal living room, Etcetera Easy **chair** by Jan Ekselius from Tigmi Trading; **side table** by Tanika Jellis from Studio Gardner; Magiglo **fireplace** from Real Flame; Tassel 3 **wall sconce** from Apparatus; Sugar Bomb **pendant light** (above sculpture) from Christopher Boots; Hercules **plinth** by Greg Natale; **sculpture** by Emily Hamann from Curatorial+Co; custom Ombre **rug** designed by Greg Natale and produced by Designer Rugs.



It's not unusual to buy a home and redesign its interior. What is unusual, however, is when a client calls in an interior designer to completely overhaul their own work from a decade prior. But that's exactly what happened with Taylor House, a four-bedroom, four-bathroom home emersed in the lush greenery of Sydney's Bellevue Hill.

The interior designer in question is multi-award winner Greg Natale. "I always loved this house," he declares. "It was one of my Hollywood Regency houses from 12 years ago." For Natale, ripping everything out and starting again felt like an opportunity. "Definitely as a designer I've evolved, so I really wanted to show the next evolution of my work through this home." In contrast to the more decorative style he was once known for, he defines the aesthetic of Taylor House as 'European minimalism', with Italian design playing a particularly crucial role in its look and feel.

"Italy is my heritage," says Natale. "My parents are Italian. My mother still speaks Italian at home, and she only watches Italian TV." As such, Italian design influences his work on an almost subliminal level. "I love Italian design. I've got all-Italian furniture in my house," he reveals. "For me, Italian design is clean, slick, minimal, and it's quite sexy."

The client Eleni Taylor has Greek heritage, and she wanted her home to have a continental bent. "It wasn't like I intentionally went out to do a home that was European-inspired, it was just what I was genuinely drawn to," she explains. Built in the Art Deco style in the 1930s, the building already had European appeal, but Taylor wanted the outside, particularly its curves, to be reflected on the inside as well. "I wanted to make the entire house about the curves and the arches," she says. "You shouldn't be able to tell where it starts and stops; it just needs to be seamless."

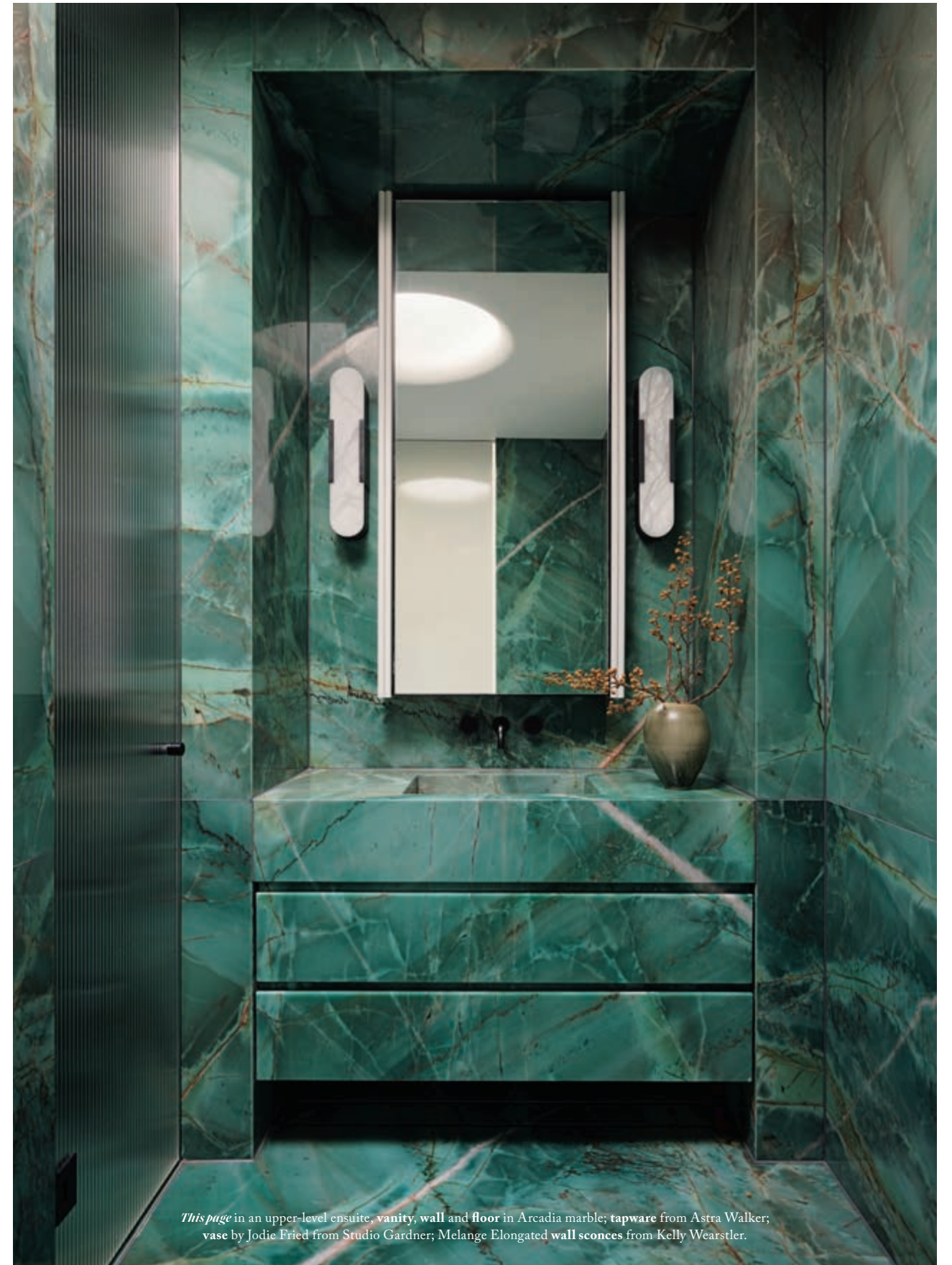
Natale certainly met the brief in the formal lounge and dining rooms, where wave ceilings and curving walls bring movement and softness to each space. The staircase has been completely redone, moving away from a more traditional, linear finish to a silky lick of a thing that lands on ornate, mottled slabs of Patagonia Verde quartzite, almost atlas-like in its patterning. The sense of flow is accentuated by the use of clay washing on the walls. "It really makes the difference," says Natale. "When you go so minimal and clean and you've got all those beautiful curves, I think it's a missed opportunity not to do a beautiful finish. And also, when you go so clean, if you don't have a beautiful texture on the walls, the houses can look a bit flat."

But flat this house is not. Most of the interior sticks to a soothingly pale, pared-back palette, though there are also flashes of colour. And texture, texture everywhere. The kitchen, for example, is a celebratory feast of Breccia Capraia marble, which Natale and Taylor imported from Italy. Its detailed veining is nothing short of spectacular — lightning bolts of pink, purple and grey flash across its snowy white surface. They both loved it so much that they decided to do the island, worktop, walls and even the overhead rangehood in the same stone. This may seem out of the ordinary, but Natale says "it's very Italian to use a lot of marble. I remember when I went to Italy as a kid, I was amazed that all my cousins had marble stairs, windowsills, bathrooms and benchtops. Even the bedrooms were marble. And my parents had no carpet or timber in their home — everything was either ceramic tiles or marble."

In keeping with this rationale, each of the Taylor House bathrooms honours a different stone — Arcadia in one ensuite, Calacatta Vagli in another. Verde Alpi dominates the downstairs powder room, and more of that dealer's choice, Breccia Capraia, wraps around the shower in the main bedroom ensuite.

Taylor relishes every one of these spaces, but she finds it's the main bedroom that recharges her most profoundly. An enveloping Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia Husk bed sits at its heart; double doors open up to a balcony overlooking the treetops. "My favourite place is my bedroom," she says. "I love the entire house, but when it's time for me, this is where I retreat to."

Home for Taylor is more than just a place to house her things; it's somewhere to drop anchor. "I love being at home — my home is my safe haven," she shares. "It's really important to me to be able to close the door and be surrounded by beauty and calmness. And that's the feeling that this house gives me: it just makes me feel calm. It's peaceful, it's relaxed, it's just beautiful. I love being here." ■ gregnatale.com



This page in an upper-level ensuite, vanity, wall and floor in Arcadia marble; tapware from Astra Walker; vase by Jodie Fried from Studio Gardner; Melange Elongated wall sconces from Kelly Wearstler.



This page in the kitchen, **island** in Breccia Capraia marble; **joinery** in American oak; Essential Home Kelly **chairs** from Covet House; Resilience **vessel** by Astrid Salomon and Magnolia **table lamp** by Sergio Mazza and Giuliana Gramigna for Quattrifoglio from Studio Gardner; Synapse **pendant light** from Apparatus. *Opposite page* in the dining area, **table** by Massimo and Lella Vignelli for Casigliani from 1stDibs; 01 **chairs** by Shiro Kuramata for Cappellini from Cult; 3D Doric **glass blocks** from Glass Brick Company; **vase** by Gaetano Pesce and marble **centrepiece** from 506070; Icone Masai **pendant lights** from Mondoluce; custom **rug** by Greg Natale and produced by Designer Rugs.





This page in the powder room, **vanity** and **wall accents** in Verde Alpi marble; **tapware** from Astra Walker; 3D Doric **glass blocks** from Glass Brick Company; **vase** and **vessel** by Greg Natale. *Opposite page* in the media room, custom Camaleonda **sectional sofa** by Mario Bellini for B&B Italia from Space Furniture; Kono **coffee table** by Massimo and Lella Vignelli for Casigliani from 1stDibs; Seconda **chair** by Mario Botta for Alias from District; **side table** by Tanika Jellis, vintage Quadrifoglio **table lamp** by Gae Aulenti for Guzzini, **vessel** by Jodie Fried and silver-glazed Japanese **bowl**, all from Studio Gardner; **joinery** in Patagonia Verde marble; Icone Hula Hoop **ceiling light** from Mondoluce; custom **rug** designed by Greg Natale and produced by Designer Rugs; **floor** in pre-engineered oak from Tongue & Groove. *Details, last pages.*