

Opposite page Built in the 1930s, the palatial home is somewhat of a local landmark. Its magical gardens by Paul Sorensen have myriad twists and turns.
This page In the drawing room, Dutch metal leaf gilding by Art Gilding decorates the walls and ceiling (painted Dulux Natural White). Le Brésil wallpaper from Papiers de Paris. 'Clarice' chandelier and sconces from Visual Comfort. Herringbone flooring in Victorian walnut, custom. Jonathan Charles coffee table from Cromwell. Munna Design 'Josephine' and 'Candy' chairs in House of Hackney 'Artemis' Azure and 'Zeus' Sapphire fabrics from James Said. Ralph Lauren 'Tremont' sofa and Louis wing chairs, all upholstered in House of Hackney fabrics. 'Urn Flute' side table from Kindel Furniture Company. Eichholtz 'Flocchi' gold side table, also from James Said. Ralph Lauren 'Westminster' chaise in GP & J Baker 'Ramayana' Indigo/Red fabric from Theodore Alexander.

gilt complex



Words CHRIS PEARSON Photography ANSON SMART

A meal to remember at a flamboyant restaurant informed

the remarkable renovation of this Tudor-Revival mansion.



This page The formal dining room also has gold detailing by Art Gilding, including the existing chandelier, 'Eden' wallpaper from Papiers de Paris. Walls and trims in Dulux Sharp Blue. 'Mark' dining table from Kindel Furniture Company. Hickory Chair 'Alexandra' dining chairs from Laura Kincaid. Louis XVI chair in Lorenzo Castillo fabric. Hickory Chair 'Martin' chair in fabric from Schumacher. Lacquered Chinese sideboard, antique. Aerin 'Lakmos' table lamp from Visual Comfort. Opposite page At the entry is Ralph Lauren 'Drummond' houndstooth wallpaper from IconRadford. Petersham floor tiles from Renditions Tiles. Custom stair runner from Designer Rugs. Lights from Visual Comfort. 'Altar' console table from Fremont Design. 'Fillmore' hand-carved stools from Theodore Alexander in Ralph Lauren 'Rimba' Ikat fabric. Antique English armchair, client's own.

Dining at Annabel's restaurant in London's exclusive Mayfair proved an epiphany for the owner of this mansion in the NSW Southern Highlands. The eatery's allure went way beyond the food. Its delicious decor, including fabulous flights of fancy celebrating colour and pattern, especially its de Gournay 'Early Views of India' wallpaper, was etched in her memory when she bought six-bedroom Invergowrie in 2019 for her growing family.

Dating from 1936, the home, which boasted Tudor-Revival architecture with its signature brickwork, lead-casement windows, timber framing and steeply pitched roof, would provide the fantastical framework for a new narrative. Enchanting grounds by legendary landscape gardener Paul Sorensen made it even more compelling. The owner chose interior designer Greg Natale and his eponymous studio to tell the tale.

"Working on a house such as this was a dream project," says Greg, "not just for its sheer scale but also because of the exciting brief." When he walked across the threshold, he found the decor undercooked for such a grand and imposing home, a landmark in the area. A 1980s renovation, with bright colours and V-groove ceilings, had compromised many of its original features while creating a 'rabbit warren' of spaces in the informal living rooms at the rear. Yet some trademark Tudor traits remained, such as the sinuous ceiling mouldings in the living and dining rooms, the quatrefoil motifs, the baronial panelling in the hallway, the timber fireplaces and, arguably the most defining of all, the four-centred arched doorways.

They would form the starting point for an inspired makeover. "After visiting Annabel's, the owner was smitten with its immersive, maximalist look, celebrating pattern on pattern," says Greg. "She wanted »



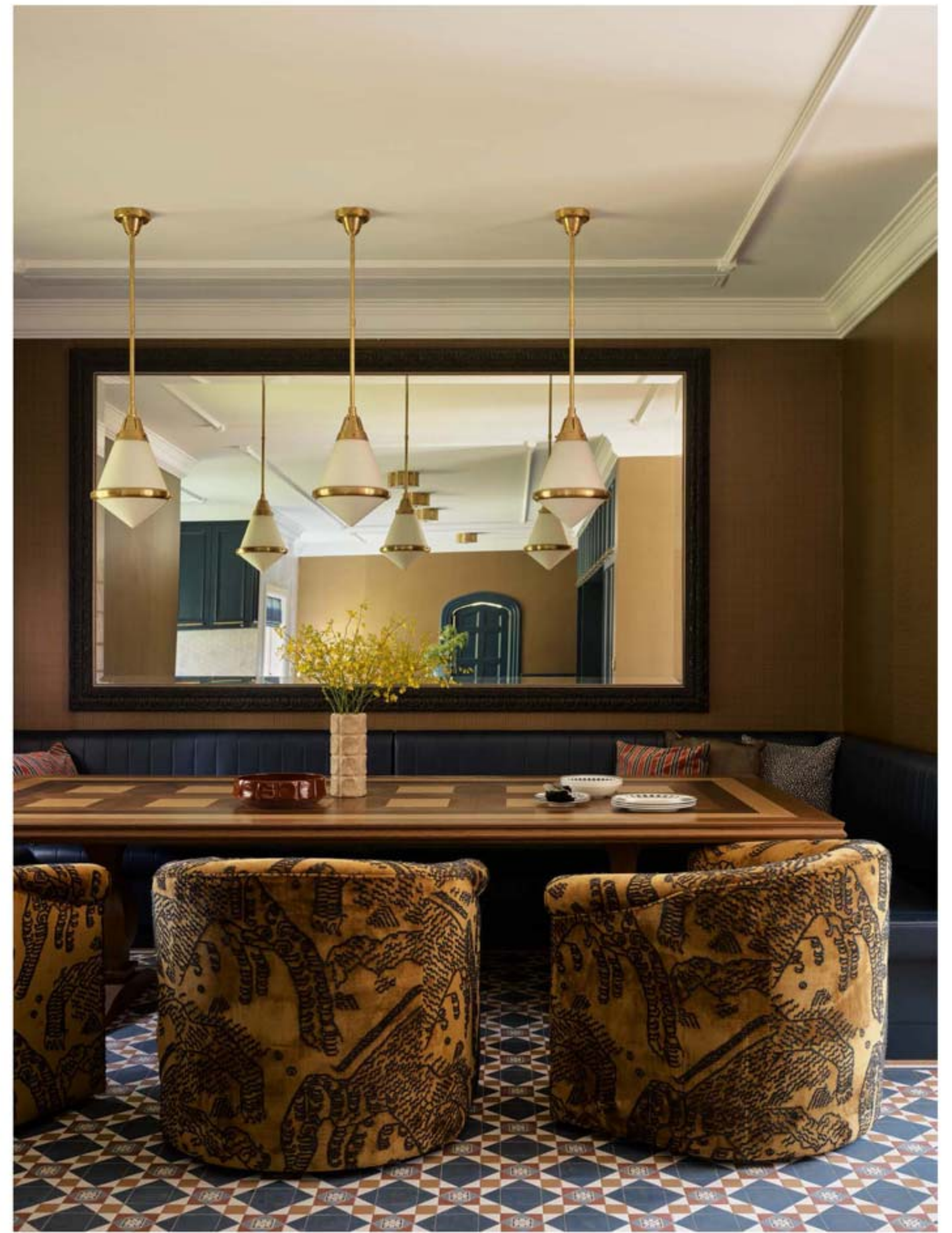
« murals that told a story, especially flamboyant florals.” Elvis Presley’s famed fabric-lined billiard room at Graceland, again pattern on pattern, palette on palette on its walls and ceiling, also got serious consideration at early meetings with the design team. “The owner embraced the challenge. She said, ‘Let’s go for it.’”

Keeping within the sizeable footprint and adhering to heritage constraints on the facade, changes to the layout were minimal. Upstairs are two breathtaking primary suites and another three double bedrooms – all with ensembles and walk-in wardrobes. In addition, the informal spaces downstairs at the rear, including the informal dining and commodious kitchen, were reworked to create a smoother flow, and the vast ballroom was restored to its former glory, next to a glamorous new indoor pool.

Boasting meticulous craftsmanship and attention to detail, the L-shaped ground-floor plan includes a foyer, reception room, sunroom and formal dining at the front, and, behind that, a formal lounge and informal living with a bar and breakfast nook, and a separate kitchen and pantry. Beyond, a hallway leads to the one downstairs bedroom suite, a fully equipped gym, the billiard room, library and stunning 25-metre internal pool.

Greg enhanced the home’s original features with deft touches. Strikingly, the superb plaster arabesques on the ceiling in the drawing and dining rooms were gilded in gold leaf after they were first painted crisp white; the ornate timber panelling in the hall was also whitened; new ceilings were etched in strapping and corning; and floors were replaced with oak parquetry »

This page The library’s walls and ceiling are Dulux Sharp Blue. Ralph Lauren ‘Radford’ chandelier from Visual Comfort. Curtains in ‘Intaglio’ from Zepel Fabrics. ‘Eleonora’ coffee table from Theodore Alexander. ‘Serpentine’ sofa from Coco Republic. Favaretto & Partners ‘Omega’ chair from Casala. ‘Clover’ side table from Cromwell. Inky Dhow round side table from Bethan Gray. Cushions in Jim Thompson fabric from Milgate. Opposite page (from top left) In the sunroom, the walls are Ralph Lauren ‘Mary Day Botanical’ wallpaper from Designers Guild. Chandelier from Visual Comfort. Table from Coco Republic. ‘Santorini’ chairs from Cafe Ideas. ‘Palazzo’ dinnerware from Greg Natale. // The drawing room // Victorian walnut lines the study. Lights from Visual Comfort. Desk from Antique Mahogany. Chairs from Xavier Furniture in Jim Thompson fabric.



This page The home's breakfast nook showcases more Ralph Lauren 'Drummond' wallpaper. Assorted Sutherland floor tiles in Extra Burges pattern from Renditions Tiles. 'Gale' pendants from Visual Comfort. 'Chantilly' dining table from Coco Republic. Banquette in leather from NSW Leather Co. Client's tub chairs reupholstered in Dedar Milano 'Tiger Mountain' Fauve fabric from South Pacific Fabrics. Vase, bowl and dinnerware from Greg Natale. **Opposite page** Decorative tiles add charm to the kitchen. Carrara hexagonal wall tiles from Surface Gallery. Floor tiles, as before. Benchtops in Carrara from RMS Marble. Joinery in Dulux Sharp Blue. 'Winslow' mixer in Brushed Brass from Brodware. Alexa Hampton 'Basil' lights from Bloomingdales.



This page 'Glade' wallpaper from Gucci was selected for the trophy room. Ceiling in Dulux Tranquil Green. Antler chandeliers from RH. Refurbished doors in Dulux Sharp Blue. Jonathan Charles coffee table from Cromwell. Classic chesterfield and club chair from Coco Republic. Client's swivel tub chairs in Dedar Milano 'Tiger Mountain' from South Pacific Fabrics. 'Harbourside' table from Xavier Furniture. 'Alcala' drinks table from Kindel Furniture Company. Cushions in Aldeco 'Interception' from Domestic Textiles. **Opposite page** (from top left) Dulux Blue Garter covers the pool room walls and ceiling. Flooring from Renditions Tiles. Lantern from Visual Comfort. Sika Design loungers and chair from Domo. Tiffany lamp and other items, client's own. // In the powder room is 'Flora' wallpaper from Gucci. Norwegian rose marble from TeraNova. // The bar is beautiful Victorian walnut. Mirror by Spectrum Art Glass. Stools from Cromwell.



« in a Versailles pattern and Italian vitrified tiles in the wet zones. Steel doors were replaced; intriguingly, the monumental double doors in the ballroom were salvaged from an old Sydney bank. Perhaps most alluring are the reams of wallpapers, in natural themes, elegant chinoiserie and geometrics, courtesy of Papiers de Paris, Gucci, Versace and Ralph Lauren. Highlighting them are dramatic light fixtures, again from household names such as Ralph Lauren, Kelly Wearstler and Kate Spade.

The palette is ruled by the owner's favourite colour – blue – in all its combinations and permutations, from eau de nil and aqua through to navy and indigo and everything in between. At its moodiest in the colour-drenched study, an inky-blue is reprised there on the walls and ceiling. Throughout the home, glamorous gold trims and ubiquitous brass offset the primary colour.

Also omnipresent is the quatrefoil motif typical of Tudor style. It's referenced in various iterations (in the dining-room chairs, the study desk and the lighting in the hallway and dining room, together with the dining-room ceiling). Similar motifs abound in the English tessellated tiling in the hallway, kitchen and sunroom.

While there are plenty of head-turners in this project, one room always takes the breath away, whether you're visiting afresh or walking into it every day, like the owners. "The drawing room is the 'wow' space and the real icing on the cake – because of its sheer scale and also that gilded ceiling, not to mention the beautiful mural," says Greg. "Everyone loves that room." gregnatale.com and [@gregnatale](https://www.instagram.com/gregnatale)



These pages 'Tian' wallpaper in Beige from Gucci set the palette for a primary bedroom, walk-in wardrobe and ensuite. Ceiling in Dulux Blue Garter. Ensuite walls in Dulux Different Pink. Custom Greg Natale carpet from Designer Rugs. Dorothy Draper 'Mayflower' bed from Kindel Furniture Company. Ralph Lauren 'Noble Estate' side table from Theodore Alexander. 'Pierrepont' lamps from Visual Comfort. 'Carlyle' chair from Laura Kincade. Benchtops in Norwegian rose marble from RMS Marble. Joinery in walnut veneer, specified by joiner. Norwegian rose tiles from TeraNova. Bowral floor tiles from Rendition Tiles. Louis Philippe mirrors from RH. 'Winslow' tap from Brodware. 'Allen' sconces and 'Perry' lights from Visual Comfort. 'Cheshire' bath from The English Tapware Company. 'Alcala' side table from Kindel Furniture Company. 'Avalon' bathroom set from Greg Natale. Framed picture, bought by the owner in Paris.



SPEED READ

» In 2019, when the owner bought this landmark Tudor-Revival-style home in the NSW Southern Highlands, earlier renovations had compromised some of its signature internal features. However, many remained, such as its arched openings, panelling and mouldings, and the ornate ceilings of the entertaining zones. » Taking her cues from London restaurant Annabel's, the owner asked interior designer Greg Natale to draw inspiration from its pattern-on-pattern, palette-on-palette designs with mural-style wallpapers, mostly with natural motifs. » Greg highlighted original features, including the drawing and dining-room ceilings, with gold leaf. This and brass accents create a warm contrast to the home's many blue hues.



**SIGNATURE STYLE
KEY PIECES**

1 'Hellenica' wallpaper in Caramel on Cream, \$475 per 10m roll, Greg Natale. 2 'Pila' bowl, \$480, Greg Natale. 3 19th-century George III-style giltwood mirror, \$4200, The Vault Sydney. 4 Hickory Chair 'Carriol' cocktail table, POA, Laura Kincade. 5 Alexa Hampton 'Basil 17' flush-mount light, POA, Bloomingdales.