

# ELLE DECORATION

OCTOBER 2023

How to design  
your way to a better  
night's sleep

The world-class  
artisans behind the  
boom in bespoke

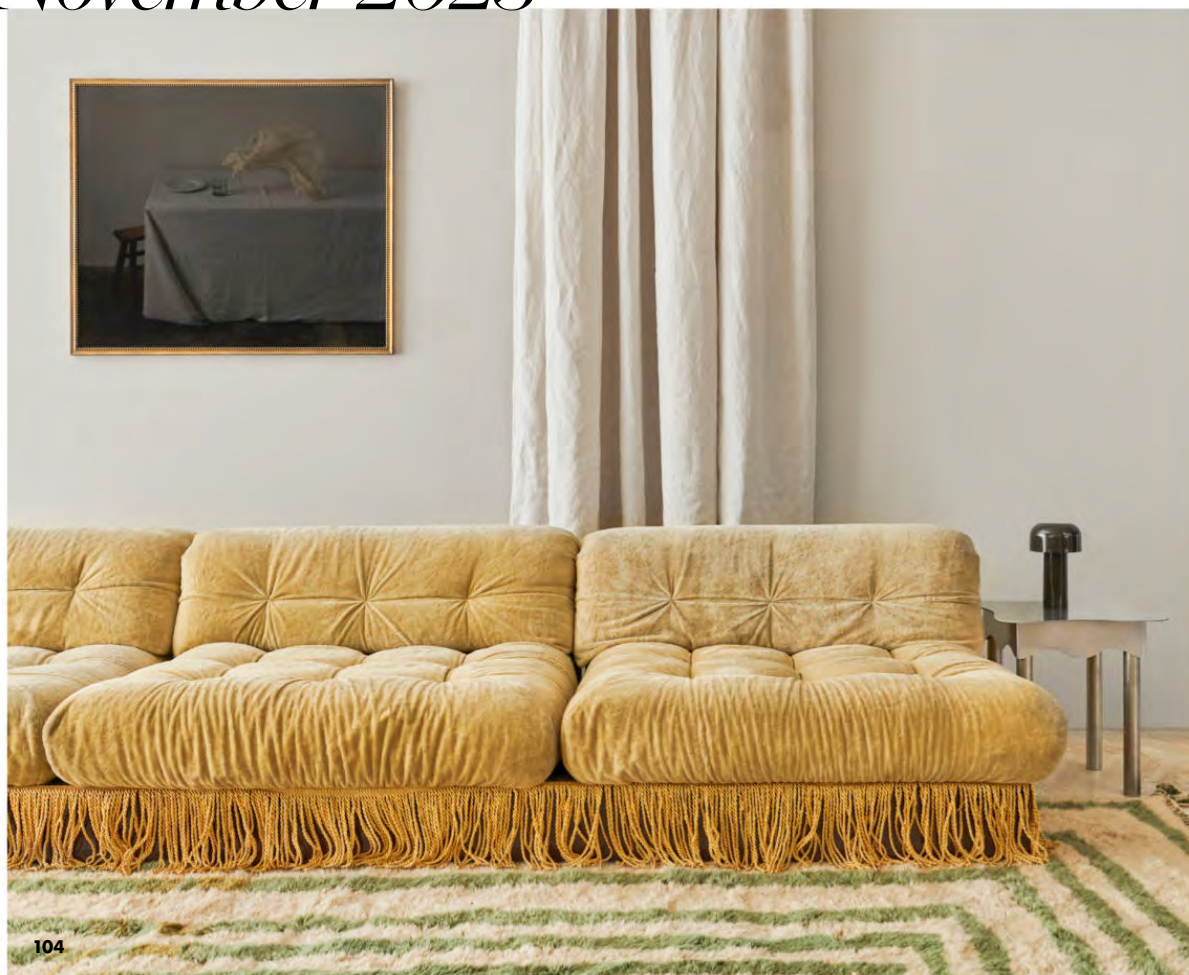
*Quiet  
luxury*

Elegant interiors that update

the idea of comfort for a new era

6.99





104

## Spaces

**96 The blue movement** Dive into the deep end with shades of azure, cobalt and cerulean

**104 Past future perfect** A contemporary update and legendary design pieces add edge to an arts and crafts property in Melbourne

**116 'In love with their home but having outgrown it, one family found a unique solution'** Bright colour and swathes of warm wood bring a retro twist to a Paris apartment

**126 Loch, stock and barrel** William Morris prints abound in a cosy, historic Highlands home

**138 Everyday theatrics** In a Reggio Emilia loft, an adventurous renovation brought freedom and limitless scope for bespoke designs

**148 Children of the revolution** The culture and radical spirit of the 70s was instrumental to rethinking a mid-century California house

**162 Raising the roof** How a daring architectural intervention turned this gloomy London warehouse into a true party pad

## Focus: Bedrooms

**172 Inspiration** Everything you need to make your room a real sanctuary

**177 News** Bold bedding, covetable sleepwear, artful throws and much more

**180 The edit** The best new designer beds

**182 Case study** Restful space, restful sleep: Cristina Celestino shares her secrets

**186 Opinion** The lowdown on sleep tourism, the tranquil new travel trend

**189 Expert advice** How to pick the right plants for your room (and keep them alive)

**191 Trend** Dramatic four-posters are back, but they're more modern than ever

## Finally

**16 Subscribe** Great offers for our most loyal readers

**196 Stockists** Where to buy your favourites

**202 Archive** Style lessons from November 1997

## On the cover

*This Melbourne home (104) by interior designer Amelida Wilde is a masterclass in subtle splendour. Photography by Cricket Saleh*



PICTURES: CRICKET SALEH



**Snug** Part of the original 1930s bones of the house, this cosy room is painted an enveloping dark green – a shade echoed by the tones of Michel Ducaroy's 'Togo Fireside' chairs for Ligne Roset, Gubi's rattan '9602' floor lamp by Paavo Tynell introduces another texture into the scheme. The rug is from Lahandira and the wooden stool is a vintage find, while the pendant light (barely visible as its colour matches the walls) is the 'Milana' by Jaume Ramirez for Marset. On the timber-clad top step leading down into the dining area sits a 'Taccia' lamp by Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni for Flos ►

# Past future perfect



*Adding a contemporary extension to this arts and crafts home near Melbourne became a chance to play with the concepts of old and new*

WORDS **PHOEBE FRANGOUL** PHOTOGRAPHY **CRICKET SALEH**

**F**or a designer, building their own family home can be the toughest, yet most liberating, project of all. With no client to please and an open brief (though perhaps not unlimited funds), they can be as creative and personal as they want. All that freedom can be daunting, but for Amelda Wilde, writing the next chapter in the story of her house was a deeply fulfilling experience. She and her partner, a steel fabricator, lived in their home in Geelong, an hour's drive from Melbourne, for 15 years before adapting it, reflecting on how their skills and values would inform the scheme. 'I believe in designing adaptable spaces that will endure for generations and be cherished,' Amelda explains. 'We started with the idea of structural authenticity and adaptability, developing an architectural narrative that would be flexible enough to change.'

The original 1930s structure now hosts the entrance hall, office, main bedroom and a cosy den, while the property's old kitchen and lean-to were replaced with a lofty, steel-framed extension holding a dining room, kitchen, living room, two bedrooms, a bathroom and powder room. Shorter internal walls within the new space define zones, but are designed to be easily relocated in the future if the needs of this home change. The transition from the old to the new part of the house is celebrated not only by a dramatic shift in colour scheme,

but also by an archway – its shape subtly references the brick fireplace in the snug. The top tread on the stairs that lead down into the extension is made of wood – the last point that this material (a large part of the home's arts and crafts charm) features before you enter the new construction. Amelda knows these details might not be noticeable to anyone else, but it is her contribution to the house's continuing story, one she hopes 'someone would preserve in the future'.

Amelda herself is determined to retain the 'hints of history' left by the people who lived here before – 'charred bricks from nights by the fire, scratches on floorboards'. For her, there is nothing more magical than patina, which can never be artificially recreated. Her





**'I believe  
in designing  
adaptable  
spaces that  
will endure for  
generations and  
be cherished'**

partner's skill with metalwork allowed them to save money by fabricating elements including the trusses, several items of furniture and the kitchen on-site. Each one a labour of love, these pieces (now available from the couple's newly created brand, Von Steel) embody the crafted spirit of the house in a contemporary way. They also created the skylight, intended to 'introduce the stillness of overhead light' to the extension. 'Seeing the seasons roll over or the moon above the dinner table makes it one of our favourite elements,' says Amelda.

She is most proud of the surprise that comes from the comfortable coexistence of old and new in her home. 'When people arrive, there are no signs of scale, size or architectural variation,' she explains. 'The floorplan is a classic bungalow, with an L-shaped corridor leading from the entrance. Not until you have turned the corner do you get the impact of the contrasting spaces.' And what an impact. [ameldawilde.com.au](http://ameldawilde.com.au)

**Dining room** This double-height space is spanned by white-painted steel trusses that emphasise its construction, the industrial detail contrasting the building's arts and crafts heritage. Astep's 'Model 2065' pendant light by Gino Sarfatti hangs over a 'Harajuku' dining table and stools designed and fabricated by Amelda and her partner under their Von Steel label. The picture on the wall behind the table is by photographer Cricket Saleh ▶





## Contemporary elements coexist in harmony with the original arts and crafts details of this home

**Kitchen** The couple designed most of the steel fixtures and fittings in this sleek, industrial space, right down to the door handles and shelving in the pantry (enclosed behind the black dividing wall). The ceiling light is the 'Benario' by Australian commercial light supplier Sphera, while a small 'Chiara' lamp by Mario Bellini for Flos sits on the counter. The tap is from Brodware, and the power points are by Zetr ▶





**Kitchen** The wall light inside this polished alcove is the 'Tolomeo' by Michele de Lucchi for Artemide. On the counter sits a small picture by Steve Salo, alongside a collection of vintage treasures that were all bought at auction

**Living room** The main living area makes for a striking juxtaposition to the stainless-steel kitchen thanks to its layers of textiles. A brick-coloured velvet HK Living sofa faces a vintage Roche Bobois design. The rich pile and natural tones of the Lahandira rug tie everything together ►





**Living room** Above the vintage Roche Bobois sofa, which rests on a Von Steel tasseel plinth, hangs a picture by Cricket Saleh, softly framed by chalky curtains from Society of Wanderers. A 'Bellhop' lamp by Barber Osgerby for Flos sits on a side table, another Von Steel design ►



**Homeowner Amelda is  
determined to retain  
the 'hints of history' left  
by people who lived  
here before her**





**Bathroom** All milky tones and clean lines, this elegantly restrained bathroom features more of the couple's designs in the form of the side table and vanity unit. Society of Wanderers supplied the drapes, the towels are from Baina and the taps are by Brodware

**Bedroom** Dressed in linens from Society of Wanderers, this bed is from a local Australian supplier. Amelda hemmed and hung the natural unbleached linen curtains which surround the whole room to mimic the cocooning feel of a traditional four-poster. Her firm Von Steel created the curtain rail and the bedside table, on which sits a 'Colette ATD6' lamp by &Tradition. Beside the bed is a vintage Roche Bobois chair on a bespoke plinth, topped with a cushion by Les Ottomans. Another fluffy rug from Lahandira adds a further layer of cosiness **See Stockists page for details** 