



# A GRAND AFFAIR

THIS BERRIMA HOME BLENDS UNIQUE MID-CENTURY AND OLD-WORLD FRENCH FURNITURE WITH CONTEMPORARY ARTWORKS FOR A HOMEY COUNTRY FEEL.

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Outdoor dining is always  
a pleasure in this  
Tuscan-style home.



This lounge room is Bianca's favourite area in her home and comprises an eclectic mix of larger-than-life pieces chosen to work with the Australian bush colour palette. "I love the mid-century sofas and chairs from Vampt Vintage Design and I know these Beni Ourain rugs have been used to death but this one from Jason Mowen was just amazing – and a beautiful rug is a beautiful rug," says Jason. From the custom linen curtains and vintage white floor lamp from Vampt Vintage Design to the Ken Neale vintage table lamp and Mark Tuckey Oxo coffee table, everything makes a statement. The sofa is a vintage Illum Wikkelsø with pyramid-shaped rosewood legs from Vampt Vintage Design, as are the Borge Morgenson vintage leather chairs. Artworks and accessories here include a Sun Spirit wall sculpture by Tracey Deep, a Marco Lorenzetto painting, gold-framed sketches from Jason Mowen, sculptures on the mantle from Geoffrey Hatty, and a Bitossi Bull from Graham & Graham Designs. The metal sculptures on the coffee table are from Vampt Vintage Design.

"Bianca wanted this area to be somewhere the adults could retreat to while the kids were playing out in the living room. She imagined hanging out with girlfriends from Sydney telling many a fun story while drinking wine and champagne," says Jason.



**Top right:** An artwork by Italian artist Marco Lorenzetto holds pride of place in the entry hall, along with antique urns from Orient House and a chair purchased at a Sotheby's auction. Jason says one thing that made this home project unique was that he and Bianca worked with Marco, who created artworks specifically for each room. Jason helped guide him by giving him colour palettes, scale and style.

**Above right:** The pieces selected for this central hallway, which links the entry hall and living room to the bedroom and bathroom, are all vintage items. Jason says the French sideboard from Elements I Love is centuries old and has weathered in the most beautiful way. The lamp from Graham & Graham and the traditional painting from an antique shop in Sydney's Parramatta Road contrasts beautifully with the more contemporary artworks throughout the home.



WHEN SHE FIRST SET EYES ON THIS BERRIMA HOUSE IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, HOMEOWNER BIANCA MONLEY SAYS IT TRANSPORTED HER STRAIGHT TO TUSCANY. "THE PERFECT QUADRANGLE OF BUILDINGS HAD BEEN DESIGNED BY THE PREVIOUS OWNER, A FAMOUS ARTIST, AND THE HOUSE WAS SURROUNDED BY 100 ACRES OF NATIVE BUSHLAND," SAYS BIANCA, WHO OWNS EAT FIT FOOD, A HEALTHY FOOD BUSINESS.

Bianca purchased the house in June 2014 with the dream of building organic vegetable gardens to supply the complete farm-to-plate experience for her clients. "I also wanted to make it the perfect luxury retreat for people to come and stay. It is located in historic Berrima, 90 minutes from Sydney, and there's a gorgeous quaint little village with fabulous food," she says.

The home sits in a bowl surrounded by bushland. It's light and bright with lovely high ceilings, terracotta-stained concrete floors and plenty of nooks and spots for sitting, relaxing and entertaining friends and family.

There is a master suite including a sitting room and an ensuite with doors opening onto a Tuscan terrace. The master lounge, dining and kitchen areas are all open plan and open to outdoor sitting areas. The property has five bedrooms and three



**Above:** The key pieces here include a Marco Lorenzetto painting, floor mirror from Les Interieurs and Moroccan cushions from Bazaar Rug Galleries while the key accessories are the Orient House baskets on the table and Bobutik Icelandic rug on the sofa.



There are so many brilliant pieces in this living area. The sofa was custom designed by Jason Sullivan, built by Stitches Upholstery Creations and covered in Belgian linen. Another Jason Sullivan design is the entertainment unit. The coffee table is an antique Indian daybed from Elements | Love, which is also where the vintage drum side tables were found. The vintage table lamp is from Neale and the vintage floor lamp was a find from Geoffrey Hatty in Melbourne.

This massive floor rug was custom created from five kilims that Jason purchased then cut up and had re-stitched into one individual patchwork rug. The cushions, which are made from cutoffs from vintage rugs, and the Icelandic sheepskin relate to the home's Australian bush colour palette.



Known as The Stables, this spacious detached guest house was originally a painter's studio but because of the barn doors Bianca says it felt more like horse stables. Inside is a wonderland of vintage and other assorted pieces. "I love understated rooms that are comfortable and not flashy. Weathered beautiful pieces like this vintage sofa set get me so excited. The more worn and the more character the better," says Jason.

The previous owner was an artist and instead of covering up his paint spills Bianca and Jason decided to showcase them. "We wanted to go for a relaxed feel, mixing the mid-century antiques with vintage French finds like the chest of drawers and old pieces like the chest coffee table. To pay homage to The Stables we introduced a brumby painting that sits above the master bed," says Jason.

The bedroom and of The Stables has been painted in Porter's Paints half-strength Greythorn and houses vintage French bedsides from Country Trader, an MCM House linen bedhead, linen duvet cover from Seneca Textiles, and assorted cushions from Nazar, Gallery Paddington and Mr Brassman in Mosman.

The lounge area here features an Arne Norelle leather sofa and linen armchair, both from Vampt Vintage Design, and on the left an armchair and footstool purchased at Sotheby's Auction House. Armchair accessories are a Nazar Gallery cushion and an Icelandic sheepskin from Bobbutik. The vintage basket pendant lights are from Country Trader and a vintage floor lamp from Vampt.

A kilim from Mr Brassman and a sisal rug purchased from a store in Willoughby grace the floor. Artworks include a brumby photograph by Nick Leary, paintings by Marco Lorenzetto and a macramé wall hanging from Rabbit Trap. The coffee table is a vintage trunk that's been in the family for years while the chest of drawers is an antique find from Blake Watson in Redfern.



Currently used for kids and single guests, Bianca says this attic bedroom will be a child's room when hers grow older. Jason says, "I love this room because it is a little whimsical and my favourite piece, of course, is the bed! How could you not love this bed if you were a kid!" This second guest bedroom has been updated with wall-to-wall Tuscan Intrigue sisal flooring from John Winters Carpets in Mittagong and painted in Porter's Paint in full-strength Greythorn. With a cute bed and bed linen from Koskela, bed accessories from Nazar Rug Gallery, Edizioni Zeus by Zinotta bedside tables from Space, a Mr Brassman bedside lamp, a cowhide rug from the Sydney Hide Company, a Nino Zinc pendant light from Zaffero and artworks by Marco Lorenzetto, this room is a simple yet relaxing space.

#### [ BEHIND THE SCENES ]

##### [ Favourite rooms ]

- 'Love' is the word Bianca uses to describe her feelings for the grand master bedroom. It includes her favourite Marco Lorenzetto painting, a stunning white mid-century Satus armchair and stool by Kukkapuro from Vampt Vintage Design and a reclaimed custom four-poster bed from Rabbit Trap.
- With its open-plan layout, high ceilings and homey feel, the living area is one of the family's favourite spaces.

Surrounded by beautiful gardens and native bushland, this sunny covered sitting area was furnished with an upcycled coffee table and vintage sofas and armchairs.



Bianca loved the idea, especially as the very rare vintage pieces that Jason found from all over the country make the house unique and would be impossible to replicate.

#### THE FINAL RESULT

The project took six months to complete, with Jason travelling back and forth from Los Angeles to Berrima to work on it. However, he says this was one of his favourite projects because he stayed on the property a couple of days a week, which gave him a real sense of what it would be like to live in the house. "I also had many a fun evening drinking rosé with Bianca and coming up with inspiration for the home, and eating lots of her amazing food," he adds.

Today Bianca says she enjoys everything about her home. "I love to sit in each room and take it all in. I love the numerous sitting areas you never get bored of, the exquisite artworks, the mixture of old and new, the incredibly unique pieces and the attention to detail, which makes the house feel like a comfortable home perfect for entertaining."

Asked what her favourite pieces are, she doesn't hesitate. "I love horses so I have to include Nick Leary's beautiful black-and-white photographs. Also the four-poster rustic bed in the main bedroom because you feel like royalty when you sleep in it and, of course, the artworks painted specifically for the property by Italian artist Marco Lorenzetto."

There are, however, a few items she would still like to add to the home: an outdoor kitchen, further landscaping around the pool and a walk-in wine cellar.

#### [ ABOUT GUNU BERRIMA ]

Gunuberrima is a boutique retreat in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. Just a short drive from the historic village of Berrima, the 40.5ha native bushland property and Tuscan homestead is a haven to a host of Australian wildlife, and includes a natural food farm producing a wide variety of fruit and vegetables for Sydney health-food home-delivery company Eat Fit Food. The contemporary-meets-classic interior of the house was custom designed by celebrated decorator Jason Sullivan, with commissioned art from the new face of Italian abstract art, Marco Lorenzetto. Adorned with all the comforts of a holiday house paradise, guests of the three-suite retreat can enjoy the great Australian outdoors as well as tennis and swimming – all from the privacy and comfort of the farm.

Visit [gunuberrima.com.au](http://gunuberrima.com.au) to book. To order home-delivered meals in Sydney and Melbourne with produce direct from Eat Fit Farm, visit [eatfitfood.com.au](http://eatfitfood.com.au) or call 1300 302 930.



There are so many outdoor entertaining zones in Bianca's home. This area features an outdoor fireplace for hanging out by the pool.

