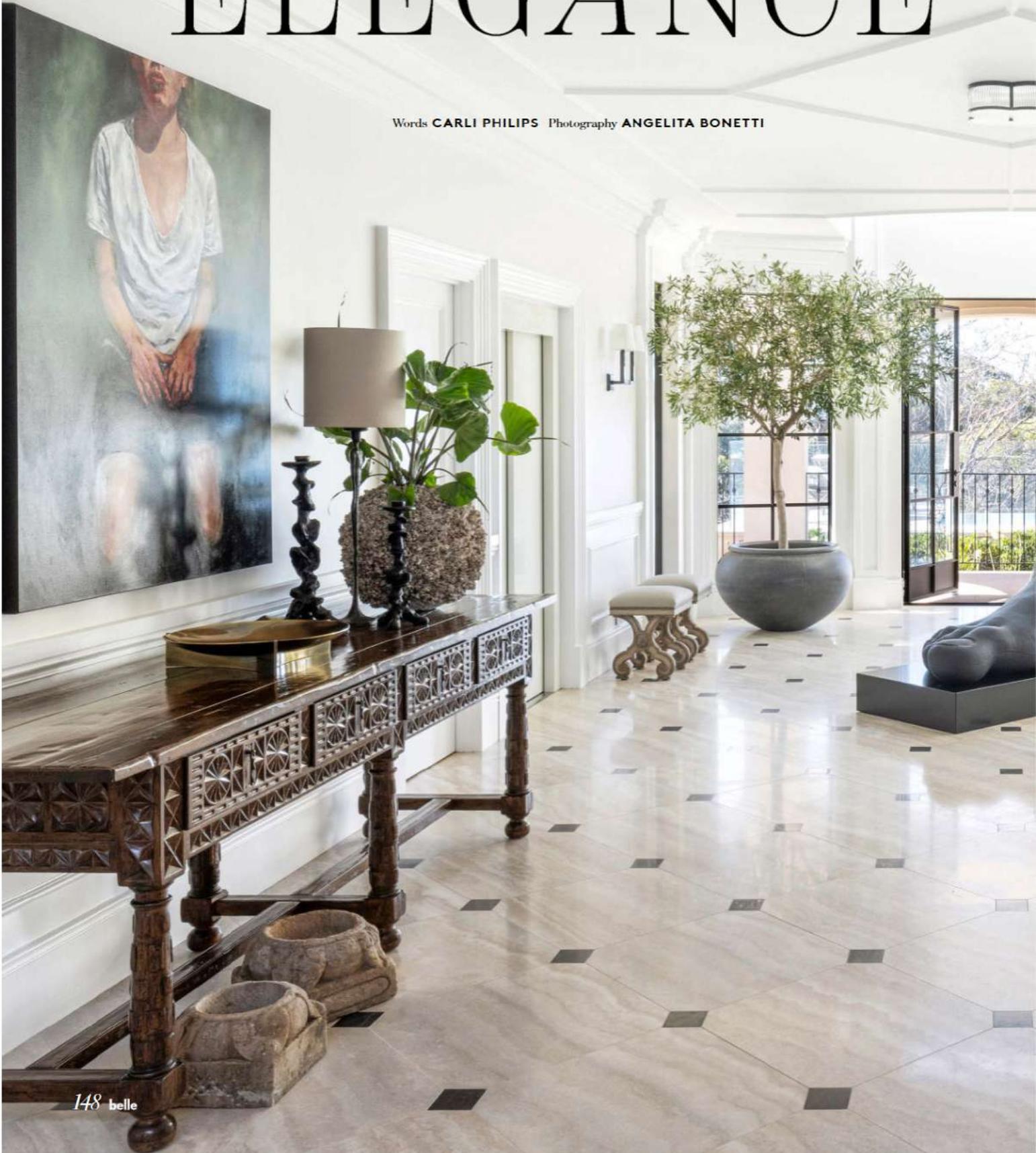


# EMBRACING ELEGANCE

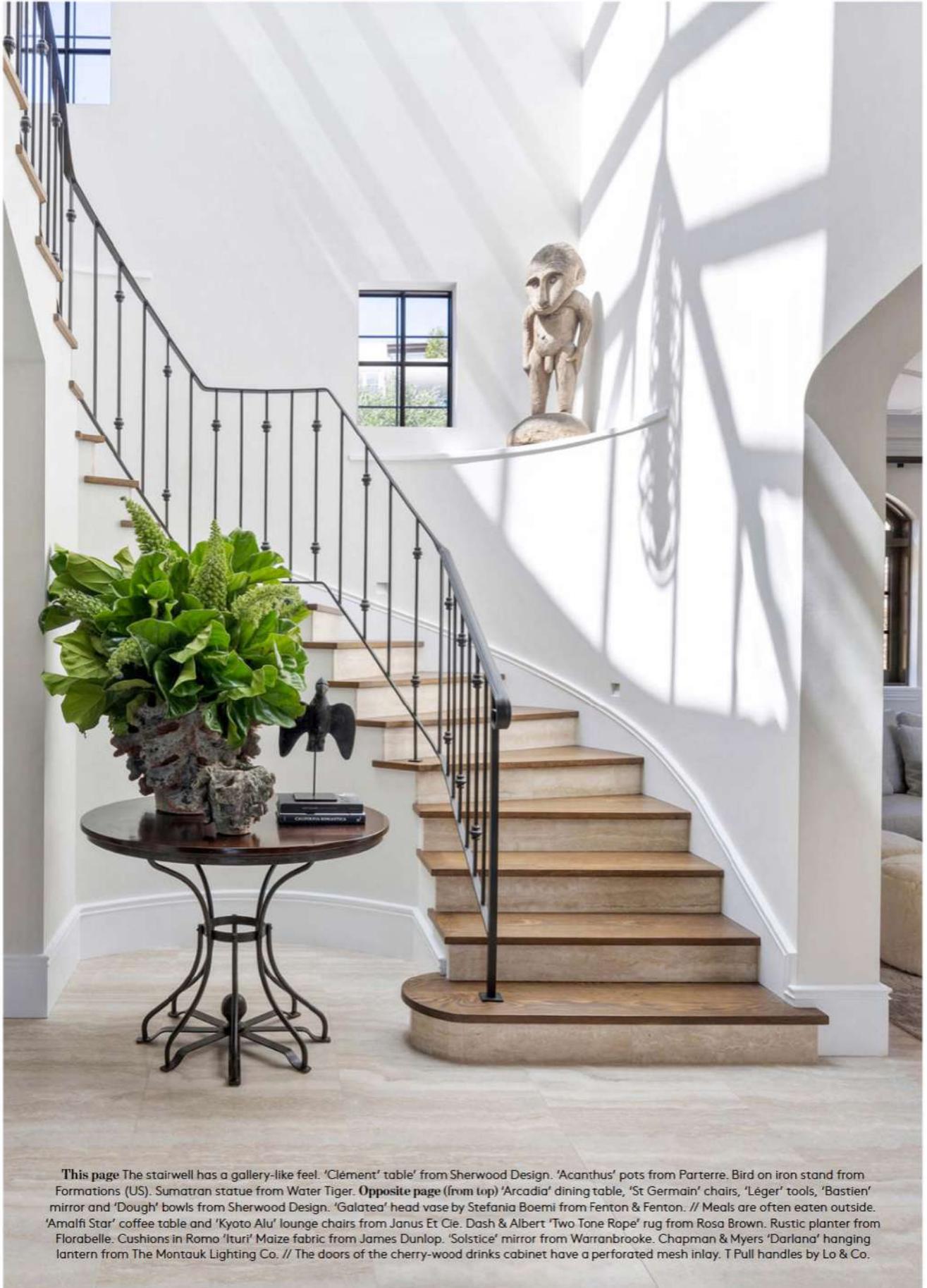
Words **CARLI PHILIPS** Photography **ANGELITA BONETTI**



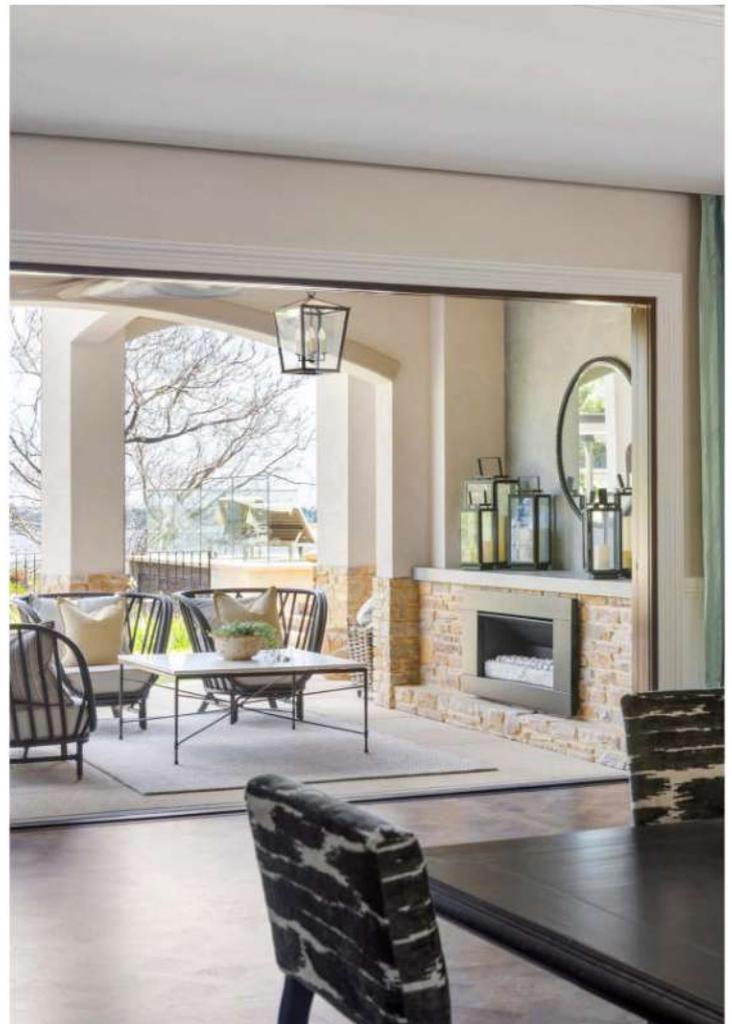
Spanish-Hacienda style meets European  
sophistication in this grand house  
by the Swan River in Western Australia.



**These pages** The entry is referred to as The Great Hall for its vast proportions and old-world style. Roman Classic vein-cut travertine with a Nero Marquina stone inset. Walls in Scribbly Gum by Solver. B&B Italia 'Up Series 2000 UP7 Foot' sculpture from Space. 'Drift' planters from Horgans. 'Sarbonne' bench from Dennis & Leen (US). 'Spanish Console' from Formations (US). Pots underneath from Water Tiger. On the console are a 'Kulm' brass bowl and 'Klemm' candlesticks from James Said, a Porta Romana 'Man 1' lamp from South Pacific Fabrics, and a 'Barnacle' vase from Sherwood Design. 'Horsehoof' chairs and 'Castillo' mirror from Sherwood Design. Artwork by Tori Benz from Stala Contemporary.



**This page** The stairwell has a gallery-like feel. 'Clément' table' from Sherwood Design. 'Acanthus' pots from Parterre. Bird on iron stand from Formations (US). Sumatran statue from Water Tiger. **Opposite page (from top)** 'Arcadia' dining table, 'St Germain' chairs, 'Léger' tools, 'Bastien' mirror and 'Dough' bowls from Sherwood Design. 'Galatea' head vase by Stefania Boemi from Fenton & Fenton. // Meals are often eaten outside. 'Amalfi Star' coffee table and 'Kyoto Alu' lounge chairs from Janus Et Cie. Dash & Albert 'Two Tone Rope' rug from Rosa Brown. Rustic planter from Florabelle. Cushions in Romo 'Ituri' Maize fabric from James Dunlop. 'Solstice' mirror from Warranbrooke. Chapman & Myers 'Darlana' hanging lantern from The Montauk Lighting Co. // The doors of the cherry-wood drinks cabinet have a perforated mesh inlay. T Pull handles by Lo & Co.



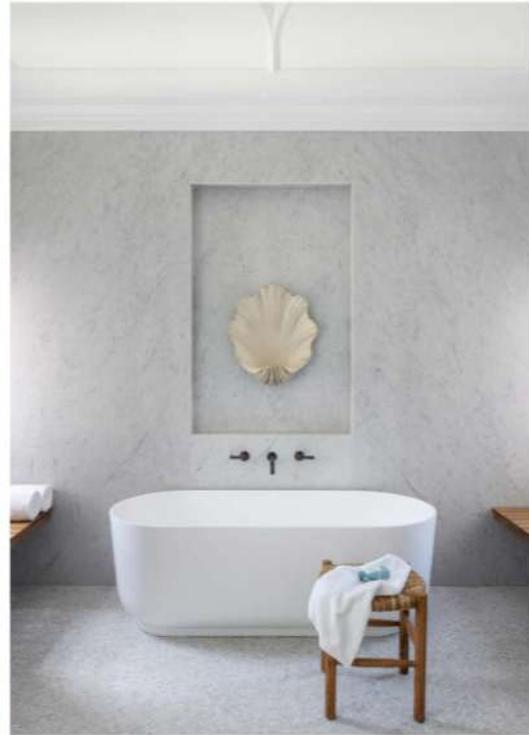
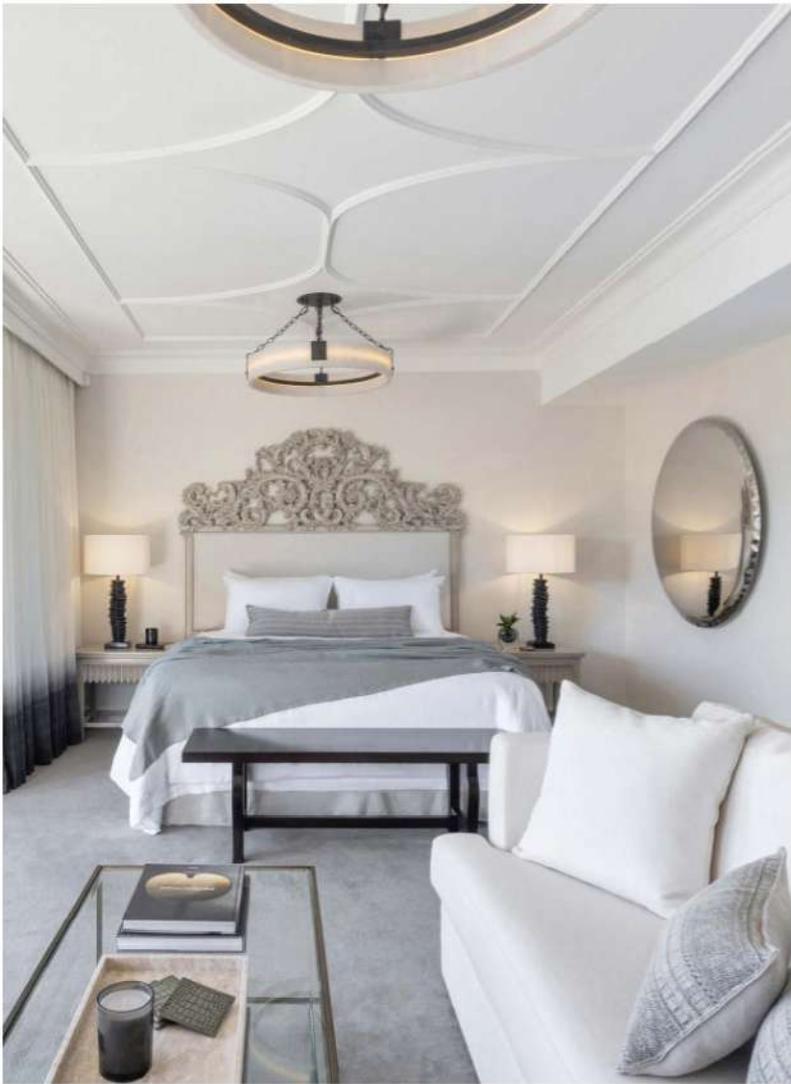
Gabrielle Sherwood describes the beautiful home she designed for a client in Western Australia as a “modern ode to Spanish Colonial design”. Located in the suburb of Mosman Park and perched on the Swan River – named after the famous black swans that originally inhabited the area – the house is ringed by 180-degree water views. “It’s one of the best locations in Perth,” raves the interior designer and director of Sherwood Design.

As their services were engaged before construction began, Gabrielle and her team had the opportunity to specify everything from the minutiae to the maximal, from the joinery knobs to the floor tiles. The direction was clear and involved “seamlessly intertwining historical grandeur with contemporary sophistication”. Achieving this tension between modern and traditional was key to the brief, and at the aesthetic core of Gabrielle’s design sensibilities.

With a degree in art history and parents who are creatives, the designer has a deep respect for well-made furniture. “My mother is an interior designer and my father is a furniture designer and sculptor,” she explains. “Design and art were our dinner conversations; it’s what we grew up talking about and it shaped my appreciation for thoughtful, considered design and my approach to craftsmanship.”

Tricky spaces and unusual dimensions made it difficult to furnish the interiors with only antiques, so Gabrielle incorporated a combination of beautiful, ready-made furniture and bespoke pieces from her sister company, Sherwood Furniture. “However, I still wanted them to look aged and have the same warmth as antique pieces; they look like they’ve been handed down through the generations.” To achieve an authentic aged appearance that’s imperceptible from a vintage look, her team used a variety of »





« techniques: chain distressing, where chains are rattled over the timber surface to create controlled dents and imperfections, mimicking the natural wear of time; finishing methods such as hand-painting, distressing, shading and patinating; and water-based stains to enhance the depth and richness of the colours to bring out the natural character and beauty of the timber. Other pieces were sourced from Ochre in London and Dennis & Leen in Los Angeles.

The home's entrance is affectionately referred to as The Great Hall for its grandeur and sweeping proportions. But although the property was purchased for its extraordinary panorama, Gabrielle designed the entry to be more inwards-facing, an effect she created by positioning B&B Italia's massive 'UP7 Foot' sculpture by Gaetano Pesce in the centre of the space. "It really draws the eye in and creates an easy flow that focuses on the interior experience, rather than the exterior vistas," she says. With its European elegance, Gabrielle says the idea was to "create a sense of escapism that transports the client and their guests on a journey into another world of beauty and wonder". Decorated with a hand-carved and gilded Rococo-style mirror, there are also olive trees, two bespoke 'Horsehoof' chairs by Sherwood Furniture and a Spanish console from Formations in Los Angeles that has been crafted from walnut wood with intricate geometric carvings »

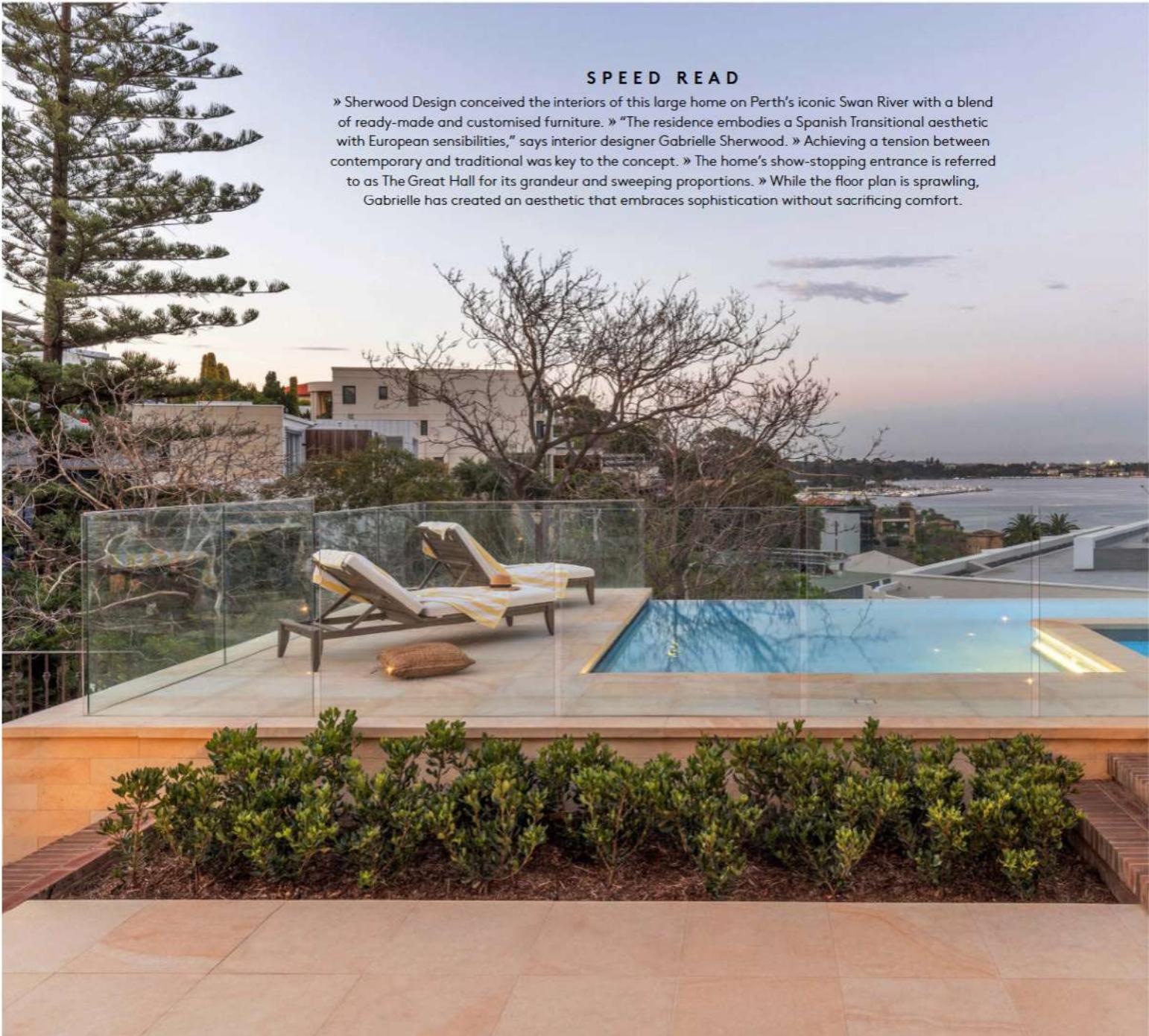


**This page** The joinery in the main bathroom is American alder topped with Bianco Carrara Ombra marble from Bernini. 'Lennox' mirror from Uttermost. Visual Comfort 'Geneva' sconces from The Montauk Lighting Co. Carrara fan mosaic floor tiles in shower from M2 Tiles. Wall tiles from Earp Bros. 'Morris' pendant light from The Montauk Lighting Co. **Opposite page** (clockwise from top) In the main bedroom is a 'Sienna' headboard, 'Hacienda' bench and side tables from Sherwood Design. 'Miro' lamps from James Said. 'Solid Donut' mirror from The Cool Hunter. On the coffee table are the 'Chaya' tray from Coco Republic, a Diptyque candle and L'Objet 'Crocodile' coasters from Becker Minty. // Inspired by 1950s Hollywood glamour and ancient Greek bathhouses, the ensuite is a harmonious blend of opulence and serenity. Porta Romana 'Scallop Shell' wall light from South Pacific Fabrics. The floor tiles are Carrara marble mosaics from M2 Tiles. Studio Bagno 'Lust' bath from Lavare Bathrooms. // A view from the main bedroom. L'Objet 'Leaf' bowl from Becker Minty.



**SPEED READ**

» Sherwood Design conceived the interiors of this large home on Perth's iconic Swan River with a blend of ready-made and customised furniture. » "The residence embodies a Spanish Transitional aesthetic with European sensibilities," says interior designer Gabrielle Sherwood. » Achieving a tension between contemporary and traditional was key to the concept. » The home's show-stopping entrance is referred to as The Great Hall for its grandeur and sweeping proportions. » While the floor plan is sprawling, Gabrielle has created an aesthetic that embraces sophistication without sacrificing comfort.



1 The Water Monopoly 'Hanley' bath in White, \$16,240, The English Tapware Company. 2 Visual Comfort 'Covet' over-the-mirror bath light in Bronze and Alabaster by Kelly Wearstler, POA, Bloomingdales Lighting. 3 1970s Italian brass mirror with beaded edge, \$1950, The Vault Sydney. 4 Murano vase in Black with applied iridescent swirl, \$1950, The Vault Sydney. 5 Visual Comfort 'Hargett' buffet lamp in Bronze with natural paper shade, \$1250, Laura Kincaide.



« and floral motifs. Off The Great Hall is a cloakroom, followed by a powder room lined in De Gournay wallpaper.

Opposite, the foyer opens into the formal dining room, which flows onto an alfresco balcony that's used year-round, thanks to Perth's mild climate. The kitchen, living and utility spaces are located in the east wing of the home. Gabrielle's influences were a combination of traditional Spanish-Hacienda style, Renaissance architecture and the work of renowned contemporary designers such as Jake Arnold, Kelly Wearstler and the late Australian interior designer, Garth Barnett.

A skylight spills sunshine through the stairwell where three Sumatran statues from Water Tiger stand sentry on the steps. The 50-square-metre first floor west wing was designed specifically for guests, featuring five bedrooms, a tea station and a centrally located shared lounge with a large bookcase and small bar. Stretching along the other side of the first floor, to the right of the staircase, is the main bedroom, gym, treatment room, ensuite and walk-in-wardrobe. "This house is what I refer to as 'livable luxe,'" says Gabrielle. "It embraces elegance without sacrificing comfort." ❏ [sberwooddesign.com.au](http://sberwooddesign.com.au); [sberwoodfurniture.com.au](http://sberwoodfurniture.com.au)

These pages The home's architecture was inspired by Spanish Colonial design. From the pool, there are flawless views across the Swan River. 'Relais' chaise lounges from Janus Et Cie. Water hyacinth cushion from Uniqwa.

