

RESCUE *mission*



This stately hill station home has transformed from tragedy to triumph for a family that has owned the property for 100 years.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Tess Newman Morris* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Lisa Cohen*

HOUSES **H&G**

ENTRY *This page and opposite* Custom console, Coote & Co. Double gourd lamps, Bragg & Co. Ceramic stool, Orient House. Sisal rug, International Floor Coverings. Astor glass pendant lights in Brass, Emac & Lawton. Antique furniture and vintage objects, homeowner's collection. Walls painted Resene Quarter Fossil.



When an historic Edwardian hill station home in the Macedon Ranges burnt down in 2018, the fire took more than 100 years of memories, heirlooms, furniture and artworks. For the nonagenarian owner, who had moved there from Melbourne as a three-year-old with her family to escape the Spanish flu, it was heartbreaking. But the story has a happy ending as the home was rebuilt on the same footprint and the owner was able to enjoy a final Christmas there with her extended family, aged 99.

The two-storey six-bedroom home with multiple bathrooms and living spaces and set in magnificent gardens reimagined by Paul Bangay now acts as a weekender and holiday retreat for the four offspring

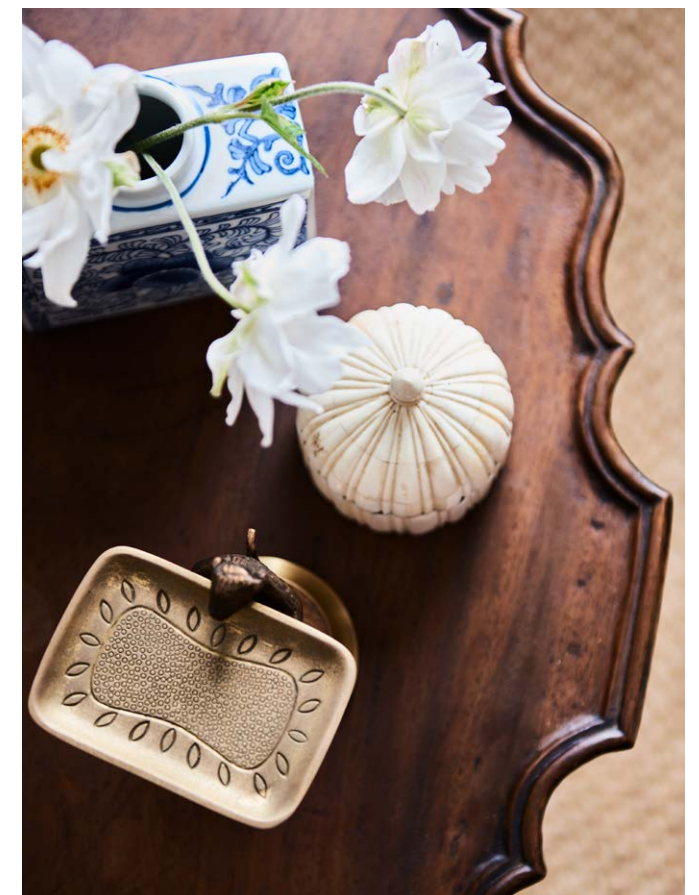
and their families that include 13 great-grandchildren. Rebuilt to a design by architect Stephen Akehurst, the house is faithful to the original – though now with larger bathrooms, a contemporary kitchen and living area and underfloor heating.

“The vision I had was to keep the design of the new house within the same footprint and similar volume, recreate the sitting and dining rooms in the original scale and location, and have the remainder of the house feel like it has been renovated to accommodate modern multi-generational living,” says Stephen.

With the front door knocker – the only item salvaged from the fire – reinstated in its rightful position, Melbourne interior designer Charlotte Coote was tasked with providing the interior decoration. She has delivered a scheme that is redolent of the past while also offering contemporary ▶



HALLWAY *Opposite Snow, Mount Macedon (1970)* artwork by J. Garland. Antique side table and chairs, owner's collection, reupholstered in Paolo Moschino 'Bamboo Trellis', Tigger Hall Design. Lamp, Emac & Lawton. Sisal rug, International Floor Coverings. **SITTING ROOM** *This page* Owner's armchairs upholstered in Colefax and Fowler 'Eaton Check', Domus Textiles. Custom ottoman, Coote & Co. Ceramic tortoiseshell stool, Bragg & Co. Fermoie lampshade, Tigger Hall Design. Morris lantern, Visual Comfort. Artwork above fireplace, *View Over the River* (1962) by Leonard Long. *Bottom left* Library light, Coote & Co. Decorative objects, Cromwell. *Bottom right* Antique table, owner's own.



“It was important to have that sense of patina and history, to layer the family’s story.” CHARLOTTE COOTE

LIVING *This page and opposite* Custom sofa and armchairs, Coote & Co, upholstered in Nina Campbell fabrics from Domus Textiles. Custom wool rug, Coote & Co. Ceramic stool, Orient House. Antique tables and lamps, owner’s collection. The artwork above the fireplace is a reproduction of a painting by C. Asquith Baker, which was lost in the fire.





KITCHEN *This page and opposite*
Custom joinery in Resene Smoky Green. Sink and tapware, The English Tapware Company. Oven, Lacanche. Custom pendant lights made in Europe, Coote & Co. Bentwood bar stools, owner's collection. Vase on bench, Cromwell. Vase next to oven, Astier de Villatte.

style. Fortunately, Charlotte was able to repurpose and reinvent some pieces from the owner's Melbourne home as well as some significant artworks.

"There were wonderful things," says Charlotte, mentioning the teal blue chintz curtain with a peacock design and whimsical garden motifs that was fashioned into scatter cushions and informed the scheme for one of the bedrooms. "The design for all the other bedrooms flowed from this."

Similarly, side tables, chairs, lamps and even tired upholstery were given a new lease on life. A brace of eight timber wall sconces were painted white and topped with gathered Fermoie shades to grace the length of the hallway. "They were not valuable but were interesting and told the family's story," says Charlotte. "The design

was very collaborative with the owners [and] it was important for the interiors to be reflective of them and to feel authentic. I wanted the pieces to have the feeling of the great-grandmother's soul or life and that depth of history."

The style of furniture also upheld the classic country aesthetic, with quirky antiques set alongside new bespoke items handmade by Coote & Co's suppliers and artisans. "We mixed old with new to create a sophisticated yet comfortable and relaxed interior. At all times we aimed to retain character and a nod to the property's history," says Charlotte.

Colour provided a valuable link with the past too with a specific personality created for each room based on a single shade. The dining room is cocooned in a deep red, while the kitchen cabinetry echoes the ▶



THE PALETTE

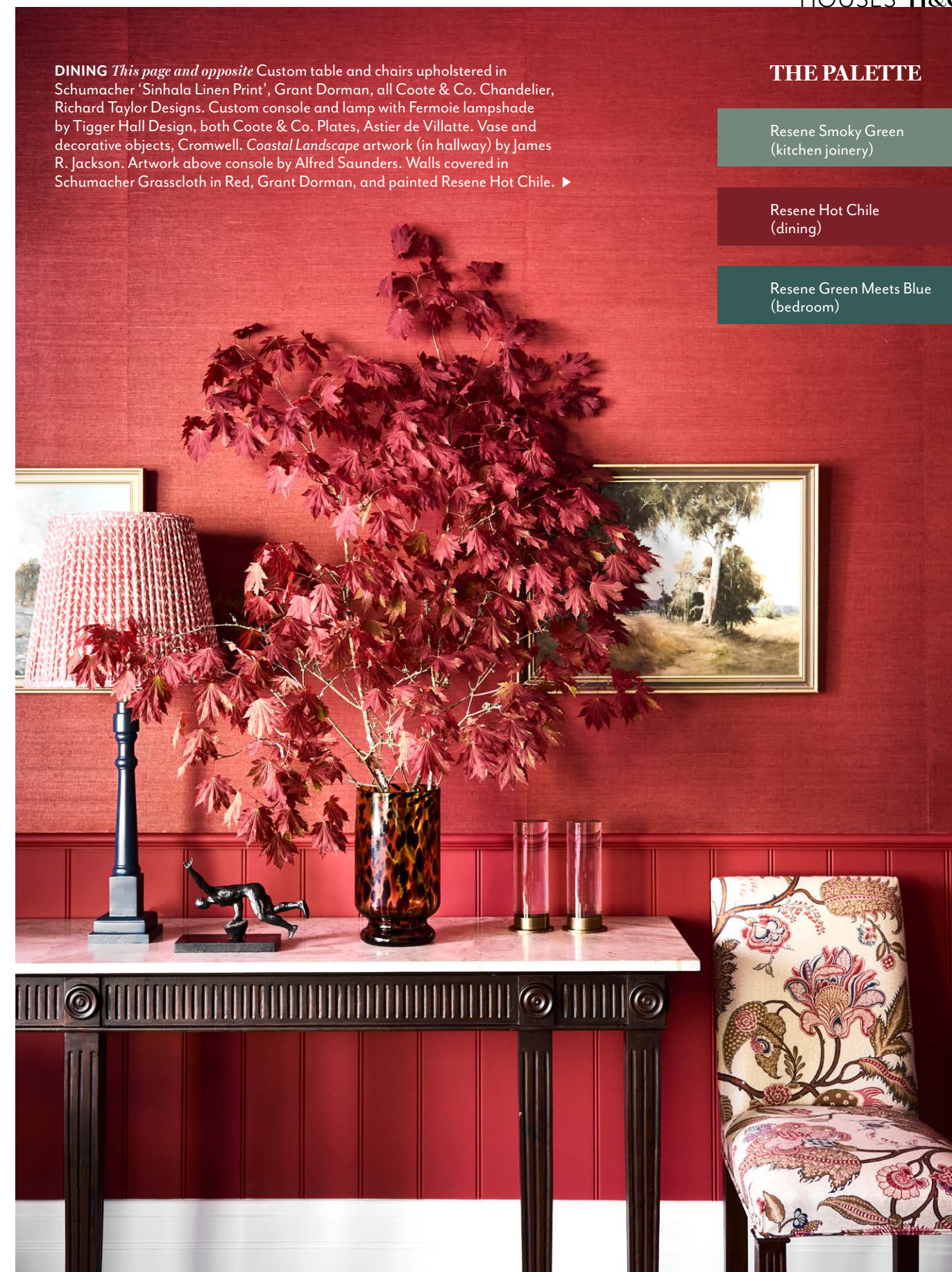
Resene Smoky Green
(kitchen joinery)

Resene Hot Chile
(dining)

Resene Green Meets Blue
(bedroom)

DINING *This page and opposite* Custom table and chairs upholstered in Schumacher 'Sinhala Linen Print', Grant Dorman, all Coote & Co. Chandelier, Richard Taylor Designs. Custom console and lamp with Fermoie lampshade by Tigger Hall Design, both Coote & Co. Plates, Astier de Villatte. Vase and decorative objects, Cromwell. *Coastal Landscape* artwork (in hallway) by James R. Jackson. Artwork above console by Alfred Saunders. Walls covered in Schumacher Grasscloth in Red, Grant Dorman, and painted Resene Hot Chile. ▶

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.





THIS IS THE LIFE

The property is a place of significant memories and attachment for the extended family that spans three generations and they love to gather there for weekends and holidays as well as Easter and Christmas. Everyone has a favourite spot – from the oversized day bed in the living room with a view of the garden to the red dining room – “an incredible and cosy room for entertaining”.

GUEST BEDROOM *This page and opposite* Custom bedhead, Coote & Co, upholstered in Schumacher ‘Campagne’ in Rose and Ochre, Grant Dorman. Cushion in GP & J Baker ‘Thornham’, Elliott Clarke. Curtains in Irish linen, Coote and Co. Lamp with custom shade, Vaughan Lighting, Coote & Co. Decorative objects, Cromwell. Walls painted Resene Doeskin.



verdant surrounds in a warm green. The use of deep, rich colours in the bedrooms enhances the beauty of the fabrics, while neutrals were selected for the hallways, kitchen and living areas to allow breathing space between the bursts of colour.

Charlotte’s favourite space is the dramatic 10.6m long panelled entrance hallway that greets guests to the home. She deliberately kept the furnishings simple to allow the architecture to remain the hero, with a custom hand-carved wooden console with marble top and a contemporary sisal rug joining a judicious mix of antique occasional chairs and tables from the Melbourne home.

The interior design is an Australian take on the English country aesthetic, “which considers both the physical location of the house as well as the history of the community that was settled by the English

in the 1800s,” she says. “We understood the importance of rebuilding the significant property, for the family and future generations but also for the local history and the community.”

The new home maximises the views of the garden designed originally by Edna Walling and takes in the array of magnificent trees including maples, oaks, lindens, beech, weeping elms and ash. “The outlook from every angle is beautiful and we have so much more light now thanks to the bigger windows,” the owners say. ▶

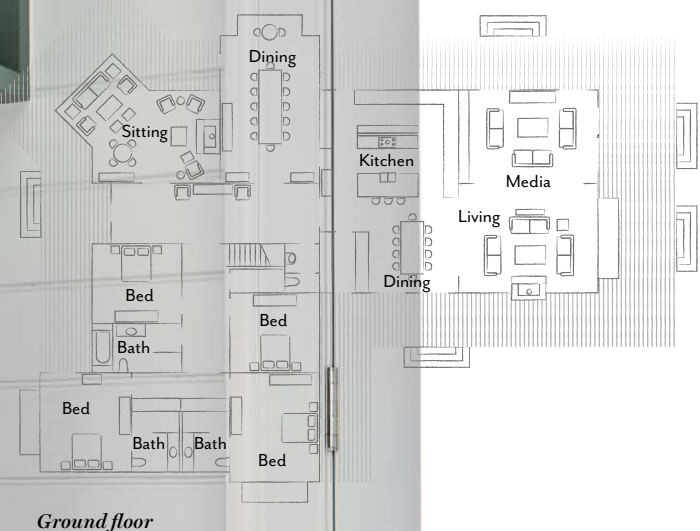
Charlotte Coote, Prahran, Victoria; cooteandco.com.au. Stephen Akehurst & Associates, Richmond, Victoria; stephenakehurst.com. Paul Bangay Garden Design, Cremorne, Victoria; paulbangay.com. Mt Gisborne Homes, Macedon Ranges, Victoria; mtgisbornehomes.com.au.



GUEST BEDROOM *This page top left* Custom bedhead in Colefax and Fowler 'Perdita', Domus Textiles; Emac & Lawton lamp with shade in Soane Britain fabric and bedside chest, all Coote & Co. Cushion in George Check in Robins Egg, George Spencer Designs. Walls painted Resene Casal. Artworks by unknown artist. **POWDER ROOM** *Top right and bottom left* GP & J Baker 'Magnolia' wallpaper, Elliott Clarke. Antique prints, owners' own. Sink, mirror and tapware, The English Tapware Company. **MAIN BEDROOM** *Bottom right and opposite* Antique chair, owners' own. Curtains in Irish linen, Coote & Co. Daybed upholstered in Lulsley Midnight, Cloth & Clover. Custom bedhead in Soane Britain 'Scrolling Fern Frond' in Azure, Coote & Co. Cushions in Soane Britain 'Old Flax'. Sofa upholstered in a Kravet check, Elliott Clarke. Emac & Lawton lamp with custom shade in a Jane Churchill ticking, Domus Textiles. Custom roman blinds in Irish linen, Coote & Co. Walls painted Resene Green Meets Blue. ►



THE LAYOUT



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THE SOURCE

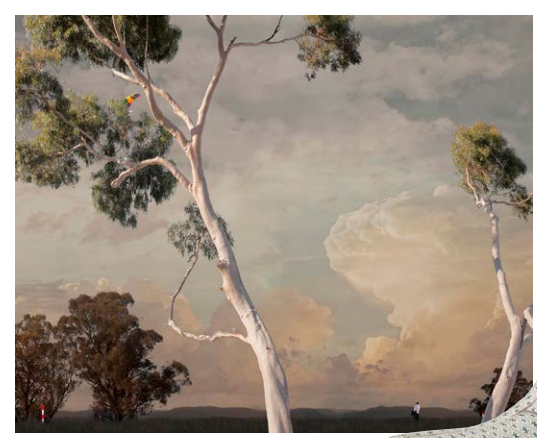
Mix luminous green pieces and a curated selection of beautiful patinas to pay homage to heritage and history.



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MUDROOM Custom joinery by Stephen Akehurst & Associates in Resene Smoky Green. Hardware, The English Tapware Company. Coats and jackets, Charlotte Coote.

Produced by Anna Campbell.

1 Darlana lantern in Guided Iron, \$924 (small), The Montauk Lighting Co. 2 Barcelona stool in Natural, \$267, Provincial Home Living. 3 Hera Moss Celadon linen cushion \$148, Walter G. 4 Fortius artwork by Lindsay Blamey, \$2820, Otomys. 5 Salento handle in Worn Gold, \$9 (96mm), Kaboodle, available at Bunnings Warehouse. 6 Iittala 'Aalto' vase in Moss Green, \$279, Space. 7 No. 1 Mountain Ash, Crushed Basil, Peppered Ivy and Green Ash candle, \$59, Hunter Candles. 8 Milli Voir gooseneck basin mixer tap in Brass Gold, \$574, Reece. 9 Lawson coffee table in Natural, \$799, Provincial Home Living. 10 Pauline chair in Diane Bergeron Design 'Dausa' fabric in Storm/Putty, \$4170, Arthur G. For Where to Buy, see page 192. **H&G**