



LISA ALLEN

Developer divests

The founder of the collapsed Ralan Group, William O'Dwyer, sold one of his Bondi real estate investments at a deep discount to its purchase price back in June. O'Dwyer sold the apartment at 10 Jacques Avenue for \$1.75m, having paid \$1.9m for it in December 2016 through his investment arm Jlod Pty Ltd. Meanwhile, a two-level semi-detached house in North Bondi's popular Glenayre Avenue bought by Mr O'Dwyer in 2012 for \$1.442m will also soon hit the market. However, the fate of Mr O'Dwyer's Bellevue Hill residence, in Sydney's wealthy eastern suburbs, which was purchased in his wife Joanne's name in 2007 for \$5.7m, remains unknown. Mortgages over the Bellevue Hill property include NAB and mezzanine financier Wingate. Grant Thornton says unsecured creditors are unlikely to get any return from the mansion. Built in 2007, the property on a hefty 785sq m parcel of land has four bedrooms and a swimming pool. Mr O'Dwyer meanwhile addressed supporters at the Burwood RSL Club earlier this week.

Avalon adventure

SurfStitch founder Justin Cameron has sold his double beachfront Marine Parade, North Avalon holiday home just one and half weeks after it hit the market. It had an asking price of \$12.5m to \$13m. Ray White Presage Palm Beach agent Noel Nicholson, who sold the luxury property, said he could not comment on the buyer, but it is believed to be a Sydney businessman.



Avalon beachfront

House's true colours

AT HOME

Brave decisions have produced genuine warmth

ELLEN HILL

A four-year restoration of a colonial gem at Binda in the NSW Southern Tablelands features chilli red with black trim in the dining and lounge rooms, fuschia in the main bathroom, and chocolate brown in the master bedroom.

To read it as a list, the colour palette of Wentworth and Annette Hill's heritage property is alarming. But to see how the light plays across the walls of Hillcrest House in the Upper Lachlan area is extraordinarily calming.

Tendrils of light creep along the walls throughout the day, encircling furniture and stroking wall features before pooling into highlights at the focus of strategically placed lamps.

The richness of the hues beckons you deep within the granite walls. The property was built in the aftermath of the gold rush in the 1870s by the Branson family, lacemakers from Nottingham in England who turned to wool when they arrived in the colony aboard the Agincourt in 1848.

Binda is a blip on the map deep in sheep and potato-growing country about 50 minutes from Goulburn and an hour and 45 minutes from Canberra.

Event organiser Annette and entrepreneur Wentworth spent four years transforming the raw colonial gem into a luxury country retreat.

They scoured the globe without a budget in search of original artworks, antiques, unusual one-off pieces and decor with history and resonance.

The family heirloom sofa circa 1950s sits equally comfortably with an 1800s cabinet, carpenter's bench from the 1700s and new furniture items, knick-knacks and artworks sourced from London, Barcelona, Paris, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the gems discovered in out-of-the-way country towns.

"You have in this house several hundred years of embracing what we're about as people, the really beautiful parts, the un-



Wentworth Hill's Hillcrest House in Binda features daring colours with a range of original artworks, antiques and unusual one-off pieces

PICTURES: DAVID HILL



usual," Wentworth says. "If we found a piece that felt right we just bought it. We never set a budget, we never set a style. It just had to have inherent beauty and craftsmanship."

But it's the unusually bold colour palette that really defines Hillcrest House.

"Everything here is a warm colour, even the blacks," Wentworth says.

And the reason why it all works is because it's all very low sheen. If you put gloss or even semi-gloss into black it makes it cold. Here,

you're looking into the black. It's not reflecting. It's the reflection that's cold, not the actual colour."

Even so, red and black, fuschia and royal blue are brave choices for entire rooms.

Are the Hills brave or mad? "All those," Wentworth concedes.

"When you go right to the leading edge of something, it either works or it's a complete stuff up — it's not in between. There's no safety net in there."

The couple was always confident their colour risk would work, Wentworth says.

"What we set out to do is to create a place which has the most exquisitely beautiful elements that you would wish to enjoy every day, and that bring joy to your life, balance and a sense of calmness and comfort."

"You don't feel like you're a stranger in a room or a guest; you feel like you're at home in every part of this place, and that's the magic of it."

"I learnt a long time ago that many people have a real appreciation of art and colours. It's buried in all of us, but it gets knocked out of us by society."

"In our souls we are all the most beautiful, wonderful creatures but when we are brought up we learn that hospital yellow and eggshell grey are safe colours."

However, boldness does not necessarily come peacefully when every decision is made as a team.

"We challenge each other and we don't compromise," he says.



TROPHY HOMES
AROUND THE NATION

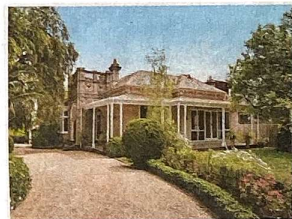
JONATHAN CHANCELLOR

Playing with blocks

Denby Roberts, one of the heirs to the billion-dollar Multiplex fortune, is selling some of her Mosman Park super block. Roberts and her former husband Robert Macgregor, heir to the Mrs Mac's pie fortune, bought five adjoining parcels around a decade ago. The 3665sq m block stood as Perth's most expensive consolidation, costing more than \$30 million. They had planned a mega mansion. Roberts is keeping 1400sq m but selling 2225sq m, which is being offered in three or four blocks. Mack Hall Real Estate agents Mack Hall and Adam Leneghan have the listing. Roberts is one of three children of the late John Roberts, who founded the construction giant back in 1962. Elsewhere, the new owner at the former Taj on the Swan site in Peppermint Grove intends listing surplus blocks.

Marvellous Moorak

The Armadale trophy Moorak, which was held by the Salter family for nearly six decades, has sold to a local buyer in a private auction. The property last traded for £20,000 in 1961. Abercromby's agents Jack Langley and Emma Pierson sold the property, which was constructed in 1888 for warehouseman William Walker. The Italianate style home with squat entry tower has four bedrooms and two bathrooms. A swimming pool and a coach house



Armadale trophy home Moorak

are set amid the 1925sq m grounds. The garden features soaring trees, flowers and fruit gardens. "Every city has them — those handful of homes in those handful of streets that evoke a sense of yearning from just about everyone who passes by," Langley said. "Moorak oozes heritage, provenance, nostalgia and an understanding that they simply don't, and can't, make them like this any more."

Seabird ready to fly

Seabird, the Mornington Peninsula weekendender of embattled biker lawyer John Voitin, has been sold. Voitin built it in 2000 after paying \$150,000 for the 1235sq m block in 1999.

The four bedroom, architect-designed home features a limestone open fireplace that adjoins a sunroom with wet bar. Glass walls open to the pavilion-style entertainment deck which meets the tennis court in the private garden.

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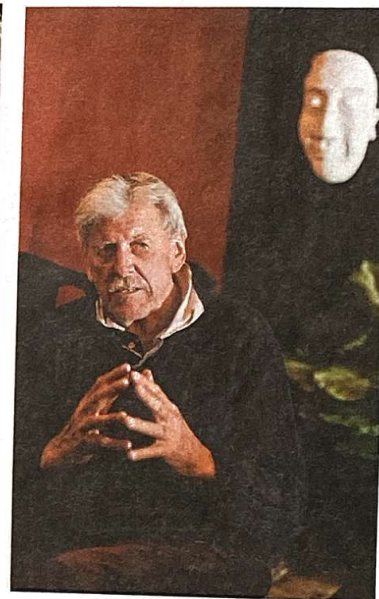
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