

Entertainment  
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# sundaylife

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THE *HANDMAID'S TALE*'S STAR TALKS MARRIAGE,  
MOTHERHOOD AND HER NEW MOVIE

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# TREASURE TROVE

A Victorian weatherboard cottage has become an elegant showcase for its owner's most cherished possessions.

Words Heather Nette King Photography Armelle Habib

"The back part of the house really came together thanks to design help in selecting these Gervasoni chairs, the coffee table by Porcelain Bear, and the rug from Armadillo & Co," says Jenny.

**The home**

A three-bedroom 1880s Victorian weatherboard cottage with a rear second-storey extension and a pool in Melbourne's inner east.

**Who lives here**

Jenny Elliott, a partner in an international consultancy firm, along with her daughters Claudia, 24, a consultant, and Lily, 22, a student.

**What I did**

"I found a floor plan that needed minimal structural work, gave it my own spin, then engaged Kate Challis Interiors to help resolve the challenging open-plan room at the rear and to add finishing touches throughout," says Jenny.

**My favourite room**

"The 'good front room' is the perfect backdrop for my most treasured possessions, a special place to relax and unwind. I've carried the day bed around the world for 15 years and it has finally found its place."

**The 'hood**

"It's close enough to the city yet still very tranquil. And we have great shopping along Malvern's High Street."

**Future plans**

"I've always loved a white canvas, but increasingly I'm drawn to adding colour to rooms, so I'm considering painting the bedroom a deep, moody hue."

**Best advice**

"Be brave enough to let things go when they're not working, even if it is an emotional wrench."



"The kitchen was all white but Kate suggested adding some black to inject drama." The Pierre and Charlotte stools are from Jenny's previous home.



"I got the day bed at Judy Greenwood Antiques in London, the wheat-sheaf side table from NZ's European Antiques and the rug is by Catherine Martin."



A vintage lamp from Chapel Street Bazaar, antique oil paintings and fresh flowers lend a feminine air to the master bedroom.



Jenny has mixed antique and contemporary pieces such as this farmhouse table from Miguel Meirelles. The brass pendant lights are by Volker Haug.



"The side light well is the perfect place for more of my French antique finds, such as the wooden shutters," says Jenny. The large concrete urns are from Mark Denver in Fitzroy.



"I bought these chairs at Manon Bis, here in Melbourne, and the mirror at Judy Greenwood antiques in London." The curtains are by Bloom Interior Design.



A clever side storage area (at left) has been added to the front of the home. The original ornate lace ironwork has been painted a sophisticated semi-gloss black.



The luxurious bedroom features a bedhead upholstered in a Designer's Guild floral fabric and linen from Cultiver. Jenny bought the oil painting at a car boot sale in London.



"I was drawn to the wall panels, high ceilings and tall windows, as well as the European feel of the oak floors," says Jenny. The chair is a recently re-covered Grant Featherston Countour R160.