

arnoldlane

A DYNAMIC INTERIORS PRACTICE HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS AN INNOVATIVE FIRM WITH A FOCUS ON QUALITY AND CREATIVITY.

"Good design is timeless," says Kathy Arnold, a director of interiors firm arnoldlane. And the duo behind this Sydney outfit certainly practice what they preach – whether it's a boutique hotel, a sleek office or a family home, their interiors speak of sophisticated, simple ideas that deliver big on style.

Started in 2002 by Kathy Arnold and Christopher Lane, the practice set out to cater to both the residential and commercial markets, offering their clients individual, appropriate and sustainable design solutions. Yet it is the harmony in the pared back, clean lines of their designs that gives their work a recognisable feeling of elegant calm. The pair each bring different talents to projects, Chris with a more classic eye and Kathy more minimalist. "We have a very clean aesthetic and it's restrained in terms of layering and decoration," says Kathy. "The goal is to achieve something that isn't going to date. We're not into fads."

Not satisfied until the perfect furnishing or fitting has been found, arnoldlane also offers clients custom product design to ensure the vision is completed. This can be a chair or lounge, or even joinery. The challenge of working on a project such as a boutique hotel is also a dream for the practice, as the opportunity to add value to a project using their design is tangible in such a business. "They can directly equate success in their business through the design," says Kathy.

Arnoldlane's thoughtful approach is no more evident than in their impossibly beautiful work on an inter-war home in Sydney's northern suburbs. Located in the leafy suburb of Killara, this home presented a challenge to the pair. The owners wanted the open plan space of a contemporary home to be incorporated with the old architecture; the kitchen to be linked to the living area; a teenager's retreat and garaging for three cars.



Importantly they wanted the existing bungalow to retain its period character, yet also wanted to integrate a new extension at the back of the residence. "We wanted to steer away from that stark modern contrast," says Kathy. "We aimed to avoid a modern extension that felt totally disjointed from the existing period home, both spatially and visually, or a traditional home stripped bare of the rich period detail."

The project was completed in three stages, beginning with the bedrooms at the front of the house, with the new living dining area at the rear comprising the final stage. Architecture practice Studio R was introduced to the project to work on the extension, giving a nod to the existing architecture by way of material selection. A modernist approach was taken for the extension, incorporating a floating plane from interior to exterior. This feeling of continuous space is enhanced by a clever ceiling design allowing the room to remain one expansive space. Feature joinery between the kitchen and living area not only acts as a visual way to divide the large room and display mementos, but also houses the one central support pillar for the entire roof structure.

It is however the sensitive choice of materials that makes this home so intoxicating. "It was a real challenge to make the sections tie together but still have some contrast. There is a nice connection when you walk through from the older part of the home," Kathy says. From lush velvet to dark woods, veined marble and creamy sandstone, classic design pieces and bespoke items – they integrate seamlessly, as if this conclusion for the interior is the only logical one. "We custom-designed pieces where a suitable product could not be found and adapted some existing designs to suit. There were a large number of suppliers for this project and although we did use a few design classic pieces, the end result certainly wasn't achieved with a one supplier, one stop shop approach," says Kathy.

"The client gave us the trust to work within the restraints of the project and trusted that what we suggested would be the best outcome, actually was. That was the best part of the project. It was a very respectful relationship, where they had total trust in arnoldane as designers, and I think that's why it came together so well in the end," Kathy says. "We were really lucky, the client is amazing, he's a builder by trade and very meticulous. A project is only as good as the client and the people on the team."

