



A bungalow is a house we generally tend to envisage as being small but attractive and situated in California. However, in the 1920s, in Queensland and, no doubt, in other states throughout Australia, the availability of American journals with photographs and house plans had a dramatic influence on domestic architecture.

The mature development of the bungalow style is demonstrated in this attractive house, designed by architects Hall and Prentice and built by master builder, George Turner, in 1923 as his family home. It is high set, of solid brick construction, finished with stucco and has arcading on the lower level. Terracotta tiles were used on the roof and the hardwood flooring and maple panelling, used on the interior, remain in the house today. In 1992 the present owners, John and Jacky, bought the house from George Turner Jnr. to live in with their four children. They are now enjoying the many desirable aspects of their California Bungalow, its 91 perch allotment - situated on the Brisbane River - panoramic views and gentle breezes.



John is a man of many talents, working professionally as a designer. He is also an artist and his paintings grace a number of walls throughout the house. He has a penchant for old treasures and is adept at restoration of furniture. Many rooms in the house display his whimsical creations.

In the main lounge and formal dining room, on the top level of the house, the ceilings are Tudor style and the woodwork around the walls is German maple with french polished shellac. "The latter treatment is quite unusual for this type of house," John remarks.

Both the lounge and dining rooms have picture rails, exhibiting a number of plates and other special pieces.

A Victorian chaise-longue is upholstered in plush red velvet, as are two matching grandfather chairs. Another feature of interest in the main lounge is an old American leather upholstered barber's chair - 1881 - "You can see the sweat from the cowboys of the time," John remarks. Above the chair is a painting by John, depicting houses in the Paddington area. A statuette and a Bonsai tree sit on an occasional table against an elegant leadlight glass panel. Another sign of the times is an old gramophone, tucked away in a corner.

A pair of china cabinets, flanking each side of the entry, lead into





the formal dining room where a circular pedestal-based Victorian style dining table is complemented by four rose pink velvet upholstered chairs. A sign of the times is the pre-war wall telephone and a chiming pendulum wall clock. An early Victorian sideboard, with mirrors for display purposes, stands regally against the wall.

Another of John's creations is a blue tiffany style lamp which adds more colour to the room. Above the china rail is a plaque, bearing the name of the house - "Maritimo" - which translated from Italian means "by the sea". This was rescued by John from a magnificent old house in Williamstown in Victoria which was being demolished to make way for town houses.

Matching carpets in the lounge and dining room have worn surprisingly well considering the fact that they appear in an old photograph, showing this area of the house in the 1920s.

The kitchen - 1950s style - was probably very modern for its time. Laminex bench and table tops - in mottled red - and linoleum floor covering are evocative of kitchens of the past. The floor of this particular room was originally tiled. It is an interesting room with heaps of cupboards and the presence of children in the home is obvious

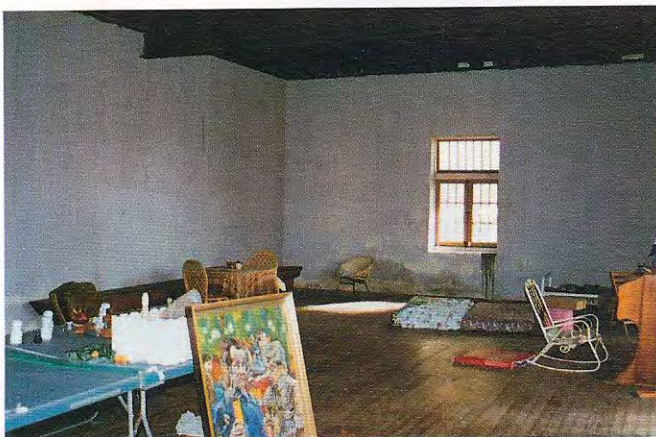




from photographs and various knick-knacks appearing here and there. Beside the stove is a Bonsai tree - thirty or forty years old - and a collection of old china pieces. Above these is a wall hanging, containing all of John's old art equipment.

Off the kitchen is an enclosed side verandah where a vertical timber display unit highlights Jacky's collection of old teapots. A table and chairs for six suggests that this area is used for most meals. French doors lead from here to the main upstairs verandah.

Three flights of stairs, newly installed, in quila lead down to the ballroom which runs the full width of the house. This room has an interesting history according to John. "It was the place where everyone liked to come for dances in the 1920s. There used to be a band and people singing; it was a great venue for entertainment. There was a lot of activity; for example they also used to make boats here," John explains. The floors are all varnished crow's ash and the ceiling has recently been installed. It was previously open and has been fashioned in a Tudor style in keeping with the other rooms through-





out the house. Timber recycled from where the stairs were cut out has been used to make the scoreboard for the billiard players.

The billiard table is seventy years old and was bought from a men's club at Hervey Bay. It is in perfect condition. The floor has been levelled and supported to carry the weight.

At the far end of the room is a little conversation area which is carpeted, has a beautiful fire surround and comfortable lounge chairs.

The ballroom is well lit, having two sets of pendant lights and twelve down lights. It is also an excellent venue for the display of paintings and John's talent is represented to great advantage here.

Four sets of french doors lead down to the garden and summer house on the river. There was once a tennis court on the grounds at the back of the house and it was the first to have electricity in Brisbane.

Apart from the flowers and shrubs, the most striking features in the garden are a decorative fountain and an Italian style archway, the latter echoing the arches on the lower back verandah.

"Nothing here is more than four years old," John, who is still working on the landscaping, says. He has, so far, excelled himself with the beautiful, fragrant garden he has established. Double geberas, lavender, wisteria, jasmine, white ginger and iceberg roses are blooming and the perfume is intoxicating.

Topiary also appears, in contrast to the more delicate flowers and shrubs, and palm trees have been planted for privacy.

One marvellous advantage for garden lovers who live by the river is the fact that in this situation roses are free from aphids and black spot. They are almost unrecognisable with such unblemished leaves.

John has built a summer house on the bank of the river which is quite unusual and picturesque. He has used a variety of timbers to construct this federation style building; iron bark comes from Bretts Wharf, Hamilton; Welsh Bangor slate from St. Carthage Cathedral, Grafton; ridge capping and hip ends from original federation houses in Strathfield.

An enormous amount of physical work and research has contributed to this beautiful home, garden and summer house and John and Jacky are to be congratulated on their efforts - they certainly have paid off.

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