

# at home

## MODERN AUSTRALIAN DESIGN

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE • PARRAMATTA

11 NOVEMBER 2016 - 22 JANUARY 2017

### CURATOR'S TOURS

Saturday 17 December

or Saturday 14 January

1.30 - 3pm | \$35pp

see [www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/at-home](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/at-home)



The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is excited to announce our new exhibition: **at home: MODERN AUSTRALIAN DESIGN** at Old Government House.

Opening on 11th November, **at home** is curated by Australian design expert David Clark (see biography below) showcasing objects from some of Australia's leading contemporary designers alongside our significant collection of Georgian furniture at Old Government House.

Guest Curator David Clark says

"It is a rare opportunity to place contemporary objects from the country's leading designers in one of the most historic interiors in Australia. It allows for a fascinating juxtaposition of domesticities that span centuries.

In the meagre and brutal beginnings of a penal colony the Governors and their families approximated, as best they could, some semblance of civilisation in an alien place at the far reaches of the world. At Old Government House we can feel their ghosts.

This exhibition adds another spirit to the place with the creativity and optimism of 21<sup>st</sup> century Australian designers and their works. It asks us to look at domestic life then and now, to look at furniture types and styles and how they've disappeared or morphed. More subtly it asks us to look at aesthetic ideas of Australia, how we expressed ourselves then and how we do it now. The collection pulls together work from the most prominent designers in Australia today including, Adam Goodrum, Kate Rohde, Charles Wilson, Lucy McRae, Khai Lieu and Marc Newson amongst many others. It demonstrates the more refined edge of contemporary Australian design - the hybrids and curiosities, the bespoke and beautiful, the exuberant, quirky and odd".

Roxanne Fea, Regional Manager Western Sydney (National Trust of Australia NSW) says: "We are delighted to announce this collaboration with David which puts into focus the importance of interior design within Old Government House. Old Government House hosts a nationally significant collection of Georgian and early Victorian furniture, primarily reflecting the tastes

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and styles of the top echelon of Australian colonial society. The collection highlights a merging of imported predominantly English design with the burgeoning decorative arts industry in Australia, with its skilled artisans making use of native materials such as red cedar. This diverse collection allows everyone to experience the dual public/private nature of Old Government House, from the Governor's private bedroom, to the servants' kitchen, and the imposing dining and drawing rooms".

**at home** will celebrate what makes Australian design so unique with innovative and iconic design pieces from today immersed amongst the extant displays throughout the House, creating a striking backdrop and encouraging unexpected dialogues with the objects especially selected for the exhibition. Spanning almost 200 years, the objects displayed will invite us to consider where Australian interior design has come from and where it is going.

The exhibition is accompanied by public programs including curator's talks.



ACCOMPANYING IMAGES:  
 1. Broached Colonial Birdsmouth Table by Adam Goodrum, Stitch Chairs by Adam Goodrum, Three Decanters by Brian Hirst and Georgia De Maria, Advent Candelabra by Charles Wilson, Flute Pepper Grinder by Charles Wilson, Vessel by Robert Foster & Waratah Decanter and Protea Cups by Lucien Henry and Vert Design. Image by Michael Wee.  
 2. Plane Table by Fred Ganim. Image by Michael Wee.  
 3. Broached Colonial Briggs Family Tea Service by Trent Jansen. Image by Michael Wee.  
 4. Broached Colonial Prickly Lamp designed by Lucy McRae. Image by Scottie Cameron.  
 5. Pregnant Chair by Trent Jansen, Ball Wallflower Lights by Anna Charlesworth & Cage Pendant Light by Anna Charlesworth. Image by Michael Wee.

### About David Clark

Over 30 years, David Clark has established himself as a leading figure in the interior design industry. He has worked in the textiles trade, in architecture and interior design, in marketing, communications and in publishing. As Design and Deputy Editor for Belle, and then as Editor-in-chief of Vogue Living, he became an authoritative voice in his field. His particular focus has always been on the idea of 'Home'. David now works as a design consultant and advocate for the design industry. He believes in the pursuit of beauty, the importance of curiosity, and the power of design to create a more civilized world.



“ **AT HOME** demonstrates the more refined, expressive, eccentric, even quirky side of Australian design, in a historical context. And opens a rich dialogue between the past and present.

Australian Financial Review, Nov 15

### About Old Government House

This convict-built Georgian house and its surrounds is managed by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and is a World Heritage site. It was the country residence for the first ten governors of NSW. Today it houses the nation's premier colonial furniture collection amongst parkland and other heritage sites.

Standing in 200 acres of parkland overlooking historic Parramatta, the convict-built Old Government House and garrison buildings were built in 1799-1816, the oldest surviving public buildings in Australia. For seven decades, it was the 'country' residence of ten early governors of the Colony, including Gov. Lachlan and Mrs Macquarie who, from 1810 to 1821 preferred the clean air and space of rural Parramatta to the unsanitary and crime ridden streets of Sydney Town. Explore the nation's premier early colonial furniture collection and reflect on the social history surrounding the other occupants and uses of the house.

Old Government House is now an important cultural hub for events, exhibition, house tours and education programs.