

Tried and true aesthetic that will never get old

○ **MADLIN HAYES**

Distinguished by intricate designs and ornate details, federation architecture upholds a timeless elegance.

Trendsetter Homes Design and Strategy Manager Rachel Maree Smith said the iconic style, dating back to 1890, remained popular today.

“Replicating federation elements in a new build or renovation is possible but not easy,” she said.

“It demands meticulous attention to detail, a passion for the style and a willingness to invest time and finances.

“Collaborating with a skilled architect, designer and builder who share your enthusiasm for the design style is crucial, and they can tap into craftsmen expertise to achieve an authentic result.”

Ms Smith said hallmark design elements of federation architecture in Australia included ornate woodwork, stained glass windows, intricate brickwork patterns, gabled roofs, high ceilings and cast iron lacework.

“These elements collectively create the distinctive federation style,

which is a blend of Victorian and Edwardian architectural influences, and is a significant part of Australia’s architectural heritage,” she said.

From recycled stained glass windows to repurposed timber flooring, reclaimed features from the federation era allow for a more genuine new build.

“When striving to craft a classic federation-style home, recycled timber flooring stands as an unrivalled choice,” Ms Smith said.

“These boards have decades of character, which new timber floors can’t replicate, especially considering the growing scarcity of jarrah floorboards due to changing regulations in Australia.

“Another way to create an authentic federation home is the reuse of leadlight windows and doors.”

Seamlessly amalgamating old and new features is Trendsetter Homes’ North Perth renovation – a celebration of the federation style with repurposed materials.

“The retention and use of materials from that specific era of construction were carefully selected for inclusions to ensure the true federation style was achieved,”



Trendsetter Homes Managing Director Michael Agostino said.

“Materials were not only used on the exterior but this was also transferred to the interior of the home, so there was no transition from federation to modern within the materials themselves.”

Mr Agostino said recycled materials ranged from timber windows, leadlight glazing and jarrah timber flooring.

“In addition, plaster glass ceilings and cornices, federation light switches, tuckpointing and Tyrolean-finished gables were utilised to ensure the federation style was further achieved and represented,” he said.

“The balance between older and

more modern elements was based on functionality – for example, the window frames were double glazed to achieve thermal efficiencies throughout the home, while appliances and communication equipment were based on modern elements for functionality benefits.”

Mr Agostino said the home achieved a harmonious balance between function and aesthetics.

“A home can still feel like an authentic federation style with all the modern elements utilised on a daily basis,” he said.

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