



CHRYSTELLE Baran

INTERIOR DESIGNER AND ANTIQUES DEALER

It's easy to believe Chrystelle Baran was born stylish. She was born French, which, to those of us who weren't, is almost the same thing. And, wouldn't you know it, she's slim, stunning and has a beautiful home in Remuera. Sigh.

France is also her profession. Chrystelle and her Kiwi partner Nick Ferneyhough own Baran de Bordeaux antiques, which gives them a superb excuse to escape to France twice a year on buying trips.

For six years their house was also their showroom so clients – and furniture – would come and go. But the business is now based in Parnell so the couple has reclaimed their home and their belongings.

Chrystelle says the home is a family portrait that has had input from several architects in the family.

They built it eight years ago with demolition pieces, including recycled wooden floors and old windows.

"The house is very simple, it's sophisticated, it's very light. It's got a really nice loft feel and high ceilings. It's not at all modern, not what you'd be used to seeing in New Zealand. It's actually quite traditional."

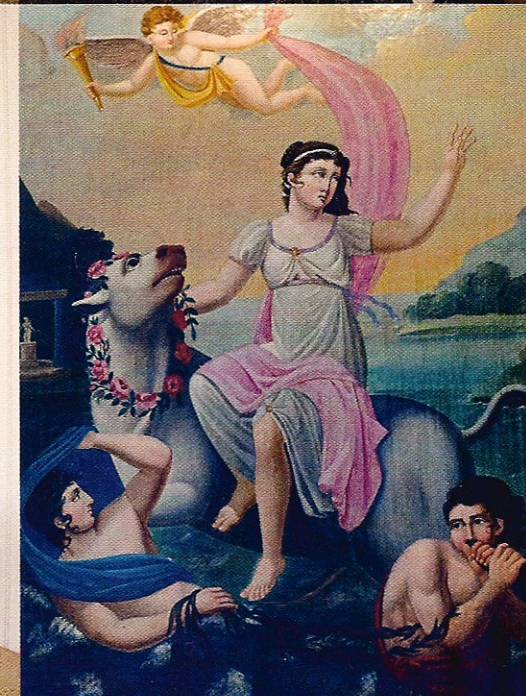
Chrystelle introduces a bit of colour in the furniture, such as a 19th Century coffee table with faded original green and off-white paint. She's fond of Italian antiques and has one or two English pieces but her heart – as you can guess – is firmly in France.

She's a fan of Louis XVI and Swedish Gustavian furniture. "It's a beautiful period in terms of craftsmanship. I love the work they used to do in the 18th Century and it just fitted the style of the house very, very well. I don't like modern. I'm sick of entering houses in New Zealand that look like they're staged, like hotel lobbies. Sometimes you're surprised, you enter some homes and you're like 'Wow, this is really great,' because they've been collecting all their life and they have colonial pieces from New Zealand and a mix of English and French."

So does she have any modern furniture?

"Yes, I have a modern couch and I had it custom designed. It's very simple and fits really well with the rest of the furniture, actually, because you can mix modern and antiques, of course.

"You need to have comfort also and, let's face it, with the antique couches you had to sit very straight and properly and you couldn't lounge back. I love coming home after work and just relaxing on my comfy couch."



Chrystelle Baran and husband Nick Ferneyhough have recently moved their antiques business out of their home: but still an everchanging array of favourite pieces rotate through the cottage. Painted Louis XVI and Swedish Gustavian pieces are current favourites.

