

art house

A creative duo draws inspiration from the precious collectables that fill their home

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You could be forgiven for imagining that you are in an antique shop when you step inside Barbara Heath and Mal Enright's home.

From the street, the Wilston colonial is unassuming but beyond a rickety gate lies a treasure trove of exquisite antiques, fabrics, jewellery and objets d'art – all lovingly placed. Doors off the central corridor stand tantalisingly ajar, offering glimpses into the couple's vast collection of antiques and curios.

Barbara is one of Australia's leading contemporary jewellers, and her latest exhibition, Jeweller to the Lost, opens at the Queensland Art Gallery next month. She and Mal, a collector of everything from grandfather clocks to picture frames, have travelled the globe in search of delectable trinkets. They're not eccentric bowerbirds but astute business people selecting pieces to inspire creative thought for their work.

Four years ago, the couple combined their businesses – hers, jewellery and public art design; his, multimedia production – to concentrate on Barbara's commissioned work, which ranges

from engagement rings to \$300,000 sculptures for public buildings throughout Australia.

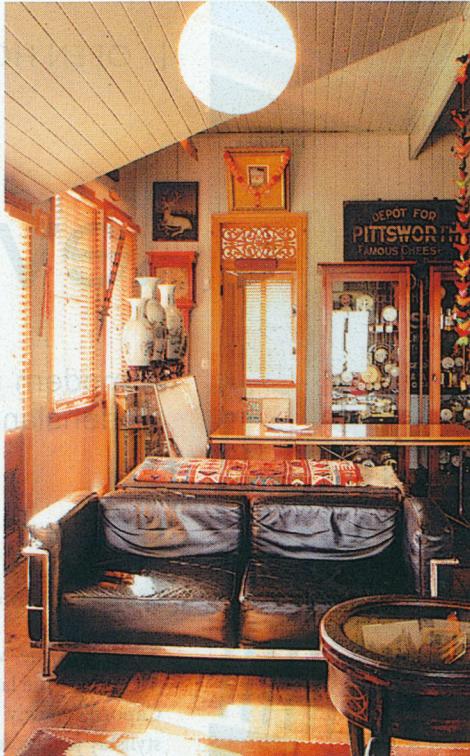
"We rationalised that it would be best to combine our talents into one company where I would look after running the business to give Barbara more time to design," Mal says.

"We were already working on many of the same projects so it made sense, from a financial and lifestyle point of view, to wrap two separate businesses into one entity."

Barbara adds: "Now we are two creative people striving for one common goal."

Mal and Barbara's house has accommodated their career move perfectly, with plenty of modern office and workshop space underneath.

The slick, light-filled level stands in stark contrast to the snug living area upstairs where walls heave with artwork – then there are the two



Curiosity stop ... Mal Enright and Barbara Heath's home is filled with antiques and curios that inspire Barbara's jewellery designs



prized possession

"I have 129 clocks but this is my favourite – it's older than Australia," Mal says. "It was made in England in 1763 by Padside clockmaker Will Snow. Padside in England has been a centre of clockmaking for several hundred years. The clock is a favourite in an antique collection which I began when I was 11 years old."

