

AUSTRALIAN

GARDENING *ideas* from our *top* DESIGNERS

# HOUSE & GARDEN

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homes to inspire

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*The Cordony Kitchen's*  
FRESH EASTER FEAST





# PERFECT FIT

Over nearly 25 years, this home has cleverly adapted itself to the lifestyle of its owners – and now it's poised for an exciting future.

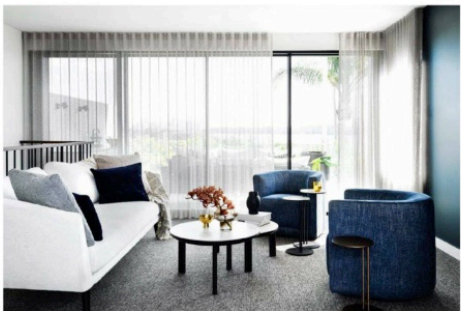
STORY Chris Pearson | STYLING Kate Pulford, Villa Interiors | PHOTOGRAPHY Bridget Smart

## THIS IS THE LIFE

This chameleon is simultaneously a welcoming home for a couple and their adult daughter and a smart home office. "We spend most of our free time in the kitchen/living and outdoor areas, which we aren't in our office," says the homeowner. The living area next to it is ideal for meetings and entertaining, with its magical view at all times of the day.

**TERRACE** The view from the top storey steps is water in three trucks while forming the backdrop to business meetings. Hamilton three-seater sofa, Hamilton 1915, Casper ceramic stools and 846 floor lamp by Rober Plank. Planter: The Sydney Garden. Potted plant: Potted in Amber Freedom. Vidorov & Bosch 'Miniature Rock' potted plant, David Jones. Potted cushions: Robert Plank and Adams. Trix triangle cushion, Prounial Home Living. Macramé throw in Pine, Adams. Jet black granite benchtop, Styled in Stone. Silver Green anti-slip porcelain tiles, Di Lorenzo Tiles.

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**T**his four-bedroom home in Sydney's eastern suburbs is almost part of the family, moulding itself to its owners and their lives over nearly a quarter of a century. A professional couple, they bought the semi in 1999 when planning for children. But now their son and daughter are in their 20s, with one leaving left home, so the house is enjoying another transition. Following an elegant makeover by interior designer Kate Pulford of Villa Interiors and architect Colin Sternberg of S Design Studio, it looks forward to a glamorous grown-up future. The appeal back then was the vista of Sydney Harbour from the upper level, but bland interiors betrayed that outlook. "It was in need of renovation, with a rickety, metre-deep balcony on the top storey and a salmon-pink interior, but there was potential," says the homeowner. In 2003, keeping within the existing footprint, the couple revamped the kitchen, moved the laundry under the stairs, extended the balcony, added bifolds and painted the interiors white. "Our children were young, so we made it simple and child-friendly," she says. But by 2020, their needs had changed. "Our children had grown, our family dynamics had shifted and we wanted a beautiful space to live and work, as we both work from home. It was time to update again."

Colin masterminded the architecture and spatial planning, while Kate undertook the fittings, finishes and furnishings. They were confronted with a home that was "dark, cramped and dated," admits Kate. The staircase, with laundry beneath, sat in the middle of the living space, disturbing the flow, while the basement was damp and sat idle. Meanwhile, the decor lacked warmth. "With hard black leather couches, chrome furniture and a stainless steel kitchen, it felt clinical." The homeowners wanted the living spaces to be opened up and flow far better, with the kitchen island being the focal point. "And as we both work from home, it was important to create a professional environment," she explains. "We wanted our home to feel comfortable, luxurious, modern and inviting." The design duo extended the home at the back to include an extra 20 square metres of floor area. "This enabled us to elongate the kitchen and create a more inviting living space, with floor-to-ceiling glass windows at the rear, allowing for that magical afternoon light to filter into the main living level," says Kate. The staircase was shifted to the side, allowing the kitchen to take centre stage, while the laundry was banished to the basement level, connected to the upper floors with an internal stair. Now the kitchen sports jet black granite benchtops that give it gravitas and presence.



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**UPSTAIRS LIVING** This page and opposite This can be a meeting area one minute and party central the next, when the outdoor area comes into its own. Oliver table shown in Clarke & Clarke 'Lauren' fabric in Midnight, and Boulevard sofa in Unique Fabrics 'Parade' fabric in Puma. Both King, Cadden Italia 'Living' side tables, Mura. Kett 'Omni' round coffee table, Cosh Living. Orb vase, Freedom. Brass bowl, West Elm. Transpire curtain in Morfat, Broomfield. Curtains by Dabowar Curtains & Blinds in Clement fabric in Dove from Elliott Clarke.

"As we both work from home, it was important to create a professional environment."

FROM PASTOR

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**KITCHEN/DINING** This page and opposite Island benchtop in Titanium Gold granite, Styled in Stone. Wall-side benchtop in Casserstone Fresh Concrete. Joinery in Dulux Tiding and Dulux White Exchange. Club handles. Designer Dishware: Dekon Rem splashback, Cosentino, Armani World 'Nero' bar stools, Kera. Amber vase and bowl, West Elm. Dining table custom made by owner in American walnut. Ann dining chairs, Fendi. Fold pendants in Telexco and Lulu ceiling lights, Mondo Luxe. Willow vase by Louise Roe (on dining table), Spence & Leila. Platters (on island), Freedom. Existing flooring refreshed by Strati Building, Arisqu artwork, family bathroom. ➤



The office and upper living level, which embraces the main bedroom and second bedroom (the latter rolls up its sleeves as the office), doubles as a personal and professional space. "This is where the owners entertain most, as it captures the harbour views," says Kate. "We opened up the space so it is oriented towards the view." Smart and sophisticated sums up the palette: "It has a classic aesthetic that leans towards the monochromatic," she says. "The dramatic black granite bench formed the basis. It's a robust, durable surface, and is a fantastic focal point. A big jumble of textures helps to warm up all those cooler tones. The main bedroom alone features a leather upholstered wall, velvet, linen and boucle."

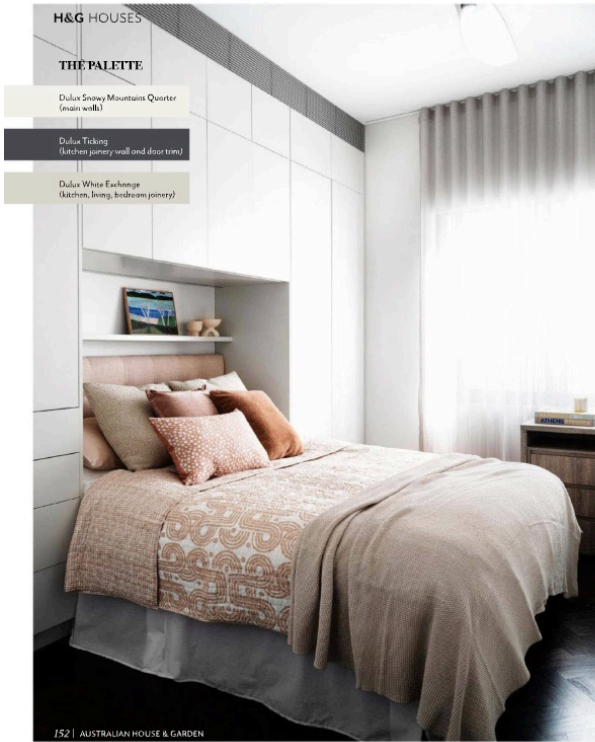
Original herringbone timber flooring also played a key role, with the builders sanding it back and staining it darker. Another original element is an antique painting of an Irish wolfhound in the living room. "He's been in my husband's family for years," says the owner. "We knew the painting had to be the hero piece," says Kate. "The wolfhound looks lovingly at the owners as they prepare meals or gather around the island bench with family and friends." The dog almost symbolises this house - forever loyal, though thick and thin. ➤

*Villa Interiors, Sydney, NSW: 0913 536 796 or villa-interiors.com.au, S Design Studio, Sydney, NSW: 0419 075 029 or sdesignstudio.com.au, Strati Building, Bankstown, NSW: stratiholdinggroup.com.*

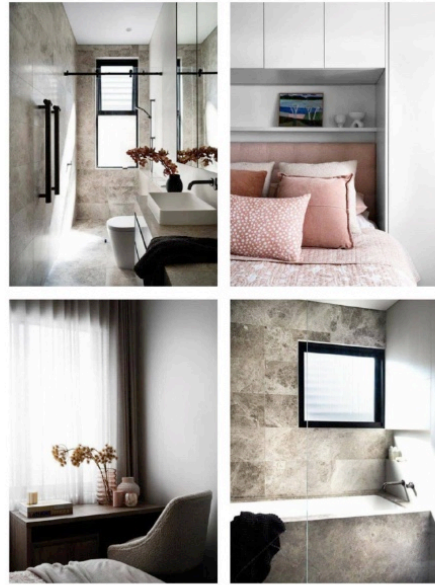
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Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



**DAUGHTER'S BATHROOM** Top left: La Cornuaise wall tiles in Beton Blanc; Aradormas Silver Grey Insetto; four tiles, STS Stone France 'Kaiser' basin; ACS Designer Bathrooms. Bottom left: 'City Silk' spout, 'Yakari' mixer, 'City Plus' showerhead and 'Zuko' towel rails, Cass Brothers. **DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM** Top right: above left and opposite Bedroom, Heatherly Design. Bottom left: West Elm. Rectangular cushion, Provoked Home Living. Day Lagoon artwork by Leigh Muller, CuratorialCo. Custom desk in Laminare Dolera Oak. Desk chair, Life Interiors. Curtains made by Dekonair Curtains & Blinds in Warwick Fulcrum 'Arioso' fabric in Quartz. **ENSUITE**, above right: Moda bath, ACS Designer Bathrooms. ▶



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## THE SOURCE

*If black, white and grey are the base of your palette, little bursts of colour can make all the difference.*



Produced by Sharyn Burton

1 Duccio vase in Buff, \$29.95, Freedom. 2 Ligna Rest 'Ardo' armchair upholstered in Macle fabric in Shell, from \$5275, Dima. 3 Arabella jute and wool rug in Natural/Cream (155x225cm), \$599, Qi Design Furniture. 4 Horn brass candleholder, \$320, Dinosaur Design. 5 Salt & Pepper 'Thorn' 12 piece dinner set in Rose, \$109.95, Myer. 6 Kenwood 'Titanium' Chef Baker XL benchtop mixer in White, \$649, Harvey Norman. 7 Kagerius 'Aromatique' incense, \$45, Spark of ST. Arrog. 8 Soda steel side table by Bent Design in Dusty Green, \$295, Huset. 9 Mix coated stainless steel cutlery in Brushed Gold, \$43/5 piece place setting, Grey Noodle. 10 Rosendahl 'Soft Spot' table lamp, \$201, Royal Design. 11 Miller outdoor 3-seater sofa in Rope Charcoal, \$5245, Cucco Republic. For Where to Buy, see page 286. H&G