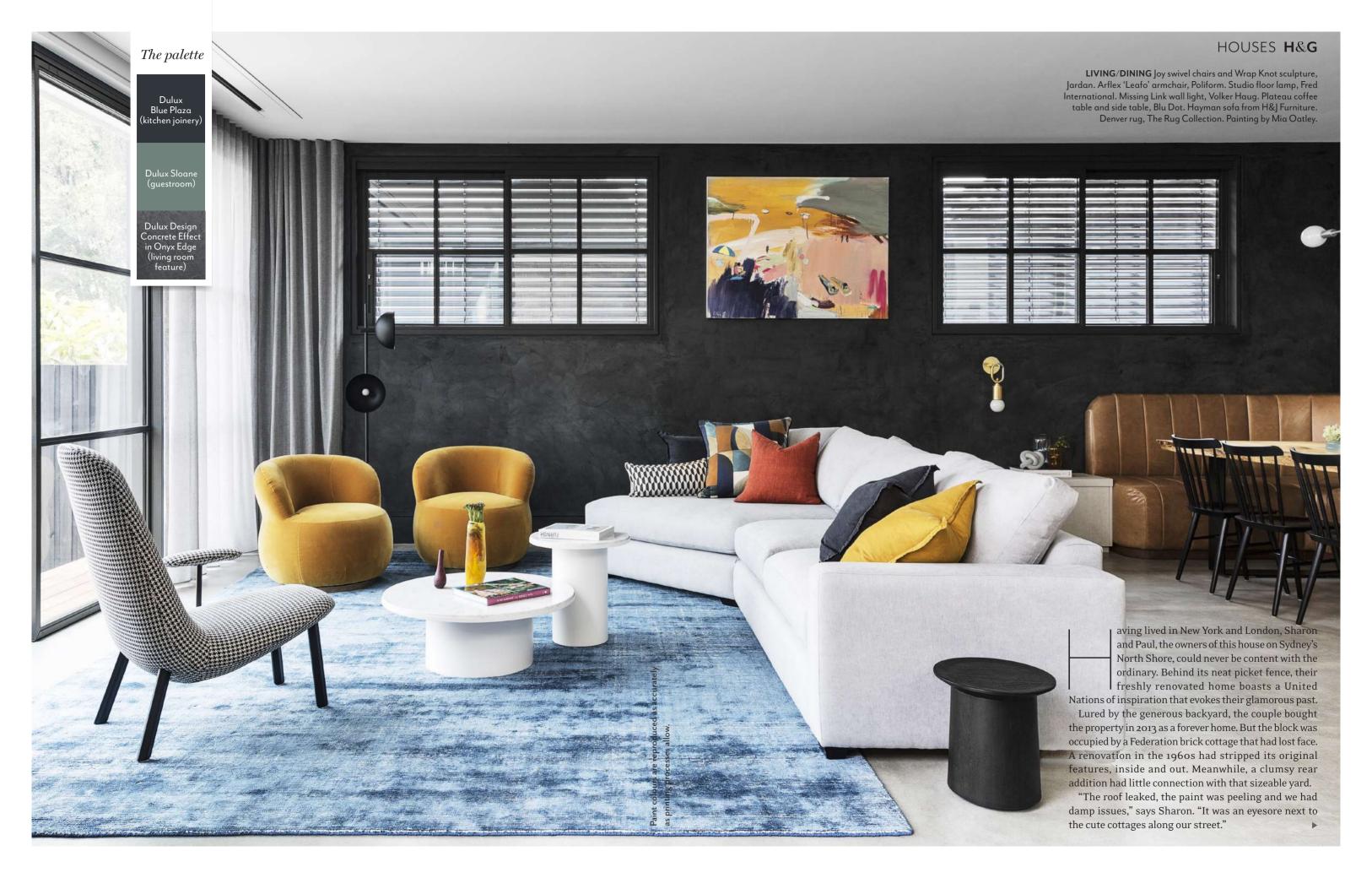




OUSES

DON'T MOVE, IMPROVE









The couple engaged Clare Carter of Contemporary Architecture and interior designers Jacinta Woods and Sonia Warner to transform the battered bungalow into a light, functional and interesting family home for themselves and their sons Leo, five, and Levi, two.

Top priority was an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area that flowed through to the garden. A nod to Sharon's past was also on the wish list. "I grew up in a weatherboard homestead in rural New Zealand, so an all-white cottage with a picket fence was my nostalgic dream." At the rear of the home, cues came from the couple's travels. "In New York, we lived in a renovated loft with unbelievably high ceilings. The steel windows and doors came from London, the concrete floors from a friend's apartment in Antwerp."

Clare revived the facade with heritage-inspired ironwork, stained glass panels, sash windows and a Colorbond roof. "These details made the house cute again," says Clare. Meanwhile, the 1960s rear extension made way for an unapologetically modern addition. Smart steel-framed sliders connect its open-plan living areas with the garden.

The transition between the two sections is dramatic. Cottage cosiness at the front of the home gives way to openness at the rear, where there is a double-height raked ceiling and stairs leading to the first floor.

Flanking the entry hall are three bedrooms and the boys' playroom. The new section, stepped down from the original house, features an open-plan kitchen and living area that soak up garden views beyond those steel-framed doors. The high ceiling in the kitchen is punctuated with a skylight and a splashback window, adding to the airiness, as does the adjacent all-weather barbecue area.

Ingeniously cantilevered over the living room is the main bedroom suite - Paul insisted he didn't want a support wall to obstruct sight lines and interfere with the openness of the open-plan space. The first floor also contains an additional bedroom, making five all up.

For the interiors, the brief was "just five words - 'Brass. Steel. Concrete. Timber. Marble'," says Sharon. The trick was tying everything together. Furniture, soft furnishings and artwork were woven into the scheme to create zones that are inviting and tactile. "With two small boys in the mix, everything had to be robust and family friendly too," says Jacinta.

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Jacinta and Sonia's 'structural palette' subtly darkens as it moves from the white facade – a heritage requirement – via pale blue-greys to moody charcoal in the open plan.

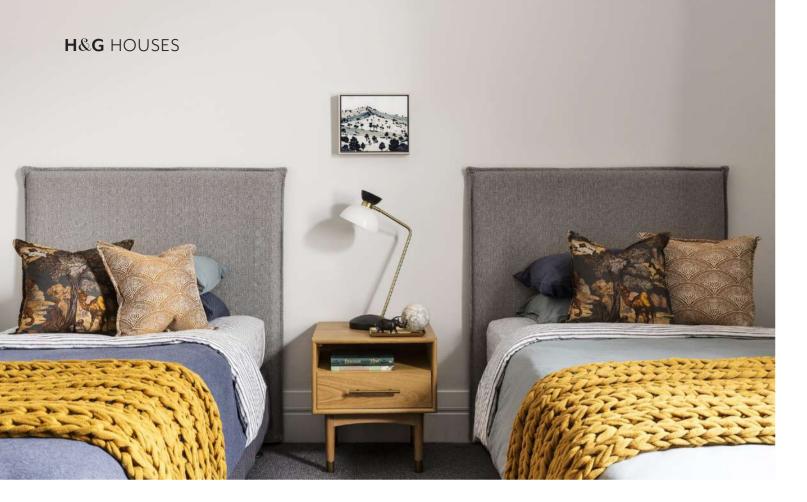
Bursts of vibrant colour, from mustard to red, coral and aqua, energise the spaces.

As well as New York lofts, inspiration came from the UK designer Kit Kemp, says Jacinta. It's especially ▶



H&G HOUSES MAIN BEDROOM This page and opposite top left Zoffany Stand Wood wallpaper, Domestic Textile Corporation. Sampson sconce, Arteriors. Elle Block side table, Globe West. Joinery in Dulux Rimaldo. MAIN BATHROOM Opposite top Azia Wall tiles (grey), Academy Tiles+Surfaces. Marble tiles, Concept Tiles and Surfaces. Articolo Lighting 'Fizi' wall sconce, Est Lighting. Benchtop in Caesarstone Oyster. Industrica showerhead and Yokato taps, Brodware. Vetralla freestanding bath, Victoria+Albert. MAIN ENSUITE Opposite bottom Raku Cobalt finger mosaic tiles, Teranova. Marble tiles, Concept Tiles and Surfacess. Tapware, Brodware. Recycled-timber vanity, Ingrain Design. ▶ 108 | AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN





"THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE HOME IS AS DELIGHTFUL AS THE DESTINATION." Sharon, owner



apparent in the main bedroom, which features graphic wallpaper offset by a luxe velvet headboard, plus confident colours throughout. New York style is expressed in the kitchen and dining area - leather banquette, stucco walls and brass highlights are beautifully underscored by touches of mustard in the adjacent living zone.

Jacinta's favourite feature? "The open-plan layout, which easily transitions from traditional cottage to industrial glam. There are also plenty of personal spaces for the family to enjoy." Adds Sharon: "The journey through the home is as delightful as the destination."

H&G Woods & Warner, Cammeray, NSW; woodsandwarner. com.au; Contemporary Architecture, Crows Nest, NSW; contemporary.net.au. WJ Building, Sydney, NSW; www.wjbuilding.com.au.

BOYS' ROOM Above Beds, H&J Furniture. Table lamp, West Elm. Bedside table, Castlery. Artwork by Kristen Lethem, Art2Muse Gallery. MAIN BATHROOM Arroyo basin, Merwe Bathware. Mirror, Warranbrooke. Articolo Lighting 'Fizi' wall lights, Est Lighting. GUESTROOM Opposite Bestlite BL7 wall lamp, Cult. Brass pulls, Lo & Co. Joinery in Dulux Sloane. Flamant 'Les Unis' linen wallpaper, Arte International. Ceramics, Jones & Co. Samurai Ishi carpet, Cavalier Bremworth. The chair is a family heirloom. For Where to Buy, see page 192.

