

AUSTRALIAN

MUSK FARM'S NEW OWNER-GARDENERS

# HOUSE & GARDEN

TAKE A  
BREAK TO  
TASMANIA  
#TRAVELLOCAL

*Honey,  
we're home!*

RENOVATION COMPLETE

*MONDAY  
MORNING  
COOKING  
CLUB  
cooks for you*

*COMING UP ROSES*  
Our pick of what to plant now

*50+*  
pages  
of  
STUNNING  
transformations



This tranquil retreat takes its colour cues from the striking artwork by Tanya Harricks. Chair from Globe West covered in Cole & Son Tile Jacquard. Curtain in Zepel Fabrics Woolly/Forest Drapery. Turn the page for more.

# HOUSES

DON'T MOVE, IMPROVE

# Worlds AWAY

**FRONT ENTRANCE** Dome outdoor wall light from LightCo. Lemon trees and plant pots, all Garden Life. Exterior painted Dulux Whisper White. Roof in Colorbond Shale Grey. Metal windows and door frames in Colorbond Monument.

Once a falling-down wreck, this Sydney home has been transformed into a glamorous family pad influenced by the owners' global roaming.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | STYLING *Jacinta Woods & Sonia Warner*  
PHOTOGRAPHY *Simon Whitbread*

*The palette*

Dulux  
Blue Plaza  
(kitchen joinery)

Dulux Sloane  
(guestroom)

Dulux Design  
Concrete Effect  
in Onyx Edge  
(living room  
feature)

**LIVING/DINING** Joy swivel chairs and Wrap Knot sculpture, Jordan. Arflex 'Leafo' armchair, Poliform. Studio floor lamp, Fred International. Missing Link wall light, Volker Haug. Plateau coffee table and side table, Blu Dot. Hayman sofa from H&J Furniture. Denver rug, The Rug Collection. Painting by Mia Oatley.



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

Having lived in New York and London, Sharon and Paul, the owners of this house on Sydney's North Shore, could never be content with the ordinary. Behind its neat picket fence, their freshly renovated home boasts a United Nations of inspiration that evokes their glamorous past.

Lured by the generous backyard, the couple bought the property in 2013 as a forever home. But the block was occupied by a Federation brick cottage that had lost face. A renovation in the 1960s had stripped its original features, inside and out. Meanwhile, a clumsy rear addition had little connection with that sizeable yard.

"The roof leaked, the paint was peeling and we had damp issues," says Sharon. "It was an eyesore next to the cute cottages along our street." ▶



**DINING** Big Kick pendant and Missing Link wall light, Volker Haug. **BUTLER'S PANTRY** This image Miami Navy Sticks tiles, Surface Gallery. Upper cabinets in Concrete Texture C laminate, Wilsonart. Super White Dolomite benchtop, CDK Stone. Open shelf in Axolotl Treasury Bronze. Billi tap, Brodware. Franke sink, Winning Appliances. **KITCHEN** Opposite Recycled-timber benchtop, Ingrain Designs. Diiva stools, Grazia & Co. Vino Steel Blue wall light, Mark Douglass. Benchtop in Super White Dolomite, CDK Stone. Custom brass ladder by Savage Design.



“SHARON AND PAUL LOVE THE ‘GLAM INDUSTRIAL’ LOOK, BUT EVERYTHING HAD TO BE FAMILY FRIENDLY TOO.”  
*Jacinta Woods, interior designer*

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.

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 ▶



**MAIN BEDROOM** *This page and opposite top left* Zoffany Stand Wood wallpaper, Domestic Textile Corporation. Sampson scone, 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 scone, 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 Surfaces. Tapware, Brodware. Recycled-timber vanity, Ingrain Design. ▶



**RENOVATION**  
*snapshot*

**PIVOTAL DECISION**  
“Focusing on the property’s inherent features – location, natural light, north-west aspect, views – and overlooking the condition of the house,” says owner Sharon.

**SAVE** “We installed solar panels for all our power, including the hot-water system, which reduces costs in the long term.”

**SPLURGE** “The polished-concrete floor and steel-framed sliders. Design elements that aren’t easily changed.”

**WORDS OF WISDOM**  
“Sweat the details. Live nearby during construction and don’t be afraid to take a risk.”





“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.*

*The layout*



**THIS IS THE LIFE**  
Sharon, Paul and Clare toyed with siting the living areas on the upper level to take advantage of the district views, but placing them on the lower level maximises the indoor-outdoor connection. “In summer, we open the steel sliders right up and sit in the living area while the kids splash around,” says Sharon. The banquette and dining-table combo is a hub of activity too. “It transits from workspace to family meals to dinner parties.”