



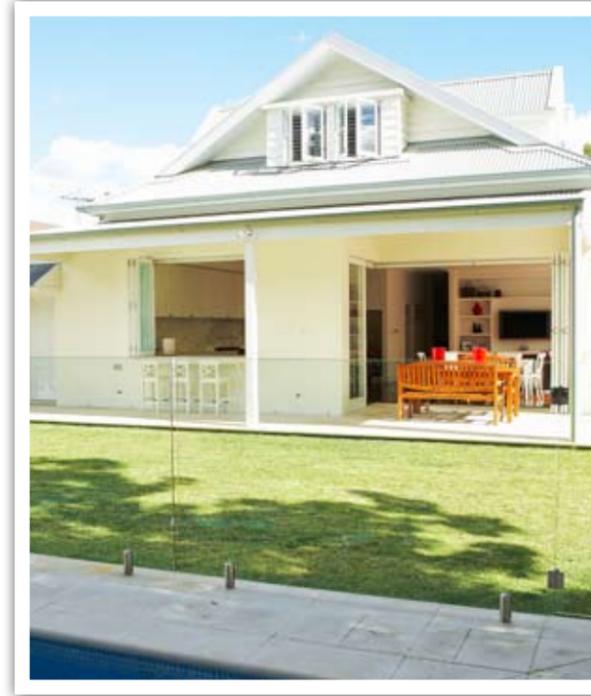
Eternal SUNSHINE

A delight for the whole family, this home shines with personal style and casual charm

STORY JUDY BAROUCH STYLING LOUISE OWENS PHOTOGRAPHY CATH MUSCAT



"We want THIS TO BE OUR 'FOREVER HOME', ONE THAT WE WON'T GROW OUT OF."



Renovating this 1890s cottage gave homeowners Jenny and Kieren the opportunity to indulge their love of Hamptons-style design, updating and refining the cottage's original features. The result is a house that's fresh, full of light and encourages outdoor living. The backyard is a perfect playground for the couple's two small daughters Claudia, four, and Hannah, two, who have their own miniature version of the home in a new cubby house **{opposite}**, while their parents can easily keep an eye on them through the handy kitchen servery **{bottom right}**. Inside, the welcoming feel continues with a palette of warm neutrals punctuated by bold shots of red and orange, such as this Dinosaur Designs bowl **{top left}**, and with personal displays of books, jewellery and photographs **{top right & bottom left}**. >



The only nail-biting moment in the renovation of this 1890s cottage in Cammeray, Sydney, occurred when the super-sized solid timber island bench was about to be installed in the kitchen. “It was the biggest gamble of the whole project!” homeowner Jenny recalls. “My husband Kieren and I had seen a dining table that we loved in a furniture showroom, so we commissioned the company to make a similar piece with much larger dimensions to serve as our island bench. I was so relieved when it was in position and it looked as fantastic as we had imagined.”

By comparison, all else was smooth sailing. Jenny engaged local architect and her former neighbour Clare Carter, interior designer Claire Reid – a friend from her schooldays – and builder Dominic Jarvis, who had previously worked with the architect. “We all had a great working relationship. There were lots of discussions and it was a great help that Jenny was able to visualise ideas so well,” architect Clare says.

The result of the collaboration is a house that comfortably presents two distinct faces. The street frontage displays an intact pre-Federation, red-brick facade, complete with recently rejuvenated brickwork and a bullnose verandah. In contrast, the white-painted, weatherboard-clad extension at the rear features numerous dormer windows and offers an informal, country-cottage ambience.

The front rooms and the hallway are largely unchanged, but the doorway to the master bedroom has been bricked in and a new, more private entry installed out of the sight of the hallway – this created

a more secluded parents’ retreat for Jenny and Kieren, which encompasses the bedroom, ensuite and dressing room.

The rear of the old house was demolished and replaced with a generous open-plan kitchen, living and dining area, while the extension comprises a study/pantry space, laundry and a bathroom with direct access to the garden – perfect for a quick wash-down after a swim in the new pool.

A second storey was added to function entirely as a kids’ zone. “The suburb is a conservation area so this level had to remain within the existing roofline,” says Jenny. The couple coped with this restriction by lowering the ceilings on the lower level and opting for pitched ceilings upstairs. In some ways, the height restriction proved to be a plus, as all the upstairs rooms now have charming attic-style ceilings, a look that appeals to Jenny’s love of Hamptons-style decor. “I love the American east coast home in the Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson movie *Something’s Gotta Give*,” says Jenny. “It provided a lot of inspiration.”

Continuity is an important element in the home’s design, with the same Shaker-style cabinetry and warm white walls featuring in most rooms for a seamless, sophisticated feel. Contrasting splashes of orange and red, natural fabrics and stained floorboards unify the communal spaces downstairs. And the heart of the home? “Most definitely the island bench,” Jenny laughs.

LIVING AREA (above) This cosy corner of the large open-plan living area has been cleverly expanded to include a daybed, Jenny’s favourite reading spot. Architect Clare had the idea for ‘bumping out’ the side of the house and using this new bay window as a spot for seating and storage. The deep drawers echo those in the adjacent built-in entertainment unit, which features tall shelves and striking mesh panels. The latter

is a practical choice as much as an aesthetic one: “The mesh panels were incorporated so that the remote controls can ‘talk’ to the entertainment equipment,” Jenny explains. A bespoke sofa, made to interior designer Claire Reid’s specifications by Ondene, is upholstered in graphite chenille by Westbury Textiles. Its deep, subdued colour is boldly offset by a fiery orange rug from Robyn Cosgrove and coordinating cushions from Kas. >



we love...

the kitchen servery

Dreaming of an indoor/outdoor lifestyle, Kieren and Jenny incorporated this clever servery into their kitchen plans. Bi-fold windows offer an unobstructed sightline to the pool and garden, while inside, the space is fully equipped for entertaining. A handy second sink is set into the benchtop and a Vintec wine storage system keeps the couple's favourite drops at the right temperature.

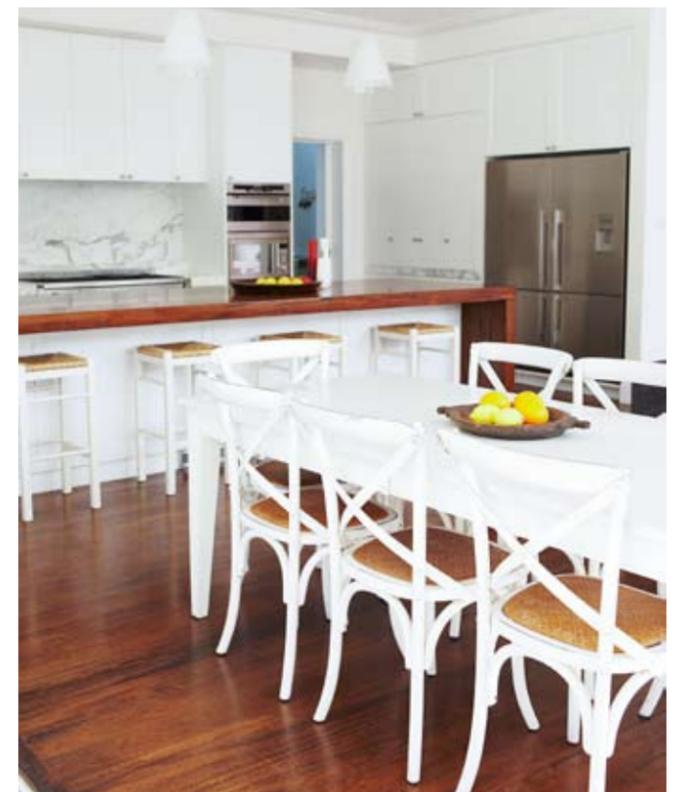


"I wanted to USE AS MUCH NATURAL PRODUCT AS POSSIBLE, AVOIDING POLYURETHANE IN FAVOUR OF TIMBER AND USING MARBLE FOR BENCHTOPS INSTEAD OF ENGINEERED STONE."

KITCHEN (opposite & above) The light-filled kitchen has timeless appeal, with its elegant combination of natural materials. "I wanted to use as much natural product as possible, avoiding polyurethane in favour of timber and using marble [Carrara Gioia from Gitani Stone] for benchtops and splashbacks instead of engineered stone," says Jenny. For a softer look, timber-panelled Shaker-style doors are painted in matt-finish Dulux Lexicon Half. "The same style of cabinetry is used consistently throughout the house," says interior designer Claire Reid. The starring role in this kitchen is played by the blockbuster four-metre-long island bench in solid marri hardwood, which required seven builders to move it into place. "It was a difficult piece to design and make as we wanted to use only a few long, wide timber boards," Claire says. To complete the seamless look, the timber was stained to match the walnut-stained blackbutt floorboards.

DINING AREA (right) A white extension dining table with tapered legs from Freedom is matched with chairs from Asset Furniture; the dining chairs subtly match the rattan-seat stools from Sirocchome at the island bench. "If it's just the two girls eating, they sit at the bench, but if we're having a family meal, we all sit at the dining table," Jenny says. >

ARTWORK (TOP) SUZANNA LANG





"Both our ARCHITECT AND OUR DESIGNER UNDERSTAND HOW A FAMILY OPERATES AND HOW KIDS' REQUIREMENTS CHANGE AS THEY GET OLDER."

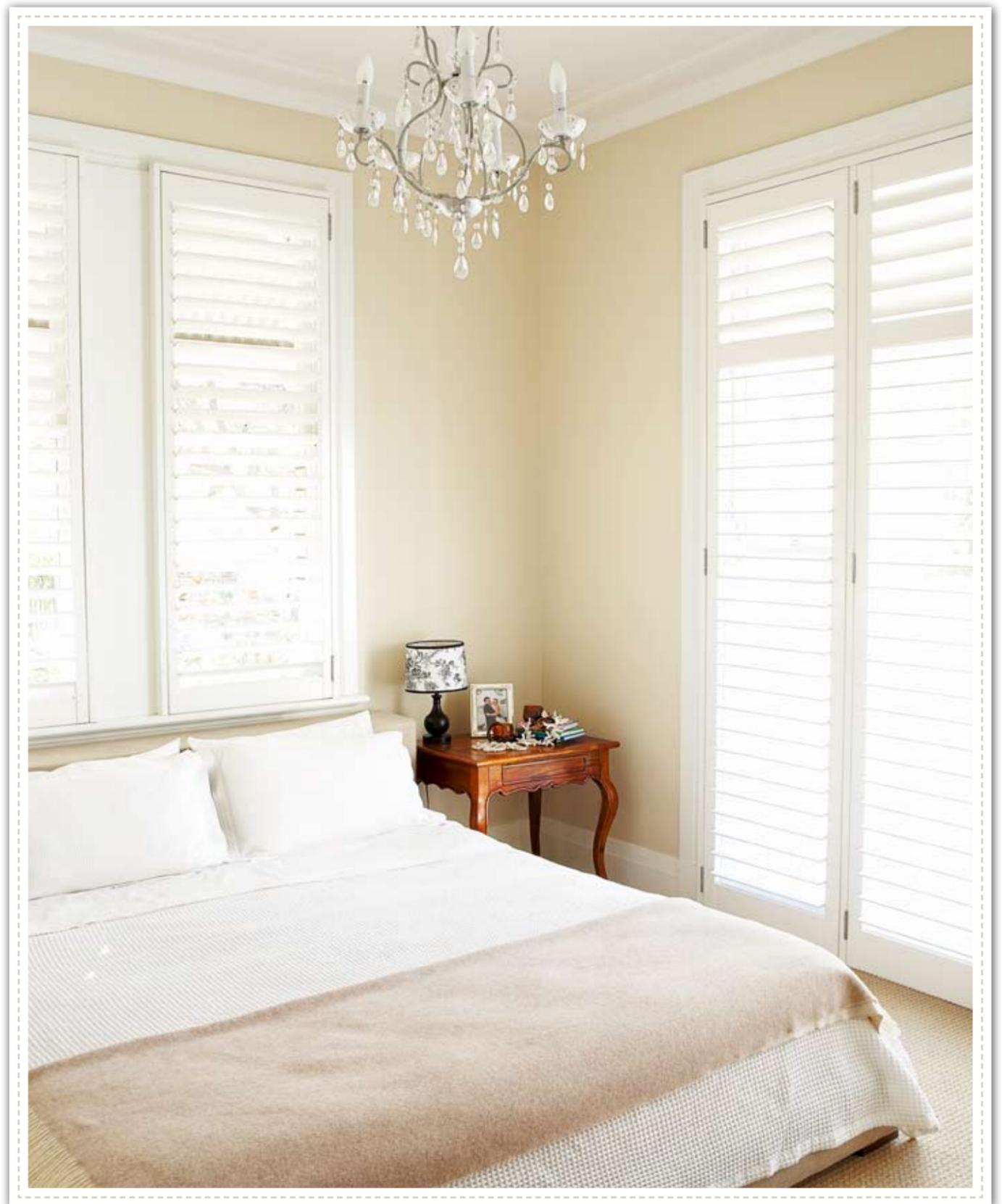


SITTING ROOM {top left} This peaceful adults' space is a chaos-free zone. "I like that there is no mess or toys in here," says Jenny. "All the family activity happens at the back of the house." A tranquil palette of neutrals includes custom-made Ondene chairs in beige linen and a patterned rug from Robyn Cosgrove, while a Vistosi 'Lucciola' pendant light from Mondo Luce softly illuminates the room at night.

ENSUITE {top right} The bathtub is located in another small extension on the side of the house. "When the viburnums outside grow into a hedge, we'll be able to leave the folding windows behind the plantation shutters open on warm days and it will feel almost like bathing outside," Jenny says. This is a space where the couple can relax and escape, which boasts soothing features such as a wide Duravit double sink from Just Bathroomware, Bianco Perlino limestone from Gitani Stone on the vanity top and bath surround, and fragrant soaps from L'Occitane.

GIRLS' BEDROOM {left} Youngest daughter Hannah still sleeps in the nursery but will soon share this room with her sister Claudia. This delightfully girly space is decked out with provincial-style beds from Sirocchome and sweet, striped bedlinen from Pottery Barn in the US. Interior designer Claire chose a soft paint colour, Dulux Harlem, to tie in with the sandy Cavalier Bremworth carpet (for details, see page 27).

ARTWORKS (TOP LEFT) BRONZE SCULPTURES BY DANIEL DOMINGUEZ. (BOTTOM LEFT) LIV CARSON



MASTER BEDROOM {above} With French doors along one wall, an original fireplace in another and a pair of windows to take into account, there weren't a lot of options for placement of the king-sized bed. "We placed the bed under the windows and made the bedhead low and chunky," says designer Claire. During the day, sunlight is gently filtered through plantation shutters from Cherrybrook Blinds & Shutters, while at night, a Laura Ashley chandelier casts a romantic glow on walls painted in Dulux half-strength Buff It; for details, see page 27. >

Inside story

Who lives here? Jenny, a stay-at-home mum; her husband Kieren, a trader; and daughters Claudia, four, and Hannah, two.

Who had the most input into the house? Jenny: "I did."

Kieren's only request – as the main chef in the family – was for a large island bench. And he was very definite that he wanted timber rather than a stone top for a softer feel."

Any hiccups during the building process? "Towards the end, I was heavily pregnant – everyone would panic whenever I climbed a ladder. I'd planned three weeks off work before the baby was born to organise a lot of details for the house, but Hannah arrived three weeks early. So she became a regular on site, too!"

What were your must-haves?

"Storage space for everything was important – that's why we have so much built-in joinery and a lot of the panelling opens to hidden storage. There's also a huge pantry, lots of deep drawers for toys, a wine cellar under the stairs and attic storage."

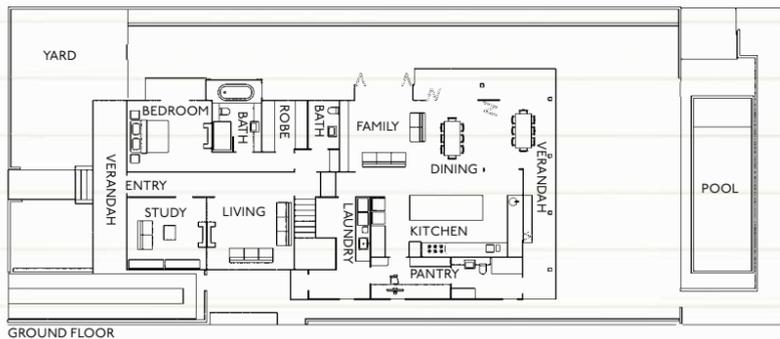
Can friends work harmoniously together? "Yes! Both Clare, our architect, and Claire, our designer, know how a family operates and understand how kids' requirements change as they get older. We became friends with the builders, too."

Will you stay here for the long haul?

"Yes. We want this to be our 'forever home', one that we won't grow out of."



CUBBY HOUSE At Jenny's request, Jarvis Builders used leftover materials to create this cubby house as a miniature of the family home; it even has a servery on one side that mimics the kitchen's. "It is the girls' own little sanctuary," Jenny says. Contact Jarvis Builders on (02) 9531 7654 or visit www.jarvisbuilders.com.au. **POOL** {below left} Surrounded by a simple line of box hedging, the clear water of the pool, installed by Sydney's Domain Pools, is an irresistible lure on a hot day.



ARTWORKS (OPPOSITE, TOP) LIV CARSON. (OPPOSITE, CENTRE LEFT) DANIEL DOMINGUEZ. ILLUSTRATION WWW.KENZIEDSIGN.COM

GIRLS' BEDROOM {right} With dormer windows and pitched ceilings, the upper level has a romantic attic look.

LAUNDRY {below} "Like a true country cottage, the laundry is part 'mud room'," says Jenny. Cute star-shaped pegs {below right} hang on the door for the kids' raincoats and bags, and each family member has their own woven basket where clothes can be dropped on the run.



"I love THE HOME IN THE MOVIE SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE. IT PROVIDED A LOT OF INSPIRATION."



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great idea

< office-meets-pantry
The home office/pantry is cleverly located behind the kitchen to be easily accessible. The space has been well decked out with the same Shaker-style cupboards featured throughout the house and a pinboard in Indian cotton from No Chintz. "I wanted a large pinboard for the children's art and school notices," Jenny explains. The functional space is accessorised with a French cafe-style clock from Freedom, bright Pantone and Penguin Books mugs from Until and family happy snaps.

colour & materials

- 1 Master bedroom paint Wash & Wear 101 Advanced Low Sheen in Buff It Half, \$63.90/4 litres, Dulux.
 - 2 Carpet 'Ridgeway' 100 per cent wool textured loop pile carpet in Desert, Cavalier Bremworth.
 - 3 Girls' bedroom paint Wash & Wear 101 Advanced Low Sheen in Harlem, \$63.90/4 litres, Dulux. **Stockists, page 174**
- Due to the printing process, actual colours may vary.
CONTACTS: Clare Carter of Contemporary Architecture, (02) 9438 4200. Claire Reid of Moss Interiors, 0408 245 275.

