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SOUL REVIVAL

BY INTRODUCING A CALM AND COHESIVE AESTHETIC, AN ARCHITECT TRANSFORMED HER AWKWARD CALIFORNIAN BUNGALOW INTO A STYLISH FAMILY HOME

Story LYNNE TESTONI *Styling* LISA BURDEN *Photography* KRISTINA SOLJO

CHARACTER BUILDING This spacious abode on Sydney's upper north shore was reworked by homeowner Nerida, whose vision paved the way for a serene home for herself, husband James and their two teenage sons Hugo and Ethan. In the formal living area, pieces including a Jordan sofa, Eames lounge chair and matching ottoman from Living Edge and 'Milou Swivel' armchairs from Coco Republic lend a fresh feel. A rug from The Rug Collection anchors a restful scene that also includes a 'Fineline' coffee table from Spence & Lyda, a 'Reed' pendant light from The Montauk Lighting Co, cushions from Papaya and Provincial Home Living, and a Country Road throw. >



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LISA BURDEN
KRISTINA SOLJO

Sometimes a home just needs the right owner to reawaken its inner beauty. That was the case with this gracious family abode on Sydney's north shore.

Drawn to its location on a quiet, tree-lined street, architect Nerida and her husband James purchased the Californian bungalow with initial plans to replace it with a contemporary home for themselves and their sons Hugo, now 16, and Ethan, now 14.

"It was a really confusing house," recalls Nerida. "There was no central corridor and no airflow. You had to go through one room to get to another – for example, to get to one bedroom, you had to go through the kitchen. That's why, when I first saw it, I instinctively thought, 'We've got to demolish this house and just start again.'"

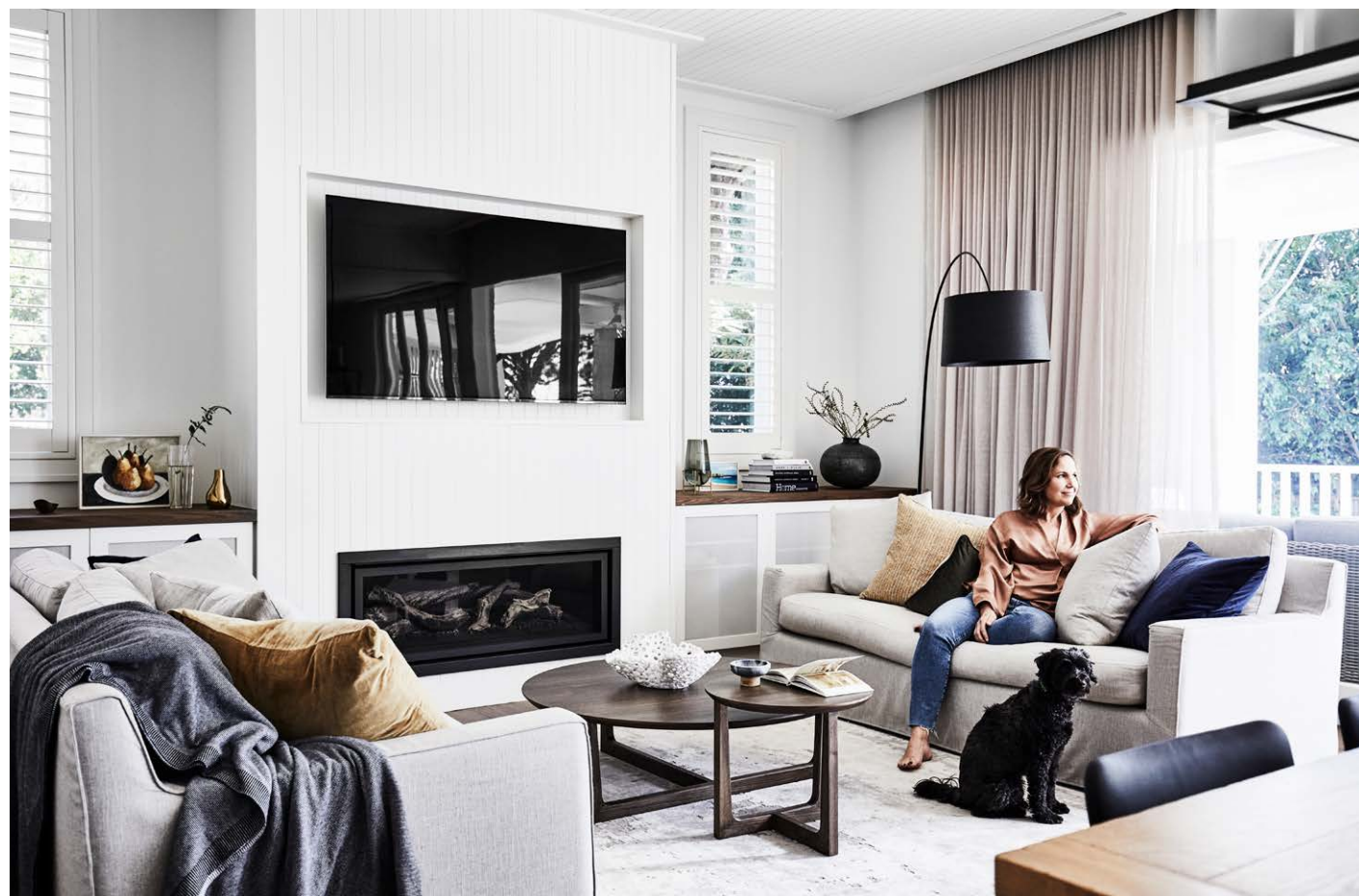
Instead, the home began to cast its spell on the family. "The more we lived here, the more we fell in love with the windows, the detailing, the double-brick walls and the soul of the house," says Nerida. After four years, she came up with a vision to re-work the floor plan and retain the heritage elements they had come to love. "I really wanted to pay homage to the original cottage and the streetscape," she says.

Built in 1916, amid a time of austerity measures because of World War I, the home has the pared-back elements that set the Californian bungalow apart from its Victorian-era predecessor. "That's what I liked about it – that kind of pureness of design," says Nerida. "There wasn't too much busyness or too much fussiness."

The layout was a different story. "I decided to move the entry to the front and keep it all looking as traditional as possible," says Nerida, whose redesign of the floor plan created a new front door and a huge entry foyer and portico to replace the old side entrance.

It worked. Council approved it in an incredibly short six weeks and loved that they were reviving the old house and keeping the heritage of the area. "Doing such a traditional entry was a new experience, because often I like extensions to have a contemporary feel," says Nerida, referencing the second-storey addition that allowed for a main suite, kids' study and family bathroom. "However, with this project, it just seemed like the right thing to do."

The result is an elegant home that sits nicely in the neighbourhood, as if it has always been there. "People walk by and say they wouldn't know it's a new house," says Nerida. "I consider that a compliment."



STYLING ASSISTANT CLEO CASTLE. PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT CHARLOTTE KOCH. FLOWERS POHO FLOWERS. STILL LIFE PLATE OF PEARS AND COOGEE JARWORKS ON CONSOLE (THIS PAGE). CATHERINE HICKSON. 'PALMO' BOWLS (OPPOSITE). ON TABLE) PAPAYA. COFFIN BOWL BREAKFAST BOWL IN BED. GREEN BOWL (ON SIDEBORD). PROVINCIAL HOME LIVING. CANDLEHOLDERS IN BED. SMITHMADE. ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION.

DINING AREA An 'Altar' pendant light by Kevin Reilly is the hero here. Nerida (pictured opposite, with Maggie the dog) and James had coveted it but felt it was out of their budget – until they discovered it at Home Furniture On Consignment, which specialises in second-hand designer furniture. Builder James Tulloch of JTB Building had his welder reduce its height to suit the room, while Nerida commissioned the Amanda Tye artwork of nearby Freshwater headland. **FAMILY ROOM** The renovation produced a room (opposite) full of pieces that continue the gentle tones. They include 'Scarlett' sofas and a 'Sky' coffee table from Fanuli and an 'Orion' rug from Designer Rugs, while a Foscarini 'Twiggy' lamp from Space lends sculptural appeal. Nerida chose VJ wall panelling in Dulux Whisper White to infuse the newer parts of the house with character. "I tried to be consistent with all the details, so that it felt like an extension that complemented the older part of the house," she says. >



KITCHEN An oversized island bench topped with honed dolomite stone makes a dark, dramatic statement in Dulux Oolong, with 'Wovenest' bar stools from Modanest tucked underneath. Shaker-style cupboards were custom-made by All Aspects Joinery and painted in Dulux Whisper White. Of her Miele appliances, Nerida is particularly fond of the steam oven. "The steamer is amazing!" she says. "It's on twice a day and we love it." A 'Sovereign' urn from Provincial Home Living housing a beautiful bunch of flowers is among the home's chic styling touches, as is a Katie Wyatt artwork on the rear bench - Nerida found the other artwork about 15 years ago at a market on the Sunshine Coast. Honey-hued engineered oak floors from Preference Flooring add warmth throughout. >

WE LOVE...
natural stone

A big fan of natural stone, Nerida chose a dolomite called Super White for the kitchen island bench and splashback. "It's amazing as it's relatively non-porous," she says. "We've spilt blueberry juice on it and things that you would panic about with normal marble, but it's very resilient. There's no substitute for natural stone, and if you find one that is more family friendly, that's a big win." Get the look at CDK Stone, visit cdkstone.com.au.

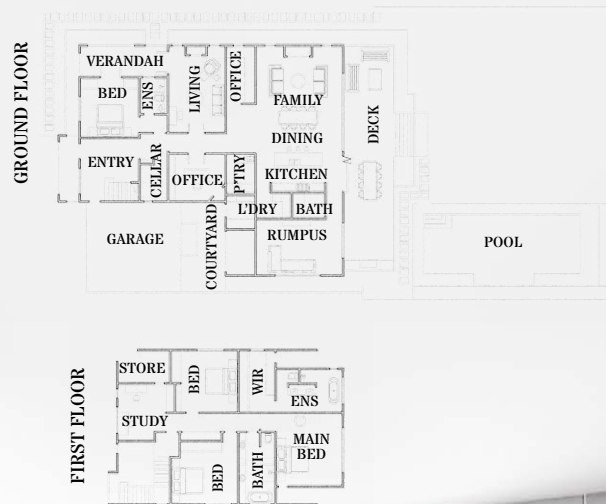


**"I LOVE HOW
THE GREY TONES
OF THE *benchtop*
CONTRAST WITH
THE ORGANIC
BRASS TAPWARE
AND THE INDIGO
JOINERY"**

~ NERIDA

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

FLOOR PLAN



ENSUITE Encased in Carrara marble, the vanity was custom-made by joiner David Fox of All Aspects Joinery. Nerida designed the ensuite so the shower (around the corner) and bath enjoy the leafy outlook. The mirror has built-in lighting, while exterior Venetian blinds from SCS Blinds ensure privacy and northern-sun control, and Carrara marble herringbone floor tiles from Teranova amplify the wow factor. A feature wall of VJ panelling references other rooms to create a cohesive design palette.

“THE MASTER BEDROOM IS SO *Tranquil* WHEN WE WAKE UP. IT’S THE CALMING BLUE TONES AND TREE-FILLED VIEW OF THE BACKYARD” - *NERIDA*

MAIN BEDROOM A wall of navy grasscloth wallpaper from Porter’s Paints delivers no-fuss texture and sets the couple’s bedroom apart. “It’s a classic, which is why I chose it,” says Nerida. “That was the idea with this house - to select timeless fixtures and finishes that would allow the charm of the old parts to fuse with the new parts.” A ‘Frankfort’ wall light from The Montauk Lighting Co is another classic contemporary touch. >



ILLUSTRATION KENZIEDESIGN.COM



SOURCE BOOK

ARCHITECT
Nerida Bawtree, Bawtree Design,
bawtree.com.au.

BUILDER
James Tulloch, JTB Building,
0414 833 268, jtbbuilding.com.au.

JOINERY
David Fox, All Aspects Joinery,
(02) 9907 1660.

EXTERIOR Painted in Dulux Silkwort, with crisp trims in Whisper White, Nerida and James' home exemplifies classic kerbside appeal. To retain a more traditional aesthetic in honour of the Californian Bungalow's heritage, architect Nerida moved the entrance from the side of the home to the front, and designed a new front portico with a matching gable. The result turns heads and draws compliments from passers by.



CLASSIC CHARM



INSIDE STORY
NERIDA & JAMES' HOME

WHO LIVES HERE?

Nerida, an architect; her husband James, a project management consultant; their sons, Hugo, 16, and Ethan, 14; plus Maggie, the Tibetan terrier.

WHAT LESSONS DID YOU LEARN?

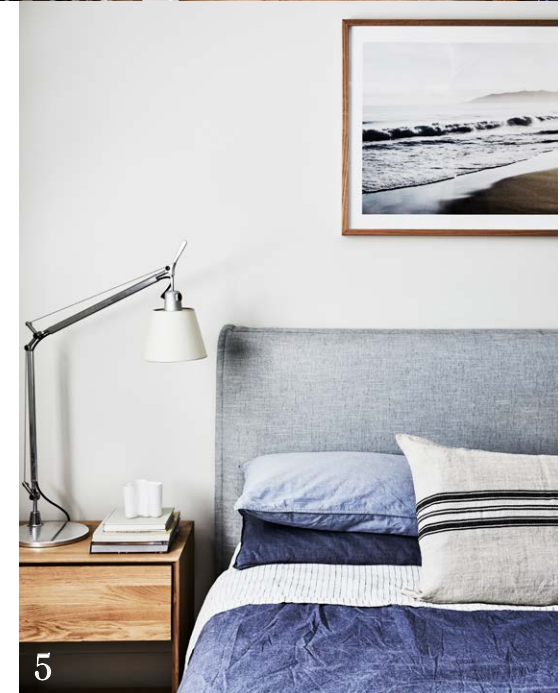
Nerida: "We are glad we didn't rush into things. We originally planned to demolish the house, but after we lived here for four years, we realised it had so much character that you can't replicate in new houses."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FEATURE?

"The laundry chute in the boys' bathroom. We don't have clothes left on the floor anymore."

WHAT ELSE DO YOU LOVE?

"It capitalises on the view of the tree-filled backyard, which the old house ignored. It's why we named the house Banyula - it means 'many trees' in the local indigenous language."



1. What used to be Hugo's bedroom was reconfigured to create a spacious entry.
2. Maggie greets visitors at the home's newly created front door.
3. A butler's pantry leads off the kitchen.
4. The ensuite includes a VJ-panelled wall in Dulux Oolong. Artwork by Katie Wyatt.
5. An Ethnicraft bedside table, In Bed linen and Camilla Q's 'Misty Morning Belongil' print are a stylish vignette in Hugo's room.
6. Joinery in Dulux Whisper White and a Carrara marble benchtop get the job done in the hard-working laundry.
7. Tactile ensuite touches include a 'Paros' hand towel from Aura Home, a 'Cloud' vase from Smithmade and a 'Lucerne' bowl from Provincial Home Living.

*SENEGAL BASKETS (BOTTOM LEFT) PROVINCIAL HOME LIVING
ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

