



LIGHTNESS OF BEING

With their children now grown, the owners of this Sydney home decided it was high time to ready their abode for a new life phase.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Kerrie-Anne Jones* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



FRONT VERANDAH The builder, Andy Bishop of Arthouse Projects, repurposed an old cane lounger into a romantic swing seat. Original tiles. **STREET ENTRANCE** Landscaping by Formed Gardens. House painted Dulux Beige Antiquity. Fence painted Porter's Paints Breakwater. Plant pots, Garden Life.

The palette

Dulux Harpoon
(living room)

Dulux Beige
Antiquity
(exterior)

Porter's Paints
Breakwater
(front fence)

ENTRY Shine grasscloth wallpaper in Ecru (inset panels), Porter's Paints. Sisal runner, International Floorcoverings. Table, Coco Republic. Apparatus Studio 'Cloud 37' pendant light, Criteria Collection. Kelly Wearstler 'Tracery' rug, The Rug Company. **STUDY** Opposite, top left and bottom Joinery painted Dulux Harpoon. Calacatta Viola marble benchtop, Artedomus. Kelly Wearstler wall sconce, Becker Minty. Diane von Furstenberg 'Python Glory' rug, The Rug Company. Antique desk, Desk chair, Fred International. Curvy sculpture by Sophie Nolan. Painting by Sharon Candy, Art2Muse Gallery. Custom roman blind in Mokum 'Eternal' linen. **ENTRY/LIVING** Cassina 'Utrecht' armchairs, Space. Adam Hunter 'Smoke' rug, The Rug Company. .

CHUNKY SISAL, SEAGRASS WALLPAPER AND ANGULAR FURNITURE GIVE THE HERITAGE FEATURES A FRESH, MODERN FEEL.



HOUSES H&G

After 21 years in this Sydney home, owners Kim and Gregg felt it was beginning to look a little tired. There was no question of abandoning the much-loved abode. Although three of the couple's four adult children had moved out, the home's spaciousness and leafy North Shore location were perfect; a makeover was deemed appropriate.

Kim had admired the work of interior design firm Studio Gorman in a magazine and began following its principal, Suzanne Gorman, on Instagram. "It was as simple as that - I liked her work," she says. Initially, Kim and Gregg's brief was to redo the main bedroom, but it quickly escalated to include most of the circa-1907 two-storey house.

The main bedroom suite, which occupies a prime position at the front of the first floor, was serviceable but not spectacular. "There was an unused bedroom alongside the main suite, which we could convert into a walk-in wardrobe," says Suzanne. "Then we could use the whole of the space formerly split between ensuite and wardrobe for a luxurious main bathroom."

But that's not all. Repositioning the bed in the centre of the room with a half-height joinery wall behind created space for a study nook, provided privacy for the bathroom, and focused attention on the home's harbour view. The generous walk-in wardrobe is punctuated by a turquoise ottoman, a hint of the bold strokes of colour and layers of texture employed throughout. Seagrass wallpaper, ▶

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



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shuttered windows and fresh paint contemporise the room which, true to its heritage, features panelled walls and ceilings and colourful leadlight windows. The highlight in the space is the Pinch 'Anders' light fitting, which draws a lot of interest from passersby. "It can be seen from the street and everyone loves it!" says Kim.

The next room to be tackled was son Nic's bedroom. Suzanne incorporated part of a corridor into the space to accommodate a bank of storage and a built-in desk. Two additional bedrooms, two bathrooms and a separate sitting room - perfect for their visiting grandson, 18-month-old Freddie - occupy the remainder of the top floor. All were refreshed with new paint and accessories.

Throughout the home, original tallowwood floors were re-stained a chocolate hue, and walls and stair balustrade painted in ecru or lined with seagrass wallpaper. "When I open my bedroom door in the morning it's so beautiful seeing all that white with the dark accents," says Kim.

What was the formal dining room has been repurposed into a music room for Nic, a professional musician. There's plenty of equipment, but the room never feels cluttered thanks to lofty ceilings that increase the sense of space. "There have been many rehearsals and even a recording session in here," says Kim. "But I just love that every part of the house is still used. We didn't need a formal dining room anymore as we eat in the kitchen or outdoors.

If we need it, there's another dining table in the living room we can use."

While the heritage aspects of the house are still evident in the living room, Suzanne and her team gave it a distinctly contemporary edge with chunky sisal carpet, seagrass wallpaper and angular furniture. "We weren't asked to be 'sensible'," says Suzanne, "but we were sensible and reupholstered pieces where we could and repainted a lot of existing joinery."

Luckily Kim isn't afraid of colour: emerald green tiles are used to dazzling effect in the powder room, while a mustard sofa in the study is a lovely counterpoint to the deep blue joinery. Suzanne gives credit to her colleague,

interior designer Jodie Gillman, for the choice of vibrant Dulux Harpoon on the joinery. Kim says it really makes the room.

The final fillip in the upgrade was the garden, which had been a bit neglected. Luke Baldwin of Formed Gardens judiciously trimmed, thinned and replanted, adding lush new magnolia trees that are visible from inside, jasmine creeper on the pool fence where pines once stood, and Boston ivy along the boundary. Box hedge by the pool fence was cut back to open up the back garden.

"It's been a beautiful family home," says Kim. "And it's even lovelier now."

▶ *Studio Gorman, Artarmon, NSW; studiogorman.com.*



LIVING Cassina 'Utrecht' armchairs, Space. Coffee table, Grazia & Co. Existing sofa. Font dining chairs, Fred International. Original leadlight windows. Sisal flooring, International Floorcoverings. Adam Hunter 'Smoke' rug, The Rug Company. Sculpture on table by Sophie Nolan.

THIS IS THE LIFE

Shaded by a large liquidambar, the expansive flat lawn abutting the pool and the outdoor living area is one of the family's favourite parts of the home. "We moved here from Melbourne when the children were quite small," says Kim. "We didn't think we'd be able to get the same amount of space in Sydney, but the garden has hosted many cricket and soccer games. Our 'kids' still like to play here, even though they are adults!". H&G

KITCHEN Duke the labrador waits expectantly for a treat. Black granite benchtops. Existing tapware and pendant lights. Kitchen stool, Curious Grace. Kelly Behun 'Domus Grey' rug, The Rug Company. **GARDEN** Owner Kim and her grandson Freddie enjoy the garden. *For Where to Buy, see page 192.*

