COLLECTOR'S EDITION DESIGN HANDBOOK

AUSTRALIAN

home beautiful

with GUEST EDITOR KATE WALKER

WIN *an exclusive consultation with* INTERIOR DESIGNER KATE WALKER *of* KWD&Co.



MASTER THE

ART OF *joyful* LIVING

DESIGN PRINCIPLES YOU CAN APPLY TO CREATE A HOME YOU LOVE

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COVER LOOK

In this spacious kitchen with two island benches, richly veined Calacatta marble is centre stage, which is softened with the warm tones of the contrasting honey-coloured flooring and a patterned runner. Brass lights and hardware elevate the look.

Photography: Lisa Cohen
Styling: Tess Newman-Morris

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home beautiful

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FEATURES WRITERS Rebecca Hooton, Rachel White
JUNIOR WRITER Lisa Easey
SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT PRODUCER Emily Murray
EMAIL HOMEBEAUTIFUL@AREMEDIA.COM.AU

PRODUCTION
PRODUCTION MANAGER Sally Jefferys
ADVERTISING CONTROLLER Dominic Roy

ADVERTISING
COMMERCIAL BRAND MANAGER Michelle O'Hanlon
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SYNDICATION
EMAIL SYNDICATION@AREMEDIA.COM.AU WEBSITE CONTENTSHOP.COM.AU

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GET IN TOUCH
LETTERS TO: *Home Beautiful*, Reply Paid 5252, Sydney, NSW 2001. EMAIL: homebeautiful@aremedia.com.au

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BEAUTIFUL COLOUR OF THE MONTH
Dulux Wash&Wear low-sheen paint in Sea Glass.



EDITOR'S LETTER

Designed for living

What is it about your home that makes you happy? Is it the abundance of natural light, use of space, cosiness, interior style, architecture? Or, perhaps, the question should be what is it you'd like to change about your home (realistically!) that will enable you to live a more joyful life? This is a theme we've been looking to explore, and one that interior designer Kate Walker of KWD and KWD&Co. is an expert in. To that end, I'm thrilled to share that Kate is the guest editor of this special collector's edition.

Going against the normal flow of reading a magazine, I encourage you to flip towards the back of the issue, to page 142, to read Kate's masterclass in *The Art of Joyful Living*. From spacial planning and material choices to working with colour and personalising your interior, this feature reveals precisely how you can create a home that feels wonderful, is a joy to behold and is easy to live in.

If you want to see more examples of Kate's design ethos, turn back to page 45 as she invites you into five exceptional homes, from family apartments to spacious houses made for entertaining. Each one has its own palette of colour and materials, selected not only to suit the homeowners' tastes and lifestyles , but to respect the architecture of the homes and the areas in which they're located.

Speaking of selecting colours, each issue we pore over Pantone charts to choose the perfect hue for the *Home Beautiful* masthead. This issue we knew we wanted a deep burgundy red with the intensity of Dulux Warmed Wine or Smoked Claret – you can tell where our inspiration came for this one. Kate was thinking the same, though the video she sent to show her colour preference contained a more sartorial reference: a handbag and pair of shoes. Design cues really do come from everywhere. To Kate and your extended team, thank you for editing such a special issue. And to you, our readers, we hope you feel inspired and excited by the pages that follow.

Elle Lovelock

ELLE LOVELOCK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Get in touch with me on Instagram @ellelovelock

Beautiful buys

Here's what I'm coveting and buying this month



Keeping warm in a pair of wool slippers, $199, Glerups.



Sampling the divine Queen of Silk EDP, $469 for 75ml, Creed.



If only I had another living room for the 'Aero' sofa, $2399, from Freedom. This cotton velvet in Caramel is gorgeous!



Updating joinery with Kaboodle 'Mushroom' knobs, $4.21, Bunnings.



The 'Mizu Drift MK2' Wall Basin Mixer, $319 from Reece, is a modern classic.

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Home Beautiful SHOP

PHOTOGRAPHY (PORTRAIT) ALANA LANDSBERRY

I firmly believe your environment has a direct impact on your life. Beyond the visual, your home has the power to change your perspective. As I celebrate 10 years at the helm of the KWD studio, I have learnt that the most rewarding part of KWD's design process is not the design itself, nor the execution. Rather, it is the lasting impact that our design decisions have in creating spaces that enrich lives. Designing beautiful homes is an unwavering passion and the joy I garner from my craft is amplified when my designs facilitate meaningful experiences and opportunities for connection.

Our homes serve as the stage upon which our stories unfold and family traditions are the threads that weave together the fabric of our lives. Whether it's the gathering of family at an evening meal, cosy Sunday mornings with pancakes for breakfast, or playing chess around an open fire, these rituals create a sense of continuity and belonging that nourish the spirit. In a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, these moments ground us in the warmth of familiarity and the comfort of shared history. Enamoured by family traditions, I have developed our KWD design principles that focus on creating spaces that foster intimate connections and moments for making memories.

For many years, I raised my two children as a single mother while trying to forge my way with my own business. Occasions to ingrain traditions at home eluded me, however, I never lost faith in the profound importance of creating a home that cultivates family rituals, which serve as pillars that anchor us to the shores of belonging. Now, after having met my life partner and his children, and embarking on the union of our two families, I find myself relishing the opportunity to create traditions that will bind us through the rich tapestry of shared experiences. It is in the practice of these traditions that we feel the true essence of what it means to be a family.

In this very personal issue of *Home Beautiful*, we take you on a journey of discovery, exploring my design ethos, 'the art of joyful living' (page 142), and the many and varied ways in which you can make your own home beautiful. I believe everyone should have the opportunity to live in a beautiful home, regardless of your budget or ability to engage a professional designer. In this edition, you will have unprecedented access to my design philosophy. You will see these design principles implemented across a myriad of KWD projects with varying aesthetics, from small luxury hotel-inspired projects in Mt Buller (page 90) to a coastal resort-style holiday home in Blairgowrie (page 104).

While each of our projects demonstrates a wide spectrum of design styles, it is our design hallmarks that are the subtle threads that connect each and every one of these homes, and make them identifiably KWD. Community, connection and creativity are my drivers. I am passionate about supporting strong, intelligent and independent women who have taken a chance on themselves to build their own entrepreneurial story. From Kelli Lundberg to Diane Bergeron, and from Anthea O'Connor to Til Foley (page 22), these pages celebrate many talented creatives, and the homes featured within this issue are a testament to the incredible women who make up the KWD family.

Thank you Elle, Victoria and Katrina for inviting me to share my 'art of joyful living' with you. As Maya Angelou said, "When you learn, teach. When you get, give".

My hope for this issue is that you glean informative, inspirational, constructive ideas that will support you in creating your own unique version of 'home beautiful'.

Kate Walker

PHOTOGRAPHY LISA COHEN STYLING TESS NEWMAN-MORRIS
TILES (IN BACKGROUND) TONGSHAN RED MOSAIC, KWD&CO.

Beautiful STYLE

SHOP | DISCOVER | DECORATE | STYLE | EXPLORE



PHOTOGRAPHY: KATE BALLIS

WOMEN IN STYLE *page 22*



DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Diane Bergeron (above) is a creator. She loves colour and texture, and she's a go-getter – designing her own fabric range in Australia, which is so rare. I love that her designs take the guesswork out of mixing and matching. Anyone who loves her colours and patterns can understand her approach is coordinated, considered and curated.

Head to dianebergeron.com.



A RARE GEM

A passionate and self-assured young woman from the Mornington Peninsula, Matilda Foley, also known as Til (left), is artistic and entrepreneurial in her work as a jewellery designer. A creative force, she designs and crafts her whimsical pieces for a youthful market, using solid sterling silver, 9 carat solid gold and a range of natural and synthetic gemstones, plus nostalgic birthstones. I adore her beautiful pieces and love buying them for my daughters.

Visit matildafoley.com.au.

WOMEN IN STYLE

KATE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING STRONG, INTELLIGENT AND INDEPENDENT WOMEN WHO HAVE TAKEN A CHANCE ON THEMSELVES TO BUILD THEIR OWN ENTREPRENEURIAL STORY

Edited by Kate Walker

MOVING MEDIUM

Gallerist and art expert Kelli (below) and I share a genuine passion for and deep affinity with art, and an understanding of how original art can emotionally charge and transform a space with a sense of uniqueness and originality. I have a great respect for her knowledge of the industry, and for the authentic way in which she represents her artists and showcases their work fairly and responsibly.

For more, visit kellilundberg.art.



PHOTOGRAPHY (DIANE) KATE BALLIS (MATILDA) PARIS GALLAHER (KATIE) KATE COLLINGWOOD (ANTHEA) DANIELLE CASTANO (KELLI) LEON SCHOOTS ARTWORKS (KELLI IMAGE) BY BADEN CROFT, EMMA DAVIES, PHOEBE ROLLESTON, ALEX SLATTERY, LIAM WALDIE & ELENA ZHAO

MODERN WONDER

Based in Victoria, Elise Danckert (below) is the owner of fine jewellery brand Danckert Studios. She has an innate sense of style and an understanding of contemporary culture. Her designs, imagery and commitment are sublime. Elise's signature made-to-order jewellery pieces are powerful in their simplicity, carefully curated to bring joy.

Head to danckertstudios.com.





A NEW LENS

Katie Carmichael (left) is a talented photographic artist who takes inspiration from her travels, her environment and from nature. This approach really resonates with me as a designer. Looking at the world through her lens is such a moving experience, and her work takes pride of place in many KWD projects, including within my own studio.

To see more of her work, visit katiecarmichael.com.au.

FASHION FORWARD

Anthea O'Connor's meticulous eye for detail sees her personal styling as a must-have to curate the ideal wardrobe. With more than two decades of experience, including her role as the former Melbourne editor for Vogue Australia, Anthea (right) champions slow fashion and quality pieces that stand the test of time. Anthea's considered and ruthless wardrobe editing creates cohesion and ease, instilling confidence – indeed the best accessory.

Visit @antheaoconnor and antheaoconnor.com.



CREATIVE COLLECTION

BLOWN AWAY

ETHEREAL CHANDELIERS AND ORGANICALLY SHAPED HOMEWARES TAKE FORM IN THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA STUDIO OF GLASS BLOWER LEISA WHARINGTON

Story REBECCA HOOTON Photography LEON SCHOOTS

At a glance

Who: *Glass artist Leisa Wharington.*
What she does: *Designs and creates glassblown wares for the home, particularly custom lighting.*
Where: *The Studio & Co in Moorooduc, Victoria.*
Why she does it: *"I enjoy working and making things," says Leisa. "I'm so grateful that my job is joyful every day."*
Visit: *thestudioandco.com.au, @the_studio_and_co*

THIS PAGE: *Leisa is working on a 'Petal Chandelier' to feature in the entrance of a new home. She uses a blow pipe to shape the glass.*
OPPOSITE: *The light sculpture is almost two metres wide and glorious to behold up close.* ›



Not to sound dramatic, but glass artist Leisa Wharington works with dead people. Well, their ashes, sometimes. "People have asked me to roll the ashes of their loved ones into glass," she shares candidly. "This young woman's father was a surfer. He loved activity, and I said, 'I can't imagine him static in a piece of glass.' I made an hourglass with her dad's ashes inside so she can turn him upside down."

It's all in a day's work for the master manipulator of molten glass. From a dainty bird to adorn someone's table to a lighting sculpture that glows in the private dining room of Melbourne restaurant Vue de Monde, the commissions are coming in thick and fast for Leisa's work of "I can do anything for anyone really, within limits," says the expert glass designer and blower. Yet 'expert' doesn't even come close to capturing her skills, honed over a lifetime.

Her desire to mould magnificent shapes began in childhood and was set in motion with a lump of clay. "I started doing pottery classes at the age of 10," says Leisa, who grew up on the Mornington Peninsula and remains in the area to this day. It was during a ceramic design course at university that she did a major in glass design and has followed that path ever since. "It's mainly been solo work," explains Leisa. "I've made the pieces, beginning to end, by myself. That's probably set me apart from other glass blowers because most work in a team."

It's a career that's not for the weak. A furnace runs 24 hours a day in Leisa's studio, at around 1150 degrees Celsius, with a crucible inside that holds around 80 litres of molten glass. "My gas bills are huge," she says. It takes a creative mind but it's also very physical work. There's a blow pipe to make bulbous glass forms and she welds metal together for the large light frames. "You're restricted to the size at the end of the blow pipe and also my strength and equipment capabilities."

THIS PAGE: *Coloured rods (top left), mainly from Germany, are used to add colour to clear molten glass as it's being shaped. "You can get literally any colour," says Leisa. "I do a lot of colour but I also do clear glass."* ***OPPOSITE:*** *Creations by a number of artists are displayed for sale at The Studio & Co shop. Pottery by Andrew Gibson and a painting by Julie Hamilton sit beside a water decanter and vases with faces by Leisa, with her pink 'Petal Chandelier' hanging in the background.* >







Various work spaces have served Leisa well over the years but the time came when she wanted more. "I didn't like being in a factory that I had to pay rent for and I thought, how do I purchase a building to do my work in?" she says. As fate would have it, a large old building became available in Moorooduc, Victoria.

For the last few decades the building had been The Bottom Drawer Antique Centre. "I furnished my house with a lot of the furniture sold there," says Leisa. But long before that it was a shop that Leisa bought treats from as a child. "I literally lived within five kilometres of this building. I used to ride my pony here and tie it out the front," she says. "I'd walk in to buy ice-cream or lollies, then ride home again."

With big plans for its next chapter, Leisa partnered up with her accountant Nadia Hughes from Unfair Advantage Accounting. They purchased the building and spent two years renovating it before opening the doors of The Studio & Co in early 2024. It's a hive of work spaces for around 10 creatives, including jewellery makers, artists and photographers, while also catering to the public. They can shop in the stores, browse the gallery and get a coffee or bite to eat at the cafe. "You can spend at least an hour and a half here," says Leisa. "We're excited that everyone can enjoy the space."

It's a huge achievement, yet Leisa's proudest accomplishment in life remains unrelated to work: "My beautiful children, creating them," she says. There's Charlotte, 33, Sophie, 31, and Max, 27, with a new addition joining the fold. "I've got a grandchild now, which is delightful," says Leisa proudly. "Daphne is one and she's divine."

THIS PAGE: *Many of the designs for Leisa's work, including this table lamp (top left) from the Petal Collection, look like they're straight from a dream world – because they are. "I wake up in the middle of the night and draw in my sketchbook," she shares. The ideas are brought to life using tools of the trade, such as jacks (left & above).* ***OPPOSITE:*** *Some of Leisa's smaller pieces include the 'Petal' plate and an etched face vase, pictured with a salt dish and bread boards from Arteveneta.*



"I SAVE *Saturday mornings* TO DO EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND THAT'S REALLY FUN" LEISA

Beautiful SHOPPING

DECORATING IDEAS AND STYLISH BUYS FOR YOUR HOME



PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB

LIFE IN COLOUR *page 32*

Life in COLOUR

We've created four gorgeous palettes, inspired by KWD bathrooms, for powder rooms with personality

In this powder room, Kate creates an avian theme with 'Heron' wallpaper by Gucci. The earthy pink hue continues in the vanity of Cosmopolitan quartzite and the Rosso Verona marble flooring, both from KWD&Co.

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) ARMELLE HABIB ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Wild WONDER



CREATE *the* LOOK

Above, clockwise from top left: *'Heron'* ***wallpaper*** *in Pink, $900/set of 2 3.5m rolls, Gucci. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Galah, $116.90/4L. Suzanne Kasler 'Juliette'* ***lamp****, $2990, The Montauk Lighting Co. Antique Italian Pink Marble* ***tiles****, KWD&Co.* ***Door handle*** *in Aged Brass, Domino. Ralph Lauren Home 'Ella'* ***light*** *in Natural Brass, $3190/small, The Montauk Lighting Co. Cosmopolitan* ***quartzite****, KWD&Co.* ›

Forest SECLUSION

With handsome Dulux Strong Olive from floor to ceiling, this powder room from KWD is an enveloping space. The organic appeal is complemented by the vanity from RH and a framed botanic print from Cromwell.

"Be innovative with the type of tiles you choose, how you lay them and where you place them"

KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER



PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) ARMELLE HABIB ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

CREATE *the* LOOK

Above, clockwise from top left: *'Botanical'* ***print*** *(35cm x 28cm, unframed), from $45.42, Capricorn Press. 'Elements' glass mosaic* ***tiles****, KWD&Co. 'Loft'* ***soap dish*** *in Snow, $49.95, Country Road. Kelly Wearstler 'Liaison'* ***sconce*** *in Bronze, $1340/medium, The Montauk Lighting Co. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Strong Olive, and Black, $123.05/4L.* ***Door handle*** *in Powder Coated Black, Domino. French Contemporary single customisable* ***washstand****, RH.* >

Earthy NEUTRALS



CREATE *the* LOOK

Above, clockwise from top left: *Thomas O'Brien 'Reed' single* ***sconce****, $690, The Montauk Lighting Co. Mulberry Home 'Grand Flying Ducks'* ***wallpaper****, Elliott Clarke Textiles. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Lexicon Half, $98.90/4L. Tumbled* ***tiles*** *in Botticino and Bardiglio, KWD&Co. 'Menton' lever* ***door handle*** *in Antique Brass, $219, Trad Co. The Water Monopoly 'Lonsdale'* ***basin****, from $1775, The English Tapware Company. Marmoset Found 'Teardrop'* ***vase*** *in Chalk White, $102.50/large, Home Beautiful Shop. Warwick 'Chambray'* ***fabric*** *in Snow, $66/m, The Fabric Editors.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) ARMELLE HABIB ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Bring the outdoors into your interiors like KWD did here with the use of Mulberry Home 'Flying Ducks' wallpaper in Taupe, available through Elliott Clarke Textiles. White wainscoting contrasts underneath. >

"Storage is not so important in a powder room, unless it doubles as a guest bathroom"

KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

Tickled PINK



CREATE *the* LOOK

Above, clockwise from top left: *Chapman & Myers 'Claymore'* **sconce,** *$1340, The Montauk Lighting Co. Cristallo Rosa* **Quartzite,** *KWD&Co. Kirsten Perry 'Folded Squished'* **vase,** *$600, Kitly. Dulux Wash&Wear* **paint** *in Camellia, $116.90/4L. Windfield Thybony by Kravet 'Sisal'* **wallpaper** *in Sangria, 731cm x 91cm roll, Elliott Clarke Textiles. 'Barre Assembly'* **taps & spout** *in Brushed Brass, $364.80, Abi Interiors. Orris* **soap,** *$35/115g, Oliver Thom.* **Tiles,** *KWD&Co. For similar* **skirting board** *(painted Dulux Camellia), try Woodhouse Edge Line FJ Primed 'Aus Colonial' moulding, $23.22/5.4m, Bunnings.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) ARMELLE HABIB ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

This small space has a big personality, thanks to the playful pinks in KWD&Co's Cristallo Rosa Quartzite vanity and the Ralph Lauren grasscloth fabric from Phillip Jeffries. HB

"Have a little fun with your powder room. Express yourself and showcase your style"

KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

From MILAN *to* MELBOURNE



Fresh from Milan's 2024 Salone del Mobile design fair, Victoria-based interior designer Kate Walker shares her 10 favourite finds

1. Custom Terracotta ***tiles****, Terraformae. 2. Rottet Collection 'Luminosa'* ***screen****, Artemest. 3. Assia Karaguiozova 'Water Illusion'* ***vase****, Poltrona Frau. 4. MGM Marmi e Graniti 'Curl'* ***armchair*** *in Marble Verde Alpi, Artemest. 5. Faye Toogood 'Squash' long* ***mirror****, Poltrona Frau. 6. Barbara Frua 'Maya' jute* ***rug****, Alberto Levi Gallery. 7. 'Fleur'* ***pendant****, Volker Haug Studio collaboration with Flack Studio. 8. Dedar Milano custom* ***screen*** *in 'Promenade Kafkaïenne' fabric, South Pacific. 9. Don Cameron Bloc 'Element'* ***sofa****, Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert. 10. Zieta 'Plopp'* ***stool****, The Modern Traditionalists.* HB

BACKGROUND TILES (OPPOSITE) TERANOVA



A CUT ABOVE

Designer gardening? You bet, with this pair of Sophie Conran for Burgon & Ball secateurs, $110.50, by Quality Products Direct.



MAKES SCENTS

Could this 'No. 2 Tomato, Fennel and Basil' candle, $59, by Hunter Candles, be the perfect kitchen fragrance? We think so.



Staff pick

KATRINA YAXLEY
Creative director

BENCH MARK

IN THE BEDROOM, HALLWAY OR LIVING AREA, THE 'ETHAN' WOVEN OTTOMAN, $1360, BY HIGHGATE HOUSE, WILL LOOK RIGHT AT HOME.

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at homebeautiful.com.au/shop

Clean team

With over 99% plant-derived ingredients, Wash Wild's lemon-eucalyptus Kitchen Starter Pack trio is a must. $25 for 300ml Multipurpose Spray, Dishwashing Liquid and Glass Cleaner.





OVER THE RAINBOW

Embrace one of the latest tablescaping trends – the joyful table – and treat each place setting to these beautiful 'Bei' coloured glass tumblers by Casa e Cucina, $138/set of 6 mixed or single colour.

SERVES YOU RIGHT

For serving salads, sandwiches or delectable desserts, this large 'Cloud Oval' ceramic plate in Moss is the answer. $92.50 by Marmoset Found.



ETERNAL CLASSIC

Your search for the perfect, timeless table lamp is over! The 'Picasso' lamp in Natural with White shade, $745, by Cafe Lighting & Living, will work with any interior design style.



Home Beautiful SHOP

Beautiful HOMES

THE STORIES, STYLE AND LOVE THAT MAKE A HOME BEAUTIFUL



PHOTOGRAPHY MARTINA GEMMOLA

HOME FOR LIFE *page 46*

HOME FOR LIFE

INDOOR SPACES MELD SEAMLESSLY WITH OUTDOORS FOR RELAXED, YEAR-ROUND LIVING

Story JANE PARBURY Styling ANNALESE HAY
Photography MARTINA GEMMOLA

WONDER WALL A leather-clad two-storey fireplace designed by KWD delivers a warm, tactile welcome in the entrance (above & opposite) of Kelli and David's Mornington Peninsula home. Engineered flooring in European oak forms a subtle grounding for a Cadrys rug and Zuri Home console. Unsurprisingly, given Kelli's work as a gallery director and art adviser, striking artworks feature throughout. Max Patté's large circular artwork *Peachy Keen*, 2020 (opposite) is the first piece guests see on entering, while four butterfly artworks – from 'The Souls' series by Damien Hirst – peek through the 'Spider' light fitting by Porcelain Bear. >



Eagle-eyed *Home Beautiful* readers may find something familiar about this Mornington Peninsula home. Back in 2019, we revealed the first stage of the substantial renovation of Kelli and David's property. The couple engaged Kate Walker of KWD to undertake a two-year makeover of the 1970s home, transforming it into a warm family home. An alpine luxe aesthetic played out in a blend of natural materials, quiet hues and standout finishes.

However, the couple, who share their home with son Sam, 20 – their elder son Jack, 22, has now flown the nest (but can't help but return often!) – weren't quite finished. "This was the third stage of a major renovation, intended to provide multiple areas, indoors and out, for our family and friends to enjoy throughout the Melbourne seasons," explains Kelli. Kate and her team returned to tackle the next part of the project. "KWD were great to work with, with a deep understanding and appreciation of innovative materials and design," says Kelli. "They knew our family and our needs after working together for many years."

For this stage of the works, certain things were at the top of the couple's wish list. "Walls for art and a well-designed cellar, somewhere for dinners under the stars within a private courtyard, and a gravel and cobblestone driveway!" recalls Kelli with a laugh. "Not too much to ask for?" The interior spaces enjoyed minor updates, such as the home office and adding cabinetry and storage in the living and dining zones. But most of the work was devoted to outdoors. These were given the full treatment, with new garden and pool pavilions, a gym and infrared sauna, while the existing garage was fitted with storage cupboards and a mudroom. The gardens, including a new mineral pool and spa, were extensively reworked by landscaping firm Plume Studio.

Kelli has many favourite things about the completed home: "The ability to move between indoors and out, no matter the season; traversing the garden to the pavilion allows for an experience of the elements where the sunken fire-pit cocoons us as the garden matures; the dappled sunlight from the vines over the arbour is delightful as we move into the cooler months," she says. "Not to mention there are now several prime locations to sample a local Pinot from the cellar!" ***For more stunning homes, visit homebeautiful.com.au.***

DINING A custom-designed dining table from Coastal Living, paired with ladderback chairs from Big Chair and a 'Bident' pendant from Porcelain Bear, brings the wished-for alpine flavour to the dining area. An Elena Zhao artwork from Kelli Lundberg Art hangs between the doors above a pine bench from Barefoot Gypsy. Beyond, a console table from Restoration Hardware is a handsome and useful addition to the space, with a Neil Williams artwork positioned above. A rug from Cadrys brings pattern and interest. **OPPOSITE** Kelli enjoys a quiet moment with Raffy the miniature schnauzer in the new pool pavilion. The abstract artwork is *Many Stars*, 2018 by Ildiko Kovacs. >

LIVING Yet another representation of the seamless indoor-outdoor feel this home enjoys, the living room doors and windows (below) frame a picture-perfect view of the garden. Pots and plants sourced from Verdant Dwellings connect with greenery outside, with a sofa and armchairs, all from Jardan, and Cadrys rug, bringing a cosy, comfortable feel. The little side table came from Mark Tuckey. **ALFRESCO** An arbour houses a seating area (opposite) stocked with armchairs and a side table from Restoration Hardware. "My favourite part about the completed, updated home is that we activated every single square metre," says Kate. "Every area and facet of the property is interconnected and designed for use, which is key to KWD's design ethos." >

"KWD DESIGNS ARE INSPIRED BY MOTHER NATURE, AND THIS PHILOSOPHY ALIGNED PERFECTLY WITH THE CLIENTS WHO HAVE A REAL AFFINITY WITH THE LAND" **KATE, DESIGNER**





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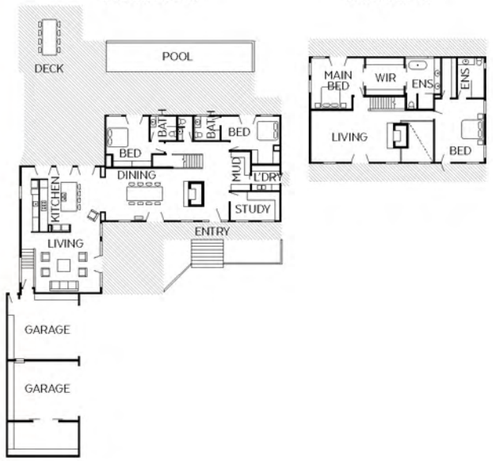
KITCHEN Cabinetry painted in Porter's Paints Black Cockatoo and topped with Calacatta marble is the perfect complement to the expanse of greenery beyond the black steel-framed doors, supplied by builders Kabsav Projects. Leather bar stools from Coco Republic bring a softening element to the square lines of the island. It is now just a convenient few steps from the kitchen to the large outdoor dining table and pool pavilion beyond. >

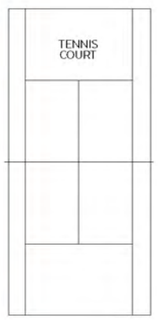


ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



FLOOR PLAN





GARDEN PAVILION





POOL PAVILION This newly built space, floored in cathedral limestone pavers and with a brick-clad open fireplace, boasts a soaring pitched open ceiling (opposite). A custom-designed outdoor rug grounds the space, with outdoor seating sourced from Restoration Hardware, inviting family and friends to kick back and relax. A collection of oversized pots, from Plume Studio and Colin Hyett Design, delivers a swathe of greenery in the corner, connecting the space to the garden. An extensive outdoor dining table and chairs from Restoration Hardware stand on the gravelled area between the kitchen and new pool pavilion, fulfilling Kelli's wish for "somewhere for dinners under the stars within a private courtyard". >



"AFTER A TRIP TO THE CITY, THERE IS ALWAYS A GENTLE EXHALE AS YOU CREST THE HILL AND GLIMPSE THE BAY FOR THE FIRST TIME" **KELLI, HOMEOWNER**







GARDEN PAVILION Overlooking the tennis court (above), the garden pavilion includes a shower room (top left), bar and wine cellar (top right). The shower room is lined in Kosciuszko mosaic tiles by KWD&Co, with a vanity topped in Calacatta marble, and Perrin & Rowe wall-mounted fittings from The English Tapware Company. Behind the bar is a wine cellar by Cellar Creations, painted in Porter's Paints Black Cockatoo. Ligne Roset 'Togo' seating from Domo and a Cadrys rug combine with curtains from Lynch's Window Fashions and polished plaster walls in Porter's Paints Rubble (opposite). "The eldest son loves DJing from this space, and in terms of acoustics he preferred not to work from a hard surface," explains Kate. "It was important to choose a rigorous flooring that was fit for purpose, and Bolon is a hardwearing Swedish sustainable, recycled, woven vinyl." ›

ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) *SKY BURGER (APRICOT)*, 2023 BY JONNY NIESCHE
ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Source book

Designer: *KWD, (03) 5974 1800, katewalkerdesign.com.au*
Builder: *Kabsav Projects, kabsav.com.au*
Landscaping: *Plume Studio, plumestudio.com.au*
Artwork: *Kelli Lundberg Art, kellilundberg.art*



GET *the* LOOK

Clockwise, from top left: *Sheer* **curtains**, *Lynch's Window Fashions. 'Double-Tiered'* **sconce**, *Sarah Nedovic. Jan Kath 'Bidjar Kingx'* **rug** *in Green (304cm x 398cm), $56,000, Cadrys. Kelly Wearstler 'Rousseau'* **chandelier**, *$8490/medium, The Montauk Lighting Co. 'Mesa' aluminium* **lounge chair** *in Slate, from $3140*, RH. Wittmann grain-cut* **side table**, *from $5195, Domo. 'Togo'* **settee** *in Alcantara Kiwi, from $8950, Domo. 'Legacy Basket' large* **vase**, *Cromwell. 'Eggcup'* **stool**, *$835, Mark Tuckey.*

POOL A pair of relaxing daybeds teamed with a side table, all from Restoration Hardware, provide a relaxing spot to enjoy the sparkle of sunlight on the new mineral pool (opposite).

*ALL INTERNATIONAL PRICES ARE BASED ON CURRENT EXCHANGE RATES AT THE TIME OF PRINTING
ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



HIGH COUNTRY

SPATIAL SORCERY WAS EMPLOYED TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY INCH IN THIS COSY ALPINE APARTMENT

Story SHELLEY TUSTIN Styling BELLE HEMMING Photography MARTINA GEMMOLA

WARM EMBRACE This holiday home in the Victorian alpine town of Mt Buller, belonging to a family of five, has been transformed with a raft of smart techniques by interior designer Kate Walker. The honey-toned ceiling brings cocooning warmth to the kitchen, without visually lowering it. "The kitchen has a commercial feel, where we cleverly used mirrors to amplify the reflection and make the space feel much bigger and more open," says Kate. The cabinetry (in Dulux Prestige Blue) allows plenty of room to move around a marble-topped island bench, which turns the space into the social centre of the home. "We created a hosting kitchen where we imagined friends would join them for après drinks. We designed an obligatory bar, which is concealed during the day and opened in the evening, with beautiful brass grilles that glow in the evening light," says Kate. >

*BACKGROUND (OPPOSITE) CP & J [illegible] IN GRANITE, AVAILABLE THROUGH ELLIOT CLARKE
*ACTUAL PAINT COLOURWAY [illegible]



osiness is exactly what you want from an alpine retreat, but when 'cosiness' means 'cramped', it loses its appeal somewhat. This was the primary challenge faced by interior designer Kate Walker of KWD when she began redesigning this two-bedroom Mt Buller apartment to fit a family of five – including three exceptionally tall sons. "With my understanding of snow life – days spent on the slopes and evenings spent at home – I knew having five tall people in a tiny apartment was going to be a challenge. Careful consideration had to be given to the layout, the storage, and how everyone would integrate with the space," explains Kate about the project.

With dated finishes and low ceilings, the apartment was ripe for reinvention, so Kate went ahead with a full gut and refit, replacing every element. Priority one was making smart use of every inch. "During the ski season, we head up every few weeks with our youngest child who is 15 years old, and often we take his friends. Our eldest ones tend to head up there themselves and enjoy time when school and university permit," says the homeowner. With an often-full house, the second bedroom needed to work incredibly hard, so Kate designed bunk beds that stretch the length of the room to sleep four full-size adults.

The single bathroom was another challenge, needing to work for multiple people, all heading out or coming back from the ski slopes. "We designed a three-way bathroom, so three people can be getting ready at the same time. One person can be showering privately, one person can be brushing their teeth at the vanity, and one person can be in the separate powder room," says Kate. "We prioritised face-height storage, like hotel storage, understanding that the apartment is a weekender/holiday home so permanent storage wasn't necessary."

The family are keen travellers, who love a quirky yet luxurious boutique hotel. "We wanted it to feel like we were overseas in a dark and moody chalet," the homeowner shares. Kate answered this call in typically bold KWD style, with a saturated colour palette of deep blue and mustard, and spaces that are drenched in colour. Shades of navy and blue-black are brightened with brass accents in a look that's pure luxury, while a complex gold hue has been taken from walls to ceilings in the main living space, creating a visually warming space to recline once the snow-sodden boots have been shed.

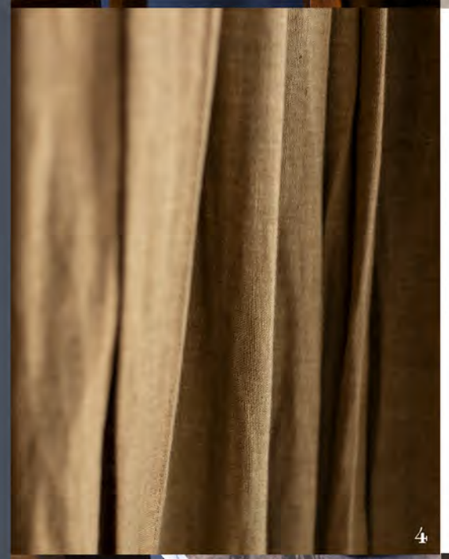
The look is a balance of comfort and luxury, but the true success of the design is in its usability. "By looking outside of the standard response to kitchen, dining and living design flow, we were able to amplify the usability of the space, increase the circulation, and find a way for five very tall people to be able to congregate and live harmoniously in a small, but perfectly formed, alpine apartment," says Kate.

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1. The bar stools were custom designed for alpine-chic comfort, with leather-look vinyl, contrasting plaid (GP & J Baker 'Nevis' fabric) and smart stud detailing to finish.
2. Nothing says winter like a bowl of freshly roasted chestnuts.
3. Brass details add another layer of warmth to the palette of deep blue and Manhattan Grey marble.
4. The living room curtain matches the tones in the rest of the home.
5. Chic metal grilles add personality and texture to the kitchen cabinets.
6. Warm timber flooring reflects the colour of the walls and ceiling, painted in Porter's Paints Biscotti.
7. The cabinets in the kitchen are finished in Dulux Prestige Blue.
8. A close up of the artwork titled *Passion* by Lisa King Taylor, which is on display in the kitchen area. >


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ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION


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LIVING AREA Warm biscuit tones create a sanctuary within the open-plan space. Walls in Porter's Paints Biscotti tone with sheer drapes, custom leather sofas from Arthur G and a 'Circus' pouf in Yellow from Mr & Mrs Designer (try Top3 by Design) in the living area (below & opposite). Kate describes the custom-designed wool and silk rug as "artwork for the floor", and with the other textures in the apartment – cushions plus throws in a basket from Inartisan – the living area is a cosy space to hunker down in while snow falls outside. The artwork, titled 'Passion', is by Lisa Taylor King. >

"We knew we had to look at the apartment differently, and to be creative with the layout and play with the illusion of space and height"

KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION







FLOOR PLAN



MAIN BEDROOM "With the masculine feel throughout the apartment, tailored to the four male occupants, we wanted to introduce a touch of femininity to the master bedroom with some unexpected, beautiful florals," says Kate. The deep hue of Porter's Paints Blue Steel sets a moody tone, yet the custom bedhead from New Image Upholstery, Polite Society bedlinen and Lucy Montgomery fringed cushions in the main bedroom (this page & opposite) are all about comfort. Little pops of mustard in the drapes and plaid Roman blinds connect the colour scheme to the adjoining living room. >

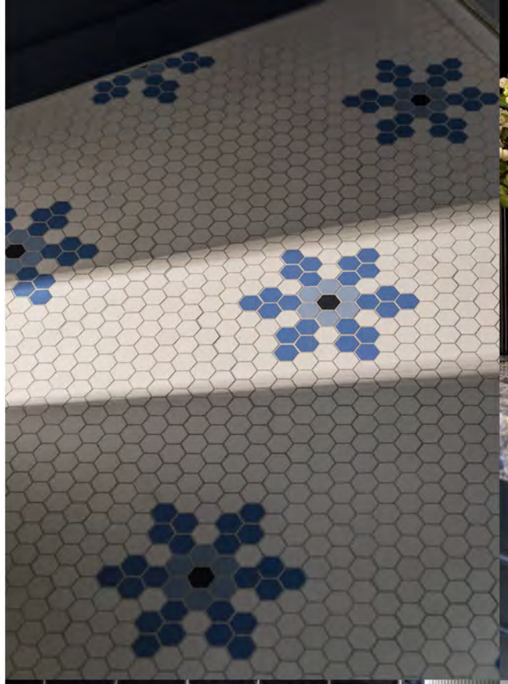
ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



WE LOVE... *colourful spaces*

Embracing one or two hero hues and swathing a space with them creates rooms that are just right for snuggling up in. "We didn't want to design a space that was too literal in its alpine flavour," says Kate of the mustard and rich blue used. "These saturated colours are not normally associated with an alpine environment, but they are so warm and inviting. The mustard almost glows." Visit porterspaints.com.au. >













BATHROOM Kate gave the mountainous location a nod with the mosaic-tiled floor in the bathroom (above & opposite). "It introduces a sense of a hotel lobby and amplifies the feeling of a high-end powder room while being very practical. The snowflake motif playfully reflects an alpine flavour," she says. The bathroom is really three spaces rolled into one, to allow simultaneous use when the apartment is full of people – reeded glass helps to turn the shower into a semi-private space, the main vanity is in the centre of everything, and a powder room opens off to one side. A backdrop of moody blue hues, including vanities in Dulux Prestige Blue with Azul Bahia granite tops, is punctuated by warm brass and gold-tinged accents. >

ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



GET *the* LOOK

Clockwise, from top left: *Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Prestige Blue, $116.90/4L. Porter's Paints Eggshell acrylic* ***paint*** *in Biscotti, $155.90/4L. 'Indian Revival'* ***rug*** *in Mashad Grey, $17,000/366cm x 271cm, Cadrys. Ralph Lauren Home 'Anette' single* ***sconce*** *in Natural Brass, $990, The Montauk Lighting Co. Lucy Montgomery x Basil Bangs 'Regatta'* ***cushion*** *in Navy, $329, Lucy Montgomery. 'Conrad' 3-seater* ***sofa****, from $6090, Arthur G. Moroccan zelige mosaic* ***tiles****, Tiles of Ezra. Oxford decorative* ***grilles****, from $2665/sqm, The English Tapware Company. GP & J Baker 'Nevis'* ***fabric*** *in Granite, Elliott Clarke. Timothy Oulton 'Angeles'* ***barstool****, $2795, Coco Republic.*

BUNK ROOM The challenge of sleeping a houseful of grown adults (the homeowners' three sons are all over six-foot tall!) was ingeniously solved with custom-sized bunk beds and mattresses that stretch the full length of the bedroom (opposite). Wall and ceiling surfaces in Porter's Paints Black Blue are punctuated by statement pieces: the Northern 'Moo' moosehead wall light and a handy zebra-print folding stool from Alfresco Emporium.

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Source book
Interior Designer: *KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au, (03) 5974 1800.*





DESTINY CALLING

A FAMILY STROLL TURNED INTO MUCH MORE THAN THIS COUPLE EXPECTED WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THEIR DREAM BLOCK OF LAND

Story JULIA FAIRLEY Styling TESS NEWMAN-MORRIS Photography LISA COHEN

PEACHY KEEN This charming abode was nothing but derelict land before Georgia and Tom (above) bought it and built a home for their young family (above, left to right), Kingston, Rex, Teddi and Coco. Taking a blank canvas and creating a design that was functional and homely proved tricky, so they enlisted the expert vision of Kate Walker and the KWD team. Alongside clever design decisions, elegant finishes and craftmanship, Kate elevated the couple's pink-toned colour palette. True to the scheme, shutters in Dulux Recycled flank the front door in Porter's Paints Newport Blue (opposite). >

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



ix months before Georgia and Tom bought the land they call home, the couple wandered past the wide frontage with their firstborn and took a prescient photograph of themselves at the Mornington Peninsula site, which – in hindsight – seems destined to be theirs. Back then, the double block was just neglected land, though the couple, who had already built three homes together, were smitten with its potential. "We thought, 'Imagine if we owned this'," recalls Georgia. Half a year later, they did.

The pair had just sold their townhouse when the land was listed for sale and, after clinching it while Georgia was expecting their second child, they began drawing up a vision for the 1040-square-metre site. "We wanted a home that was quite nostalgic and a bit romantic. We love traditional aspects but with modern touches," says Tom, a builder and founder of Cahill Building Group.

When the time came to engage an interior designer, it made sense to enlist a tried and trusted source, so the couple turned to Kate Walker, whom Tom had worked with on several of his clients' homes. "We got Kate involved to elevate the house and make the design more magical, because we didn't really have any concept of how to create this characterful type of home," he says.

A collaboration ensued, and an exquisite design followed. At the same time, Georgia and Tom's family continued to grow, so Kate adjusted the hoped-for five bedrooms into six to accommodate family plus friends. The beauty of each space is tempered with practicality. Custom cabinetry designed by KWD aided functionality, while luxe hard finishes ensured durable beauty. "Kate helped us in getting that balance right," says Tom.

With the design finalised, Tom took the construction under his wing, building late into the night and on weekends for 13 months, driven by an ambitious goal: "He wanted to wake up as a 30-year-old in this finished home and give himself a pat on the back for achieving what he has," explains Georgia. "And he did. We moved in the day before his birthday." Like a birthday gift that keeps on giving, the home has brought the family joy every day since. "It feels like a tranquil retreat," says Georgia. "It's everything we dreamed of and more."

For more stunning homes, visit homebeautiful.com.au.

ENTRY With the curved balustrade, custom runner and floor tiles designed by KWD using three contrasting Italian marbles, the entry foyer (above) is a statement 'splurge' space. "But when you first enter the front door, it sets the tone for the entire house," shares Tom. A Globe West 'Axel' bench and Estilo Studio fluted table finish the look.
LIVING ROOM A Coco Republic 'Westwood' sofa and 'Odessa' coffee tables join a carpet from Shop A Rug (opposite). >

ARTWORKS (THIS PAGE) UNKNOWN (OPPOSITE) 'BLIND TO ME' BY BRENT ROSENBERG

KITCHEN Kate proposed the twin Calacatta Vagli islands in the kitchen. "When she suggested it, I thought 'Why would we have two island benches?'" recalls Georgia. "But it is by far one of the biggest assets of the home. We use them every day and if we ever build again, we will be putting in two island benches. Having four kids, it's where we eat dinner, it's where they create with playdough and draw with crayons. It was a Kate Walker masterstroke." Four 'Grosvenor' pendants from The Montauk Lighting Co crown the space. An extra-wide Ilve 'Nostalgie' freestanding cooker is put through its paces and teams with a Brodware pot filler and tapware in Rumbled Brass. The chevron engineered European oak floor from KWD&Co. is softened by a Cadrys runner. >

"WE WANTED A CHARMING CONCEPT FOR THE HOME, SOMETHING THAT WAS FAMILY ORIENTED AND TRADITIONAL" **GEORGIA**

LIVING ROOM The generous open fireplace in the casual living area (below & opposite) and the smell of wood smoke bring back memories of Tom's childhood home. "I grew up with one and really wanted to have a wood fire again," he says. Plump with cushions from Adairs, the Oz Design 'Loft' sofa in Faye Beige provides a cosy fireside lounging perch alongside two Coco Republic 'Luna' occasional chairs in Velvet Rose. The romantic pink palette continues in the Calacatta Viola 'Alpine' coffee table from Coco Republic and Sekers 'Dunraven' curtains in Jute, which chime with the custom KWD&Co. sisal rug. "The pink component was very much me," says Georgia. Kate embraced Georgia's love of pink, but elevated it into a mature dusty pink palette. >











MAIN ENSUITE Kate created an indulgent ensuite for the couple, where a Victoria + Albert 'Marlborough' bath takes centre stage (below). Custom marble floor mosaics add glamour, while the vanity, in Porter's Paints Newport Blue, harmonises well. "Rather than going bold with extravagant colours that would have made a massive impact, we focused on elegant textures and craftsmanship – mouldings around the doors, wainscoting throughout the home and custom cabinetry panels that KWD designed," says Tom. **DRESSING ROOM** The couple enjoy individual dressing rooms. "Georgia still uses some of mine, though!" quips Tom. In Georgia's robe (opposite), 'Manhattan' carpet in Pewter from KWD&Co. is layered with a Miss Amara 'Tippy' rug and an ottoman featuring 'Faces' fabric by Octavia Tomyn in Clay. 'Reed' sconces from The Montauk Lighting Co bring elegance.





ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

WE LOVE... *smart savings*

Plentiful clothes storage was a priority, so to value manage, Kate suggested installing flat-pack Ikea wardrobes, painted in the same colour as the walls – Porter's Paints Rubble – and adding custom handles. These details elevated an off-the-shelf storage system. In years to come, custom joinery can be retro-fitted. "They look custom – they have glass drawers, jewellery drawers and you can make them into what you want," shares Tom. >

PRIMARY SUITE "The colour of our master bedroom was all Kate," says Georgia of the main suite's scheme (below). The Pottery Barn 'Farmhouse' canopy bed joins a Coco Republic 'Atelier' sofa and En Gold coffee table. **WHISKY ROOM** This secretive space (opposite), accessed via a mirrored door in the main bedroom, is layered with bold King Living 'Oliver Tub' chairs, a Schots Home Emporium side table and En Gold rug. An inspired design solution that adds both personality and intrigue, the concept converts an otherwise underutilised space into an evocative adults-only retreat that reflects the essence of a hidden speakeasy. >





KITCHEN Fluted French doors lead from the kitchen through to the butler's pantry (below), which also houses the laundry and mudroom. For cohesion, Kate specified Hepburn Hardware 'Kew' handles throughout, using them on the French doors, kitchen cabinetry and pantry joinery. Painted in Porter's Paints Flagstone, the kitchen's neutral walls and joinery let the more tactile materials shine. **BUTLER'S PANTRY** Chequered stone floor tiles echo the Porter's Paints Newport Blue in the combined butler's pantry, laundry and mudroom (opposite). Floor-to-ceiling cabinetry offers ample storage, while a wide fireclay sink and Brodware tapware make easy work of washing days. The unexpected touch of prioritising space to hang artwork in a traditionally utlitarian space – and highlight it with picture lights – adds the final flourish. >



ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

ALFRESCO Tom crafted the suspended sofas in the alfresco living area during one of Victoria's Covid lockdowns. "The porch swings were one of Georgia's biggest wishes for the house," he tells us. Enjoyed even on wintry, rainy days, the sheltered outdoor area is one of the most-frequented areas of the home. "We can have 14 people for lunch out there. It's a beautiful spot with the open fireplace," says Tom. The couple paired a 'Cross Leg' dining table from Early Settler with 'Peninsula' outdoor dining chairs from Abide Interiors and equipped the space with an outdoor kitchen. The exterior walls and James Hardie 'Linea' weatherboards are fresh in Dulux White Cloak Half, which mingles with the 'Stuart' mirror from Oz Design. "The backyard is different to the rest of the house; it has a holiday vibe," says Georgia. Miami Marble from KWD&Co. Landscape design by Plume Studio.

ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Source book

Designer: *KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au, (03) 5974 1800.*
Builder: *Cahill Building Group, cahillbg.com.au, (03) 5975 2465.*
Landscape design: *Plume Studio, plumestudio.com.au, (03) 7018 3240.*



GET *the* LOOK

Clockwise, from top left: *Porter's Paints eggshell* ***paint*** *in Newport Blue, $155.90/4L. Thomas O'Brien Decorative Reed* ***sconce*** *in Antique Brass with linen shade, $690, The Montauk Lighting Co. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Snowy Mountains Quarter, $116.90/4L. Celestial marble mosaic* ***tiles****, KWD&Co. Calacatta marble* ***benchtop****, KWD&Co. 'Kew'* ***handle*** *in Acid Washed Brass, $49.95/128mm, Hepburn Hardware. 'Kyoto' curtain* ***fabric*** *in Snow, James Dunlop. Casarialto 'Petal' Murano* ***glass**** *in Gold, $230, Artemest. Perrin & Rowe bath/shower* ***mixer****, $4100, The English Tapware Company. Victoria + Albert 'Marlborough'* ***bath****, $5310/1900mm, Design Bathware. 'Roma' side* ***chair****, Cromwell.*

ALFRESCO Mature palm trees were on Georgia's wish list (opposite). Luckily, Tom was working on another project where several palms had to be removed, so he transplanted them here. The family often invite friends over to enjoy the pool.

*ALL INTERNATIONAL PRICES ARE BASED ON CURRENT EXCHANGE RATES AT THE TIME OF PRINTING ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

To boldly go

INSPIRED BY BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATION, THIS APARTMENT IS A LUXURIOUS HOME WITH A HOTEL FEEL

Story SHELLEY TUSTIN Styling BELLE HEMMING Photography MARTINA GEMMOLA

SCENE STEALER As keen travellers, the homeowners of this luxe abode in Mt Buller, Victoria, gave interior designer Kate Walker a brief inspired by destinations they love. "One of their favourite aesthetics is that of a hotel chain they stay at in London – Firmdale Hotels. They were very inspired by the design, so they really wanted the apartment to feel like a small luxury hotel," says Kate. And, a peek inside reveals the mission has been accomplished, with this holiday home – which often serves as a full-time residence – emanating a playful look, and where upholstery adds layers of colour and pattern. ›

Feeling a kinship with your interior designer is surely the first step to a successful project – and the owners of this Mt Buller apartment didn't have to look too hard to find a connection with their designer, Kate Walker. "The apartment in question was one that my fiancé and I had looked at purchasing, so I had an intimate knowledge of the interior, and of the potential," says Kate. "We didn't have the chance to purchase the apartment, so the joy I derived vicariously by being able to deliver the owners their dream ski home was immense." In addition, the homeowners' tastes and vision for the property aligned perfectly with Kate's own. "It was definitely a passion project," she says.

Designing a weekender is an opportunity to have fun with interiors – when it's not your permanent home, you can be bolder than you otherwise would while, in theory, skimming over some of the mundane practicalities. In that sense, this project was a unique challenge because the ski-mad homeowners use it full-time for a large chunk of the year, living and working here for weeks on end, with their young children. "It was very important for us to design a home away from home that wasn't just a weekender," explains Kate.

As well as the holiday home essentials, the owners also needed a WFH space that would be flexible enough for them to work in relatively close confines with each other and their children. To solve this problem, the largest bedroom was turned over to the kids and reinvented as a bunk room-meets-rumpus room, giving the family a secondary living space for the children to play in. Meanwhile, the parents have their choice of workstations, with built-in desks in the bedrooms and a dining nook that can be turned into a spacious desk.

The residence required no skimping on the storage, too. "With my experience of alpine life, I know what is required in terms of ski gear storage," says Kate. "It is very bulky and requires specific care with adequate drying cupboards." The bedroom storage is abundant – there's no living out of a suitcase here – and lockable cupboards mean the owners can lease out the apartment, if they so desire, without removing their own gear.

They wanted a boundary-pushing space, with pops of colour and playfulness. "The whole apartment envelops you with colour – sultry blues, inky charcoals, purples, oranges, chartreuse, navy and hot pink," shares Kate. The result is delightfully contradictory: cocooning yet invigorating, luxurious but ultimately warm and welcoming.

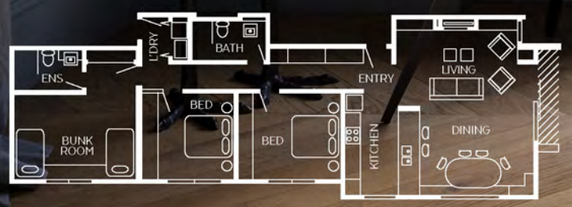
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LIVING AREA Walls in Porter's Paints Dark Newport Blue set a moody tone in the living area (opposite), where daring hues stand out against the deep backdrop and reflect the homeowners' enthusiasm for bold colour. A 'Collette' sofa from Arthur G in a cool blue pairs with invigorating patterns in 'Lexi' ottomans from Arthur G, upholstered in Pierre Frey 'Cochiti' fabric. Nearby armchairs are swathed in Pierre Frey 'Louisiane' fabric. Sleek 'McClain' picture lights from The Montauk Lighting Co, on either side of the fireplace, illuminate deer prints from Cromwell. >

FABRIC (OPPOSITE, IN BACKGROUND) PIERRE FREY 'COCHITI'. ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

DINING NOOK The dining nook is a truly multi-functional space: cosy enough for dinner en famille, able to seat up to 10 people when entertaining, and used as a comfy work-from-home zone during the day. The nook is framed in the warmth of brass, with a Kelly Wearstler 'Utopia Linear' pendant overhead, Aerin 'Iva' wrapped sconces on either side (all from The Montauk Lighting Co), and the bronze-toned hammered resin base of the Hamilton Conte 'Ines' dining table. Upholstery delivers colour, with Gubi 'Beetle' dining chairs from Surrounding upholstered in royal purple, and space-savvy banquette seating in Jerry Pair orange leather and pinstriped velvet 'Stella' fabric from Pierre Frey. The Swedish forest print is from Cromwell. >

FLOOR PLAN



"THE MAGNIFICENT RESULT SHOWS HOW INCREDIBLY INSPIRING AND TRANSPORTING A SPACE CAN BE WHEN YOU COMMIT TO COLOUR"

KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER



1



2

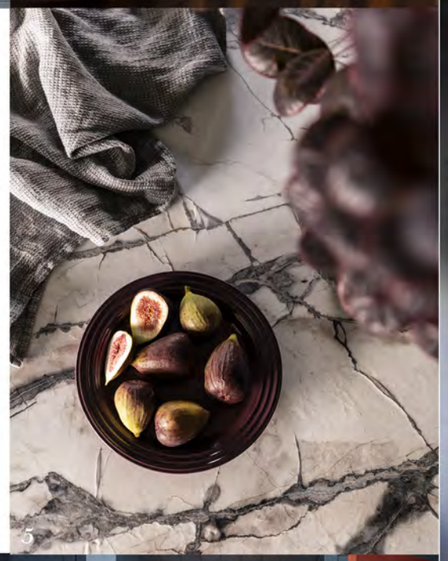


3



4

1, 3 & 6 A space-savvy banquette seating nook in Jerry Pair orange leather is paired with Pierre Frey pinstriped velvet 'Stella' fabric.
2 & 4 A palm leaf mirror (Cromwell) contrasts with the elegant fireplace in Cote d'Azur marble in the living room.
5 & 7 "The kitchen (also pictured opposite) is multi-purpose, and so beautiful. By day it's a light and inviting family kitchen, and by night it becomes a moody bar," says Kate. Dark cabinetry in Porter's Paints Squid Ink is brightened by La Chance 'Tembo' stools from Living Edge and benchtops in Cote d'Azur marble with a textured leather finish. "The natural stone we used is spectacular. It is reminiscent of snow-capped mountains, which works so perfectly in the space."
8 "We carefully designed every square inch of the hallway with custom joinery, so while it is a transitional space with ample storage, it also feels and looks so beautiful with artwork, lighting and an absolutely stunning runner," says Kate. The Roger Oates 'Fitzroy Bright' runner is striking against the dark joinery. >



5



6



7



8



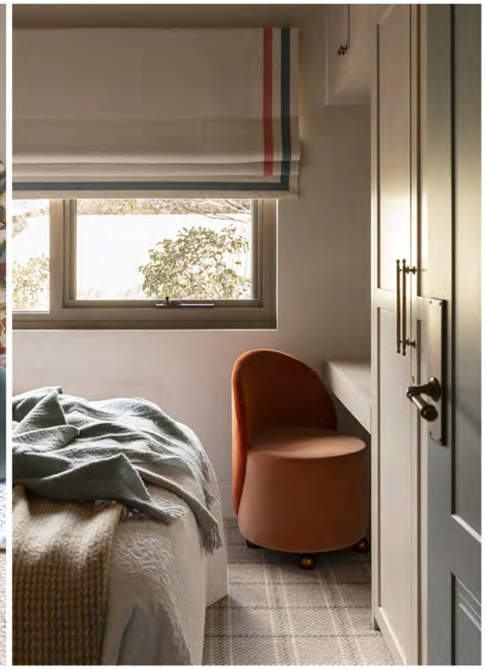
ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

BUNK ROOM It's hard to imagine a more homely space than the bunk room (below & opposite) to curl up in on wintry nights. Blinds in Mokum 'Eternal' fabric in Teal blend with the walls, joinery and ceiling in Dulux Jimbaran Bay, creating an embracing effect. Though primarily a sleeping space for the kids, the whole family can gather in here to watch TV or play games – the William Yeoward 'Tenbury' games table below the bold print (both from Cromwell) is a quirky and functional centrepiece.

WE LOVE... *flexible spaces*

The children's room doubles as a rumpus and TV room. Custom joinery is key: bunks, a built-in bed/sofa, oodles of cabinets, plus under-bed storage. "This space planning decision was an absolute game changer in terms of the functionality, turning what was a three-bedroom apartment with a small living space into a three-bedroom apartment that includes a bunk room with a three-sleeping capacity that doubles as a rumpus room," says Kate. ›







BEDROOM With the homeowners working from the apartment, Kate integrated desk spaces into each of the bedrooms. In one of the home's bedrooms (this page), an 'Arch' vanity chair from Snelling Studio serves as a boudoir-worthy office chair – the warm hues link back to the bedhead in Lee Jofa 'Leyland' fabric. Storage features in every bedroom to ensure the family has plenty of room to stash essentials. **MAIN BEDROOM** Kate mixed patterns in the main bedroom (opposite), with the ikat bedhead in Pierre Frey 'Pitaya' fabric balanced out by cushions in Ralph Lauren 'Dudley Glen' fabric and carpet in a tartan pattern from KWD&Co. Statement lighting is a leitmotif within the apartment; here, a Bragg & Co 'Pop' onion lamp perches on the bedside table. >



ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



Clockwise, from top left: *'India Revival'* ***rug*** *in Mashad Charcoal (428cm x 307cm), Cadrys. Kelly Wearstler 'Utopia Linear'* ***pendant*** *in Gild, $3790, The Montauk Lighting Co. Palm leaf* ***mirror*** *in Gold, Cromwell. 'Dots'* ***carafe*** *in Amber, $129, Bonnie & Neil. Oxford decorative* ***grilles****, from $2490/sqm, The English Tapware Company. Pierre Frey 'Louisiane'* ***fabric****, Milgate. Diane Bergeron 'Collette'* ***sofa****, from $7840, Arthur G. William Yeoward 'Tenbury'* ***games table****, Cromwell. 'Pinot' glass* ***bowl*** *in Large, Cromwell. Porter's Paints Eggshell acrylic* ***paint*** *in Dark Newport Blue, $155.90/4L. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Jimbaran Bay, $116.90/4L. 'Swedish Forest'* ***artwork****, Cromwell.*

LAUNDRY Located at the entrance, the laundry (opposite) needed to look great as well as being practical. The stone tile floors pair with the benchtop and splashback in 'Act Three' terrazzo from Fibonacci.

Source book
Interior designer: *KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au,(03) 5974 1800.*

ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



COAST MEETS COUNTRY Approaching this holiday home, you're immediately immersed in the lush landscape. "It integrates perfectly with the coastal location, with the entrance winding through a forest of moonah trees," says interior designer Kate Walker. It's everything you'd hope for in a getaway and far from what was once in its place. "There was previously a two-bedroom log cabin on the block," reveals the homeowner, who recognised the untapped potential. "Property owners have private beach access at the end of the street." The new build looks fresh, with a Colorbond roof in Basalt and cladding in Dulux Natural White. Ornamental grape vines frame the Dulux Blue Metal front door with a crepe myrtle adding a dash of pink.

STYLING ASSISTANT NATALIE PETROVSKI

Never leaving

THIS HOLIDAY HAVEN IN A SEASIDE TOWN JUST SOUTH OF MELBOURNE IS SHIPSHAPE FOR FAMILY TIME AND UNWINDING

Imagine long, lazy afternoons in this holiday home. Going for dips in the pool or the heated spa when it's cool, cooking on the barbecue and having a hit of tennis. That was the dream for the owner and her family who enjoy languorous breaks here, by the sea. "Every time we arrive at our home 'Alani' we feel an immediate change in our stress levels," she shares of the Victorian site. "We wanted the home to bring with it a sense of peace and calm, and we feel that."

Life is busy for the family of five, with the mother of the house working in natural health, her husband in a corporate job and three teenagers whose calendars are full with school and socialising. The goal for this build was for a place they could escape to and spend quality time together. "We wanted to provide a family space to enjoy but also wanted a floor plan suited to the long-term," she explains. "Our teenagers have lots of friends over, so we wanted them to have their own space to hang out."

Plans for a five-bedroom boathouse-style home took shape, with two living rooms and a spacious central kitchen. The U-shaped floor plan was by BD Building Design and Magnus Construction took on the build. Then, Kate Walker of KWD steered the interior design ship, using natural tones and tranquil blues to evoke the Australian coast. "Our aim was to achieve a sense of resort-style living, where you can drive through the gates into your own private space with everything for a family getaway," says Kate. From the Lucy Montgomery cushions to The Montauk Lighting Co lights, the homeowners adore every detail. "We don't regret the spend at all," they say.

There's a light-filled gym and infrared sauna, but the star attraction for all visitors is the new tennis court. "Our two Shih Tzus love running around the garden and seeking out wayward tennis balls and returning them to the house," says the homeowner. "Everybody will have a hit, especially the kids. They like to play with their friends and there is always someone perched up on the umpire's chair."

Lifelong memories will certainly be made here. "Speaking to them after their first family summer in their coastal resort made it clear that the home brought them so much joy, happiness, interaction with friends and family connection," shares Kate. ›

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Story REBECCA HOOTON Styling JADE LEE MARTIN Photography TIM O'CONNOR

WE LOVE...
connected spaces

"When you're delivered a floor plan that is so large, the risk is that you create a home where the family separates," says interior designer Kate. "Sightlines from the two living spaces through the central kitchen create a sense of connection while allowing family members to do their own thing." The interior balances a need for both solitude and togetherness.

"The kitchen has that lakehouse feel and we couldn't wait to see it come together"

HOMEOWNER

KITCHEN & DINING AREA "We married American proportions with English sensibilities," says Kate of the grand home. The tone is set by the 'Riley' large ring chandelier from The Montauk Lighting Co, which hangs above an existing timber dining table and chairs, a mustard-coloured Cadrys rug and engineered oak floors. The textural 'Zelligie Bianco' matte tiled splashback from KWD&Co and Lygon Street Pottery pieces on the table and kitchen island lend an organic edge. A pair of Kelly Wearstler 'Phoebe' stacked table lamps stand on the sideboard. >

ARTWORK UNKNOWN

KITCHEN The central anchoring point of this kitchen is the traditionally designed chimney rangehood, which houses a freestanding Ilve Majestic cooker from Winning Appliances. Cabinetry in the cooking area (below & opposite) is Farmers Doors 'Shaker Weathered Oak' with brass handles from Domino, while the scullery and cellar bar is differentiated in Dulux Blue Metal. 'Ziera' marble benchtops from KWD&Co are paired with a white double fireclay sink and Perrin & Rowe tapware, both from The English Tapware Company. Counter stools from Classic With a Twist add texture. A large drip glaze vase by Owen Rye from Craft Victoria and a chequered bowl basket from Pan After (opposite) relax the space, as does the Cadrys runner. ›







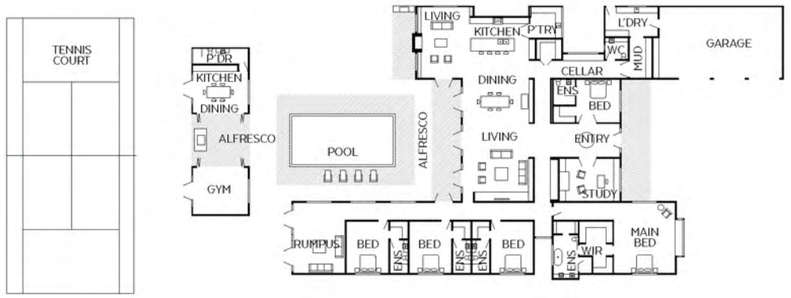




SITTING ROOM The elegant sitting room (this page) features upholstered window banquettes and 'Huxley' armchairs from Coco Republic. The fireplace surround is 'Ziera' marble from KWD&Co, with a Cromwell print above. A 'Tiramisu' coffee table from Just Adele highlights the colours in the Cadrys rug and holds a Simone Karras vase from Pepite and a 'Wilber' bowl from Boyd Blue. **LIVING ROOM** In the formal living space (opposite, top left) Rachel Donath 'Safari' occasional chairs and a double 'Bryant' sconce from The Montauk Lighting Co make a statement. **GUEST BATHROOM** It's all tonal in the bathroom (opposite, top right), with 'Zelligie Bianco' matte tiles, 'Miami' marble floor tiles and a 'Ziera' marble benchtop, all from KWD&Co. Brodware tapware ties in with a 'Katie' sconce from The Montauk Lighting Co. **LAUNDRY** Custom joinery adds storage (opposite, bottom left) near a Cromwell print and Cadrys runner. **MUDROOM** This practical space (opposite, bottom right) is also treated to Cromwell art and a Cadrys rug. >



FLOOR PLAN







MAIN BEDROOM With a comfy custom window seat, this is a dreamy parents' retreat. Bedding and throws by Hale Mercantile Co create lovely layers, with floral cushions designed by KWD & Co. At the end of the bed is a 'Bellingham' acacia double bench in Country Grey from Cromwell on a Cadrys rug. The 'Carlisle' armchair from Pottery Barn is nestled in a corner next to a shell-shaped vase by Terunobu Hirata from Craft Victoria. Beside the bed is a Boracay Chest from Provincial Home Living topped with a table lamp from Cromwell and vase by Gordon Hickmott from Lygon Street Pottery. A Cromwell print adds a touch of feathered fun alongside elegant floor-to-ceiling curtains from Lynch's Window Fashions. >

"We love the custom fabric bedhead by Lucy Montgomery"

HOMEOWNER

WALK-IN ROBE & ENSUITE Cloaked in Dulux Blue Metal and underpinned with 'Montauk' carpet from KWD & Co, the striking walk-in robe (below) frames the way to the ensuite (opposite, top left), where a Hugi freestanding tub pairs with a 'Manhattan' bath/hand shower set from Brodware. 'Mercer' sconces from The Montauk Lighting Co glow over the vanity. **BEDROOM & ENSUITE** 'Zelligie' aqua tiles from KWD & Co brighten this secondary ensuite (opposite, top right), while Hale Mercantile Co bedding cosies up the room. **STUDY & BAR** In a twist, the moody home office (opposite, bottom left & right) features a bar in Azul Bahia Granite. Dulux Blue Metal joinery teams with Coco Republic armchairs and a Maharam Edition Artek Stool 60 from Anibou, upholstered in 'Big Stripe' fabric by Paul Smith. The Montauk Lighting Co floor lamp stands beside a Louise Roe bowl from Design Stuff. >











ARTWORKS (TOP RIGHT) CROMWELL (BOTTOM RIGHT) UNKNOWN
* ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION







"We love to entertain our friends in the pavilion. We often sit in the lounge area having drinks"

HOMEOWNER

TENNIS COURT Stretching along one side of an alfresco pavilion is the tennis court (top & bottom left), which acts as a magnet for friends and family to gather and flows to the pool area. "This home is all about the resort lifestyle. It's perfect for tennis tournaments, the ultimate pool parties and summer soirees," says Kate. "The traditions you can inaugurate and memories that can be made are endless, which is at the heart of joyful design." The scene is complete with a court-side umpire's chair and a vibrant Classic With A Twist bar cart, with plenty of balls ready for fun and games.

ALFRESCO & POOL Whatever you could wish for in an outdoor area year-round, this home has it. "We love having a spa at night and are so happy that we put one in," says the homeowner. "We use it all throughout the year, especially in winter." From the house you can see the pavilion-style pool house (above), with a gym on the left and a bar and lounge area on the right. Snow pear trees grow next to the pool area, paved in aged limestone, with sun lounges from The Teak Place sourced by KWD & Co. A white table and chairs from Classic With A Twist offer a spot to bask with a beverage. ›

Source book

Interior designer: *KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au, (03) 5974 1800.*
Building designer: *BD Building Design, bdbuildingdesign.com.au, 0408 671 701.*
Builder: *Magnus Construction, magnusconstruction.com.au, 0403 334 590.*
Landscape designer: *Plume Studio, plumestudio.com.au, (03) 7018 3240.*
Landscaping: *Element Gardens, elementgardens.com.au, 0438 741 383.*

GET *the* LOOK



Clockwise, from top left: *Tectona 'Rayure' backrest* ***cushion*** *in Beige, $231, Classic With a Twist. 'Broome' outdoor* ***cushion*** *in Sand, $64.95/50cm x 50cm, Freedom. Made In The Shade* ***umbrella,*** *$1370, Classic With a Twist.* ***Backgammon set*** *in Antique White, $299, and* ***beach blanket*** *in Monaco Natural Stripe, both Business & Pleasure. Aged* ***limestone,*** *and zellige 'Caribbean' gloss* ***tiles*** *in Aqua (125cm x 125cm), both KWD&Co. Tectona 'Batten'* ***dining table*** *in Natural Teak, $6684, Classic With a Twist. Bitossi water* ***tumblers,*** *$159/set of 6, Alex and Trahanas. Ceramic water* ***jug*** *in Sea Green and Cream Stripe, $260, Alex and Trahanas. Tectona 'Batten'* ***dining chair*** *in Natural Teak, $1294, Classic With a Twist.*

ALFRESCO "We often enjoy a barbecue breakfast with our family," says the homeowner. The outdoor kitchen (opposite) has 'Ziera' marble benchtops to match the interiors, and the pavilion creates a shady oasis for the Freedom dining setting. A stone-clad fireplace makes the space usable all year. **POOL** The pool and spa (above) are popular with all ages. Sun lounges from The Teak Place are set against a landscape designed by Plume Studio and installed by Element Gardens.

Beautiful DESIGN

KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | EXPERT ADVICE | RENOVATE | CREATE



Good design can make your life easier, from solving storage issues to ensuring effortless flow in your home. This month's guest editor, Kate Walker of KWD, shares her advice for designing your dream kitchen and ensuite, plus inspiration and tips to help you create your child's own happy space.

8 SIMPLE RULES
page 124

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB STYLING JULIA GREEN

8 *simple* RULES

GOOD KITCHEN DESIGN DOESN'T HAVE TO BE CONFUSING. IN FACT, IT'S AS SIMPLE AS PLAYING BY THE RULES

Words MELANIE QUIRK

The secret to good kitchen design lies in finding the balance between form and function. Both a practical workspace and a social hub in the home, the kitchen is where we prepare and share, where families connect and friends gather. As such, every detail should elevate the aesthetic as well as the experience. To help, Kate Walker of KWD cracks open her rule book and reveals eight clever must-haves for a successful kitchen design. "It's about playing with scale and priority," she reassures us. And best of all, these guidelines apply to kitchens of all sizes, regardless of whether you have a petite spot for food prep and cooking or are blessed with bigger proportions.

1. Get moving

"Our kitchen design generally begins with spatial planning," says Kate. "Our focus is on movement. We consider how our client wants to use their kitchen and their daily habits." After all, the perfect kitchen design for a seasoned cook, budding baker and keen entertainer will all be drastically different. And that's before you take into account how many people the room needs to serve. "Considered spatial planning ensures every square inch is utilised effectively, minimising wasted space and maximising storage."

Opposite: *This Danish-inspired kitchen was designed by KWD with family connection in mind. The island and splashback are swathed with striking (and practical) quartzite, while the floor is tiled with silver travertine. There's also plenty of storage concealed behind the cabinetry and island.*

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB STYLING JULIA GREEN

2 *Seek help*

Kate suggests engaging a joinery designer to create custom cabinetry and storage solutions that suit your space and lifestyle. "They understand how a kitchen works," she explains. "Spatial awareness, heights of benchtops, the latest technology inside drawers, hidden storage, space-saving devices, and circulation – a joinery designer ensures each of these elements are considered and function effectively."



3. Just add colour

Colour plays a crucial role in setting the mood and defining the style of a kitchen. "Vibrant or moody blues and greens, or deep pinks and reds, can inject a sense of calmness, energy and vitality into what is a functional space," explains Kate. "When it comes to colour, dive in headfirst." But before you paint any walls, think about lighting. Natural light affects how different hues appear in the kitchen, so consider the orientation of windows and the amount of sunlight the room receives. Lighter colours help reflect natural light and make the space feel brighter and more open, while darker colours absorb light and create a more intimate atmosphere.

4. Go au naturel

Kate loves natural stone for island benches, benchtops and splashbacks, and natural materials such as oak for flooring. "I adore the individuality and uniqueness of natural stone, where no two pieces are ever exactly the same," she tells us. "When treated with respect, it patinas beautifully over time." Natural materials imbue your space with organic beauty, blurring the boundary between interior and exterior. They also tend to have a longevity and timelessness when maintained correctly. "I love the softness of European oak flooring underfoot and positioning a rug on the floor in front of an oven," adds Kate. "Such understated luxury."

Above & opposite: *For Kate's own kitchen, she wanted to create a modern farmhouse feel, so emphasised organic details and materials. The timber grain on the two-pack polyurethane joinery doors, manufactured by Gravina, shines through the Dulux Currency Creek finish.* >

5 Mix it up

For visual interest and tactile allure, deftly blend various textures, colours and finishes. Think natural stone layered with handwoven rugs, timber veneer and hand-painted finishes; a juxtaposition of sleek metals with matte surfaces; and neutral tones highlighted with accent hues. This not only looks good, it also serves practical benefits, such as ease of maintenance and durability. "In embracing the art of mixed materiality, you can infuse every corner of your kitchen with a harmonious balance of beauty and functionality," explains Kate.

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB STYLING JULIA GREEN
ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



REMEMBER THE 3 Cs

Kate's '3 Cs' kitchen design principle debunks the antiquated triangle myth. By zoning your consumables, cooking and cleaning areas you enhance functionality and efficiency, helping maintain order during food preparation and avoiding potential hazards.

1. Consumables: *Consider smart solutions for preserving your consumables in the pantry and fridge.*
2. Cooking: *Meticulously plan the layout of your food prep and cooking zones to suit your lifestyle and family.*
3. Cleaning: *Cut down on maintenance time by constructing your kitchen with optimal workflow and easy cleaning in mind.*

6 *Shine a light*

Strategic lighting solutions enhance the ambience and functionality of any kitchen. "Consider where you position windows, skylights and glass doors to flood your space with natural light," suggests Kate. "Task lighting for cooking and cleaning is important, as is lighting inside cupboards." Wall sconces and table lamps are often multi-functional, providing softer lighting for the room in general, while also creating good task lighting for specific jobs. And why not finish it off with a beautiful pendant above your dining table or kitchen island? This can make a stunning statement and emphasise the mood you want to create.

7. Enhanced range

A custom rangehood adds a touch of elegance to any kitchen design, while also playing a vital role in ventilation. Opting for a bespoke rangehood tailored to the dimensions and style of your kitchen can turn this functional piece – which ensures efficient smoke and odour extraction – into the focal point of your space.

8. Apply yourself

"We always suggest selecting your appliances early in the design process as they dictate the layout and functionality of the kitchen," explains Kate. Prioritise high-quality, energy-efficient appliances that align with your cooking routines, entertaining habits and lifestyle so they integrate seamlessly into the overall design scheme. Your selection of kitchen appliances will depend on how you like to cook – be it with induction, gas or electric, wall ovens or cookers – for small dinner parties or large family gatherings.

Above & opposite: *The hard finishes, fixtures and fittings in a kitchen are the most difficult to replace, so focusing on quality is essential. Here, Kate made use of KWD custom joinery, 'Kew' handles from Hepburn Hardware and tapware from The English Tapware Company. Kelly Wearstler 'Cleo' pendant lights from The Montauk Lighting Co add to the luxe look and tie in with the scheme.*

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB STYLING JULIA GREEN



Ensuite bathrooms

PERSONAL SPACE

HAVING AN ENSUITE IS A DREAM FOR MANY HOMEOWNERS – HERE'S SOME EXPERT DESIGN ADVICE TO HELP ELEVATE YOUR SPACE

Words BRITTANY SMITH & MELANIE QUIRK

If you have enough space for your own private bathroom then, to many people, you're living the dream. However, when planning this hardworking room, it can be easy to get bogged down in practicality and function while forgetting all about style. Here, Kate Walker of KWD shares her top tips to perfect this balancing act, so you can ensure your ensuite hits the sweet spot.



Right: *The dramatic veining on the Amazonia stone vanity is stunning in this ensuite. Custom shield mirrors from Outlines sit above twin basins, which allow for fuss-free sharing in those busy moments.*

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB STYLING (THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) JULIA GREEN

GETTING STARTED

If you want to begin your day on a positive note, then creating an ensuite you truly love is a great place to start. After all, bathrooms are usually the first room we step into each morning, so it makes sense that they can help set the tone of our day. "An ensuite should be designed to engender a sense of wellbeing, peace and calmness," says Kate. And, as always, preparation is key to a delightful design.

PLANNING IT OUT

Prized placement

Identifying the right position in your home's floor plan can make a world of difference for your ensuite, especially when it comes to letting in extra light. "Whether it's a new build or a renovation, we always try to position an ensuite bathroom facing east to capture the morning light," explains Kate. Not only does an abundance of natural light help with make-up application in the morning, it's also a strong mood booster. "There's something so special about capturing the natural light when you're getting ready to face the day," adds Kate. If an eastern orientation isn't possible, consider adding a skylight or strategically placing mirrors to reflect the sunshine.

Out of sight

Clever ensuite design doesn't just make for a better-looking bathroom – it also allows for flexibility and functionality so multiple people can use the space simultaneously. Shared bathrooms are intimate, so including some privacy helps keep the peace. "Sightlines are so important," says Kate, who believes hiding the toilet from view of adjoining bedrooms or walk-in robes is a must. "If space allows, we always recommend a toilet and shower separated by fluted glass to allow natural light to filter in while maintaining privacy," she suggests.

Considered approach

"Organisation is definitely key to a feeling of wellbeing," says Kate. Instead of rushing through the planning stage, stop and think about every step of your household's daily bathroom use, then ask yourself what you need to create an intrinsic sense of ease during those moments. "Create a considered space for everything, so the rush of the bathroom routine in the morning is intuitive and automatic," says Kate. Oft forgotten – but important – design details include rubbish bins and laundry hampers incorporated into your joinery to maintain a seamless and uncluttered look, while also increasing functionality.



Top: *KWD created a playful pattern with 'Bianca' Carrara tumbled cobblestones and 'Pietra Grey' tumbled marble tiles on the walls and floors.* ***Above:*** *In this ensuite, doors to the shower and powder room are framed in the same stone used on the vanity for cohesion.* ›



Top: *Custom joinery built by Vansellar Kitchens provides stylish storage. This frees up the basin to be decorative, with beautiful brass stands to complement the warm bathroom.* **Above:** *Autumnal curtains from Lynch's Window Fashions demonstrate how drapes can be decorative, serve a practical purpose and add softness to a historically perfunctory, cold and hard-surfaced space.*

FINISHES WITH FLAIR

No matter how clever the design of your ensuite, the space is never going to feel quite right if your bathroom is visually lacklustre. And how disappointing would it be to spend so much time on this room, only to fall at the final hurdle. Decoration and styling constitute more than a simple cherry on top of a well-organised zone; they are essential ingredients to create an ensuite that is perfect for you and your family.

DECORATIVE DETAILS

Cosying it up

"An ensuite bathroom should feel anything but sterile," warns Kate. "There's no need for reflective, cold surfaces." These bathrooms are extensions of the bedroom, so they should reflect all the comforts, textures and tones found within it. There are many ways to incorporate stylistic elements from your bedroom and home into your ensuite. You could adopt the same colour palette, repeat lighting featured elsewhere in your interior or use the same materials in other rooms for your vanity top and joinery. The key is to extend your style into the ensuite for a warm and welcoming environment.

Special treatment

While tiles and stone are popular, they are not the only option available. "Consider different wall treatments like panelling or wallpaper," suggests Kate. "As long as the shower is separate and waterproof, you can be creative with materials to create a joyful space." A well-considered scheme can also complement other features in your home. If you have a Queenslander, VJ panelling will speak to the architectural style of its design. And don't forget wallpaper – it's a simple but effective way to introduce colour, pattern and personality. Looking to decorate your walls with artwork but concerned about humidity? Simply ensure your shower is well-ventilated.

Because you're worth it

Where possible, indulge in the best of the best. After all, your ensuite is your personal sanctuary. Kate recommends beautiful tapware in a finish that will patina over time for that prized mix of aesthetics and hardy functionality. "Natural materials such as stone feel beautiful underfoot," she adds. "In an ensuite, which is usually only used by the parents in a household, it's wonderful to have a feature bath in front of full-height windows. Having a view to look out on adds to the appeal." Lightweight curtains achieve privacy and add romance.

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB STYLING (THIS PAGE, TOP) JULIA GREEN & JADE LEE MARTIN (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM) JULIA GREEN & WHITE PICKET INTERIORS (OPPOSITE) JULIA GREEN & JADE LEE MARTIN



Above: *Neutral tones form a warm base in this guest ensuite, allowing the Cole & Son 'Seafern' wallpaper in Rouge on Parchment to take centre stage with its modern interpretation on antique botanical prints.* >

Above: *Tumbled Carrara marble stone with Giallo Reale tiles laid in stripes guide the eye to the Vero freestanding bath, which serves as a dramatic and luxurious centrepiece in this spacious bathroom. Wallpaper adds texture.*

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB

PRACTICALLY PERFECT

Once you've planned the location and layout of your ensuite, you need to knuckle down and focus on functionality. Since the ultimate aim is a relaxing and effortless space that can withstand busy mornings with high traffic, there's no design detail that's too small to be considered. Every feature can aid convenience. From ample storage to cleverly positioned power points, practicality is the backbone of this space.

IN FINE FORM

Neat and tidy

The importance of storage in an ensuite cannot be overstated. But it's not just the amount of storage that matters, it's the type and placement that make all the difference, too. "Think carefully about how you use the space to ensure everything is at your fingertips and out of sight where possible," says Kate. "Eye-height storage is an excellent choice so you can avoid having to bend." She also cautions against open shelving. "Bathrooms can get dirty and no matter how conscientious you are, shelves need to be cleaned and will fill with things you don't want to see." And don't forget a place to store your bath towels! Although they can be stored in a linen cupboard, it's much easier to have them close at hand in the bathroom.

Positions of power

Knowledge is power, so consult a qualified electrician before you start planning lighting and power points. You'll also need different types of lighting in your ensuite – task lighting is important for make-up application and shaving, while feature lighting in the form of wall sconces or pendants adds a sense of luxury and makes a style statement. When it comes to power points, the more the merrier, but consider installing some in a drawer or inside your cupboards. "You can keep appliances plugged in but hidden from view," explains Kate. Heated towel rails are another practical electrical inclusion.

Air it out

What could be better than a bathroom with a view? "Seeing Mother Nature in the morning always brings joy," shares Kate. "A window with vistas to a garden adds a sense of wellbeing." As well as providing natural light and making the space feel bigger, windows improve ventilation and help prevent mould. If this isn't feasible for you, consider installing an operable skylight. Other options include extractor fans, ceiling fans and dehumidifiers.



Top & above: *Ochre shades add cheer in this bathroom, which is filled with warm accents, from Hepburn Hardware's 'Henley' handles in Acid Wash Brass to the Brodware 'Manhattan' tapware in Rumbled Brass Organic from E&S. The bench seating, custom designed by KWD, continues the striped theme on the flooring.* HB

Space-creating custom loft beds, painted in Dulux Princess Pink, will delight the social butterflies – and their guests.

PHOTOGRAPHY STYLING TESS NEWMAN–MORRIS ARTWORK ADAIRS

Sweet child OF MINE

ACTIVELY LISTENING TO WHAT A CHILD TRULY DESIRES FOR THEIR BEDROOM DESIGN GIVES THEM AGENCY OVER THE ONE SPACE THAT IS SOLELY THEIR OWN

Words MELANIE QUIRK



Playful and refined, the Lee Jofa 'Hunt Slonem Hutch' wallpaper marries perfectly with textural layers to create a cocooning space.

The obvious elements one would hone in on when redesigning a child's bedroom are theme, colour, decor and bedlinen. However, interior designer Kate Walker of KWD takes a different approach. While respecting desired colour palettes and the need to pay homage to the latest fads, Kate and her team dive deep and take the time to actively listen to and understand what the child intrinsically needs to feel safe, supported, energised and restored in a perfectly personalised way. If you're not sure where to start, read on for KWD's advice and insights on how to ensure you are creating the best space to meet all of your child's bedroom needs and wishes.

SEEK TO UNDERSTAND

Through an interview and briefing process with the child and their caregiver, we like to garner an understanding of how each child interacts with their environment, and uncover what they innately need to support a positive ambience and the feelings they want to foster. We also look to design solutions that might counteract any negative experiences they have had, ultimately resulting in a room that brings them joy. "Some children may need a dark and cocooning space to support nervous-system regulation, while others may need a light, bright and invigorating space to bolster their confidence and inject energy," says Kate. "Every child is unique, and so are their desires for their dream bedroom." To stimulate conversation topics with your child, we have provided an outline of a few different design solutions that we have found can support various personalities. You can implement these tips, or use these examples as a starting point to try to understand what makes your child tick. ›

THE CREATOR

Whether it's Lego, drawing, painting or inventing, The Creator needs plenty of floor space for building and designing. Ensure there is ample desk room and shelving for storing all of their supplies. They will also love to have a place set aside for their permanent displays, so they don't have to pack away their model train set, Sylvanian Families village or Schleich farmyard every day. Choose a vibrant colour palette to inspire creativity.

THE HIBERNATOR

Warm, comfy textures are important for creating a cocooning sanctuary. Carpeted floors and a cosy bed are key, along with soft throws and floor cushions made from tactile fabrics. Think about extensive bedside table storage, accessible power points by the bed, and choose a warm colour palette from taupes to navy blues, or butterscotch to plum tones.

THE BOWERBIRD

Storage is essential for your avid collector. Displaying their treasures is important to them, so consider adding bookcases, wall-mounted shelves and a shadow box. Bedside tables with drawers are mandatory, and a gas-lift bed is a great space-saving solution for storing boxes of past collections for posterity. Subtle wallpaper provides the perfect backdrop for treasures that take centre stage. As Bowerbirds' collections can develop over the years – from soft toys and seashells to medals, trophies and sports memorabilia – install shelving that can transition from young child to young adult, to make the most of your investment.



THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

For the child who loves having friends over, or a teenager who enjoys connecting on social media, add a full-length mirror for selfies and dancing in front of with friends. Good lighting for recording videos is important. Other essentials? A dressing table with a mirror and a beautiful backdrop of artwork, wallpaper or panelled walls to make their space 'aesthetic' for them. A window seat, while beautiful, can also double as a sofa and a trundle bed. Alternatively, a loft bed facilitates sleepovers and amplifies available floor space for dance routines.

THE ENERGIZER BUNNY

Children with loads of energy need a space where they can move and play, stretch out and roll around. Invigorating, bright colours are perfect, and patterned wallpaper on the ceiling provides a creative focal point. Turn their sleeping space into a jungle gym complete with a ladder, climbing wall, hanging rings, monkey bars and a boxing bag, to make transitioning from playtime to bedtime a dream. Or consider a Montessori bed that sits flush on the floor, doubling as a crash mat or a trampoline, while providing a safe sleeping environment.

THE GAMER

As much as parents try to avoid this stage, the reality is that many children 'game', and once the attraction takes hold, it can be an enormous challenge for parents to manage. So, if you're ready and willing to embrace this stage, there are some important considerations. A Gamer's room needs a large desk to accommodate multiple screens, an ergonomic desk chair to support their posture, and a fan for air circulation (these rooms can get hot). Think about materials with acoustic characteristics like carpet, heavy curtains, a fabric bedhead, and even artwork made from acoustic panelling (this activity can be noisy!). LED artwork such as Nanoleaf panel smart lights or neon signs add to the vibe and make an enviable backdrop for their streaming videos.

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB (5&8) BRENT LUKEY
ARTWORKS UNKNOWN


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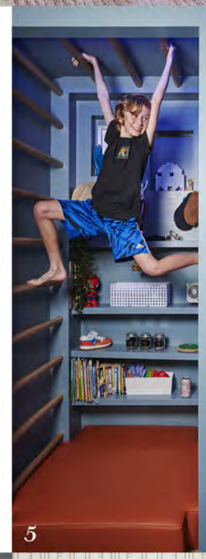

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KIDS' ROOMS

1. ***The Bowerbird*** Create areas for little collectors to display treasures, such as this bed with in-built shelving.
2. ***The Creator*** Desk space, display shelves and hidden storage are just the ticket for budding artists and makers.
3. ***The Hibernator*** Snuggled up in this cosy retreat with plump pillows and sumptuous, soft furnishings is exactly where a Hibernator loves to be.
4. ***The Social Butterfly*** Sleepovers are plentiful with this personality type, so a trundle or loft bed is a great choice.
5. ***The Energizer Bunny*** For these fun-loving, energetic types, monkey bars are the only way to swing into bed.
6. ***The Gamer*** Serious Gamers need lots of space and equipment to keep up with the latest online adventures.
7. ***The Creator*** Make space for the dreamers with imaginative display spaces, vivid colours and bold pattern.


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7

My happy SPACE

GO BEHIND THE SCENES TO SEE HOW KATE GAVE TWO YOUNG BOYS A LIFE-CHANGING GIFT

Kate Walker has always known that if she was ever in a position to give back to those who are struggling, she'd want to do everything in her power to help. But it wasn't until the pandemic hit that she found a way to combine her design talents and her giving nature.

The inspiration came during lockdown, when Kate and her family began renovating their home. Impacted by the turbulent state of the world and living in limbo, Kate realised her daughter Jemima needed her own personal happy space. It wasn't until the family moved into their renovated home, and her daughter had a beautiful room that was all hers, that she began to smile again. Having her own space helped her find her identity and gave her a sense of pride and self-worth.

Seeing the change it made in Jemima, Kate decided to give that gift to other children. She developed My Happy Space Movement, where she would gift a KWD design consultation and bedroom makeover to children in need. "We wanted to give these children some control back in their lives … with this opportunity they could control how their private space looked and felt."

A HEARTFELT ENDEAVOUR

Melanie and Darren were so humbled when they discovered that their sons Jack (then seven) and Kane (then 10) had been selected to have a very special bedroom makeover, to bring them some joy and help support them through the emotional challenge that lay ahead. Not long before, Darren had been diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer, which was inoperable. Renovating the boys' bedrooms proved a wonderful distraction and a bonding experience for the whole family.

Design projects do take time. However, while eager to have their dream bedrooms expedited, it was in fact the time taken to design these spaces, and the resultant delayed gratification, that was the unexpected reward, which amplified the joy. While Darren sadly passed away before the final reveal, he was a vital part of the process and was involved in every touchpoint along the way. "The project, whilst my husband was ill, buoyed him and filled him up with energy," says Melanie. For Kate, the unexpected blessing was the joy that this process not only brought to the boys but to Darren and Melanie and their extended family, where the grief of an ending was sprinkled with the hope of a new beginning.

Creating a bedroom that friends could easily stay in was important to both boys. For Jack, multiple beds was just the ticket, with space on the wall for a climbing frame. "Kane wanted a bit more of a mature space. He had always loved the ritual of his father reading to him before bed, so the reading nook under his loft bed created a space for connecting with this precious memory," says Melanie.

THE BIG REVEAL

Once the rooms were completed, the sense of accomplishment was even sweeter. "It's just given them a beautiful space," says Melanie. "They love their rooms, as do all of their friends. They've just been designed and built with thought, care and such love. You can feel that in the spaces. We're so incredibly grateful." Jack agrees. "It was really exciting when we heard we were having our rooms designed by Kate. I knew I wanted a dragon on my wall because I really like them, and I asked to have bunk beds so my friends could stay over. And I love playing Fortnite, so my gaming set-up is great."

Kane was also happy with his space. "I didn't really know what I wanted at first but after a few months of looking at pictures, I started to get a good idea. I really enjoy gaming, so I knew I wanted a space for that, and I liked the idea of a loft bed. I chose a light grey wall and then some coloured lights to make my room bright. It's great having my own zone."



Kate (pictured, right) with Melanie, and her two boys Jack and Kane in their dream bedrooms (left & below).

PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT LUKEY BACKGROUND OTTOLINE IMPROVISATION NUMBER 1 WALLPAPER IN YELLOW, AVILABLE THROUGH ELLIOTT CLARKE

PROJECTS COMPLETED *with thanks to the following suppliers*

Adairs, Albedor Industries, Apparition Media, Beacon Lighting Frankston, Carpet World Mornington, Chris Drew, Cutting Edge Wallpapering, Design Stuff, DMA Kitchens, Electric Confetti, Elliott Clarke Textiles, ES ES Painting, Hepburn Hardware, Ikea, JB Hi-Fi, Kingbrown Contractors, Lighting Edge, Litfad, Lounge Lovers, Lynch's Window Fashions, Magnus Construction, Mattress Builders, Mitre 10 Somerville, Mr & Mrs Designer, MSW Windows and Doors, New Vision Electrical, Polytec, Schuurman Project Builders, Scorptec, Sorrento Furniture, Steel & Anchor, Tait, Temple & Webster, Wilson & Bradley, Wortley Group.

A Masterclass in THE ART OF *joyful* LIVING

At the very heart of living a life filled with joy and contentment is always the home – a place to shelter, feel safe and slow down in your own personal sanctuary. But how do you ensure your home is designed to allow you to live a life with a sense of wellbeing? We join interior designer Kate Walker and delve into the science behind holistic home design and how it can be a transformative experience, allowing you to live in a home full of purpose and meaning.

PHOTOGRAPHY LISA COHEN STYLING TESS NEWMAN-MORRIS

Living a joyful life is something many strive to achieve, but often it can be difficult to find clarity and pinpoint exactly how we arrive at a more blissful state of being. Is it a case of carrying out those little daily rituals that bring small moments of joy, like making a cup of coffee or tea? Or maybe surrounding ourselves with bright colours and fresh flowers is the key. Some may believe the answer lies within the connections we have with other people. And, of course, all of these things can spark joy. But what if we changed our perspective? What if we could look to science to help us lay the groundwork for a joyful existence? Interior designer, and this month's guest editor of *Home Beautiful*, Kate Walker of KWD, believes that's exactly how we can create more joy in our lives, and it all starts in the home.

"The art of joyful living is the core of KWD's design philosophy, applying a scientific formula to designing spaces that enhance lives," explains Kate. "It's not just about how a home looks, it's really about how a home performs. Intelligent design decisions intentionally create an environment that prioritises and promotes happiness, contentment, harmony and a sense of well-being. Smart intrinsic design combined with a deep understanding of how our clients live, love and work, results in a connected, intuitive and effortless home."

Of course, everybody's idea of what a joyful home looks like is completely different, so taking the time to work out how you live can be the key to making considered design choices. Saying something as simple as "good storage is life changing" may seem flippant, but if having a space for everything in the home brings joy and makes daily tasks easier it can, quite literally, change someone's life. "Joy is multi-faceted," says Kate. "At KWD we consciously consider every single element within a home that is pertinent to the inhabitants, creating harmony at every touchpoint. Intelligent and intuitive design and an innate ability to tap into the hearts and minds of clients is the foundation for the joyful homes we create."

Putting this idea into practice results in a home that cultivates the 'adagio' lifestyle (slow living). "Sensible and intrinsic design, and the application of the golden ratio principle, promote a slower, easier, calmer, more restful and tranquil experience that alleviates the pressure on the internal machinations of a household, and the person who instinctively directs daily routines," says Kate. "Thoughtful storage solutions and a considered organisational flow form a seamless and instinctive environment promoting joyful living." For practical ideas on how to master the 'art of joyful living', Kate shares her key considerations for designing a home with harmony in mind. ›

"We seek to counter today's frenetic world by creating design solutions that promote the 'adagio' lifestyle, where a slower tempo instils a sense of sanctuary, safety and protection"

KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER



PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) ARMELLE HABIB FABRIC (IN BACKGROUND) KELLY WEARSTLER GRAFFITO IN FERN, $470/M, THE FABRIC EDITORS ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) ZOE YOUNG











HARDWORKING SPACES

Spatial planning should result in a home that suits your lifestyle perfectly. Instead of a disjointed area that is difficult to maintain, a well-planned house will optimise every square inch for maximum potential, promoting comfort and ease of movement. But in order to create an environment that is instinctive, functional and joy inducing, you need to do your research. Carefully craft your layout, taking time to consider sight lines, custom storage solutions and circulation. Ask yourself whether each area serves its intended purpose. Ideally, every room in the house would be used daily, resulting in smaller builds, waste reduction and a more efficient household.

Ergonomics and workflow are at the heart of well-designed homes. A functional layout should accomodate the needs and activities of its owners, promoting ease and enhancing daily life. To achieve this, consider the placement of technological devices, power points and furniture. These should all aid a free flow of traffic. To learn more about how the creation of zones can result in a more effortless and enjoyable living experience, refer to KWD's three Cs of kitchen design on page 128.

Multi-functional spaces increase the longevity of your home by adapting to life's changing needs and inevitable household shifts. Try utilising clever storage, adjustable lighting to suit different activities and moods as well as furniture with multiple purposes. A good example are Murphy beds, or wall beds (see left), which can turn a study into a guest bedroom at a moment's notice.

STIMULATE YOUR SENSES

Natural Light can foster a sense of openness and connection to the outdoors. Even if you have a south-facing home without much access to sunshine, there are ways to brighten up your interiors, naturally. Consider large windows, skylights and strategically placed mirrors that will reflect and multiply the light. Where possible, try to orient your nocturnal rooms, such as bedrooms, to face south and your daytime spaces north.

Connection to nature is something that KWD considers in every project. Biophilic design principles integrate natural elements that add life and movement into the home, such as plants, flowers and foliage (see wallpaper left and fabric opposite). Allowing natural light in, creating opportunities for garden views, and incorporating organic textures and natural materials creates an everchanging interior.

Intelligent design happens when every single detail is treated with significance, no matter how small. KWD homes stimulate the senses, from the way the light filters through the home, to the sight lines in every space, and the textural and tonal hard finishes. Beyond aesthetics, it's this intangible sense of ease that is the result of considering every element, serving to amplify the lives of those that dwell within. ›

"Family traditions and rituals are the foundation for a sense of belonging where deep and meaningful memories are made, a hallmark of KWD homes"

KATE

PHOTOGRAPHY THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE ARMELLE HABIB





"We understand that each client has different priorities and we integrate all of these highly individualised elements into our designs, creating spaces for connectedness, quiet retreat and for daily routines" KATE

CREATING COMMUNITY

Comfort and connection are essential in creating a joyful home. Invite relaxation by choosing cosy furnishings and soft textiles, then create comfortable seating nooks (see left) that encourage easy conversations. Setting aside designated areas for socialising with friends and family fosters a sense of community and connection within the home. For example, the kitchen, which is the most used space in a home, should be designed with multiple functions in mind. Incorporating a dining section into a kitchen island bench allows for a myriad of tasks to be fulfilled, from homework to dining, entertaining, and socialising. The kitchen on page 143 perfectly exemplifies this principle.

Personalisation will result in a home that reflects who you are and tells the story of your journey through life. Display your personality with travel memorabilia, meaningful artwork, photographs and mementos to bring warmth and soul to any space. This will in turn create a sense of belonging.

EVOKING EMOTIONS

A commitment to colour can have a significant impact on your space. When conceptualising a home, always consider the psychological effect of colour. The intensity and depth of tones can evoke a range of emotions, influencing both the aesthetic appeal and the psychological experience of the room. For rooms on the south side of the house, try leaning into the darkness to create a warm and moody space. A powder room provides an opportunity to be bright, surprising and invigorating, while a living room could be a calming and neutral space, almost acting as a palette cleanser for the home.

Materiality can turn a predictable space into an interesting and surprising one. When choosing the materials and finishes for your home, explore innovative and inviting ways to use layers of texture through mixed materials. Think natural stone, timber, rugs, patterned tiles, panelling, shiplap and wallpaper (see left). This mixing and layering can create a visual feast.

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB

Beautiful GARDENS

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR STYLISH OUTDOOR LIVING



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTINA GEMMOLA

FIELD OF DREAMS
page 154

FIELD OF DREAMS

Wildflower meadows and water features complement the alpine-inspired design at this charming property

Story RACHEL WHITE Styling ANNALESE HAY Photography MARTINA GEMMOLA

WILDLY DIFFERENT Tumbling flower beds contrast beautifully with the deep colours and structured lines of this Mornington Peninsula home and garden. "The architecture uses natural materials like timber, steel and stone for a minimal look which contrasts with the wild, untamed wildflower meadows," says homeowner Kelli, whose interiors also feature on page 46.

The

he crowning accomplishment in an extensive five-year home renovation on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula is the enchanting gardens, which contrast exquisitely with the straight edges and brutalist materials of the property's architecture. "The garden was the final stage," says homeowner Kelli. "It brings out our home's true potential, aligning it with our vision of an ideal living space." Kelli, a gallery director and art advisor, lives on the property with her partner David, an entrepreneur, and their sons Sam, 20, and until recently, Jack, 22.

The home – designed by KWD – is painted in Dulux Taihape, creating a striking backdrop for the colourful gardens. "Our home and garden deliberately contrast to enhance each other, which creates lively interaction between the built and natural environments," says Kelli.

Nestled into the Port Phillip coast in Mount Martha, the design was handled by Melbourne landscape architect Heath Blair from Plume Studio. "The main objective was to soften the edges of the building," says Heath. "And to create a functional landscape that offered a multitude of scapes for different social needs." Kelli and David's brief called for an informal garden conducive to fireside conversations, with ample space for larger gatherings.

Evolving with the seasons, Heath chose plants that would create year-round splendour. "We wanted a garden that could be celebrated throughout the seasons," he says. "It's a garden that is fluid throughout the year. One that is soft and full of bloom one moment, then tactile and crunchy the next." Heath's material selection was equally thoughtful. "The limestone and burnished concrete offer a subtle and soft texture against a dark facade," he says. "These materials allow the different foliage colours and flowers to standout throughout all seasons."

Now the garden is established, maintenance is handled by David Cane and his team at DJR Horticultural. "The term 'dream client' gets thrown around a lot," says Heath. "But Kelli and David were incredible, the conviction they had in our work was unbelievable." Equally happy with the result, Kelli concludes, "Our garden's natural beauty makes our home feel more connected to its surroundings and offers an escape from our structured indoor spaces."

WHITE BLOOMS Pretty white Japanese windflowers brighten up shady corners. **OPPOSITES ATTRACT** Landscape architect Heath chose soft mid-grey limestone pavers and plenty of greenery (opposite) to add contrast against the dark facade of the home. "These materials allow the different foliage colours and flowers to stand out in all seasons," says Heath. 'Garonne' tumbled limestone pavers from Eco Outdoor complement a giant agave and lush Boston ivy. >

ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

"THE GARDEN HAS BEEN PUSHED TO THE BORDER OF THE HOME, WHICH ANCHORS THE SITE AND SOOTHES ITS EDGES"

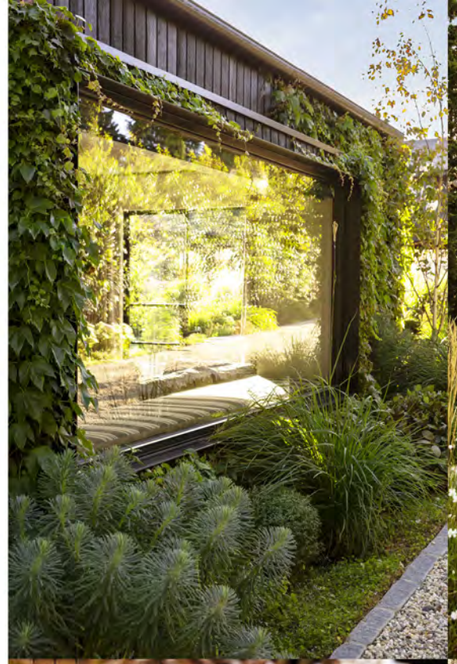
HEATH, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT





CYCLE OF LIFE "We curated these plants due to their seasonality," says Heath. "Mixed within an evergreen structure so there are always layers of texture for an ever-changing landscape." Krause Emperor bricks in Ghost Grey (above left) border the serene water feature, while velvety lamb's ear and grasses soften the edges. **EN MASSE** Whirling butterflies (above right) are pretty perennials that provide gentle movement and "flushes of soft white flowers through spring and summer", says Heath. **HARMONIOUS HUES** Aiming for a cohesive look, Heath used the same colours, textures and materials throughout the garden. Shown here (opposite) at the front of the home, 'Garonne' tumbled limestone steppers from Eco Outdoor and the full length of the water feature, where the border of delicate flowers and foliage has visual impact against the lines of the hardscaping. >











WINDOW DRESSING Boston ivy trained up the building (top left) creates layers of textured green against a dark exterior. **SUN LOVERS** Whirling butterflies, lamb's ears and snow pear were chosen for their ability to thrive in the sun (top right). **SUBTLE TONE** There is an abundance of seasonal white blooms, including Sedum spectabile 'Iceberg' in the foreground (bottom left). **MAKE A SPLASH** The copper slimline outdoor shower (bottom right) is from Hollowtree Showers. **POOL PARTY** A southern magnolia frames the poolside area (opposite). Lounge chairs are both 'Balmain' teak chaises from Restoration Hardware. The rusty orange underside of the weeping lilly pilly leaves provides contrast against the neutral palette. "In the rear garden we wanted this to feel different to the front," says Heath. "So, we chose plants with different flower colours and contrasting foliage." ›

ALFRESCO AFFAIR Outdoor dining at its best under the canopy of Canadian maples. Dining table and chairs from Restoration Hardware's 'Mesa' range on cream pebbles.

Source book

Landscape design: *Plume Studio, plumestudio.com.au.*
Maintenance: *DJR Horticultural, 0420 634 750, djrhorticultural.com.au.*


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GARDEN NOTES

1. Lamb's ear (Stachys byzantina) boasts velvety soft, silver foliage.
2. Landscape architect Heath Blair of Plume Studio enjoys a comfy perch.
3. White crepe myrtle (Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei 'Natchez') is a pretty addition with its delicate, light flowers.
4. Japanese white windflower (Anemone japonica) brightens shaded areas with its happy blooms on slender stems.
5. Mediterranean spurge (Euphorbia wulfenii) brings depth to the garden with its blue-grey contrasting foliage.
6. Native violet (Viola hederacea) provides a lush carpet year-round.
7. Daisies (Aster x frikartii 'Monch') bring a happy pop of purple to the landscape with their abundant blooms.
8. Boston ivy (Parthenocissus tricuspidata) is a seasonal backdrop. HB


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THE *gardener's* LOG

It may be tempting to wrap yourself in winter woollies and stay warm indoors, though July is prime time for pruning – here, Ashley shows us how

Words ASHLEY JAMES Photography ALLIE ASZODI

Beneath the frost-kissed petals, plants sleep and winter brings a serene stillness to the landscape in July. Amidst the chilly mornings, it is easy to let our gardening tasks slip from memory, as one finds solace by the crackling fire or enjoys the warmth of a steaming cup of tea. But it's time to rug up and embrace the cold of winter, because it's during this time that your garden reveals itself in all its naked beauty. Its structure is laid bare, which invites you to prune and shape your plants with purpose, preparing for the warmer seasons ahead. And that's exactly what I want you to focus on this month, starting with your roses.

When pruning plants, it's important to keep in mind the three Ds: dead, diseased and dying. In essence, our objective is to eliminate any deadwood, dying stems and any sections of the plant that show signs of disease. By removing these vulnerable parts, we reduce the risk of pest infestation and damage, while also stimulating new growth patterns and enhancing air circulation, which helps prevent the accumulation of future disease.

Tools of the trade

Before you start, make sure you have the correct tools. Use secateurs for pruning branches up to one finger thick, and loppers to remove branches up to three centimetres thick. If you encounter anything larger than this, opt for a hand saw. Always remember to clean and sharpen your tools to ensure your cuts don't tear and to stop the spread of disease.

To begin pruning your roses,

follow these steps (for both bushes and climbing varieties):
Remove deadwood: Cut down any deadwood to the base of your rose plants. Deadwood can be identified by its brown colour when you cut into the stems or branches.
Open the centre: Remove any crossing stems or branches that can rub against each other and cause damage. This will improve airflow and reduce the risk of disease. Keep upward-reaching stems and aim for an open structure with a vase-like shape.
Remove thin and weak growth: Prune off any thin and weak growth, including any stems thinner than a pencil.
Prune the remaining stems: For standard roses, prune the remaining stems by ¼ inch. Prune to an outward-facing bud or node, not inward-facing. Make sure your cuts are at a 45-degree angle, sloping away from the bud to allow water to run off. And consider sealing larger cuts with a product such as Steri-Prune to help protect your plants against rot and rose borers.
Clean up: As you go, place cut stems into a large bucket then dispose of them in your greens waste or bin. Properly clean up the cuttings to avoid kneeling or standing on thorns in the future. Additionally, if you need to transplant established roses to a new location, now is a good time to do so. Remember to water them in well with seaweed fertiliser after transplanting.

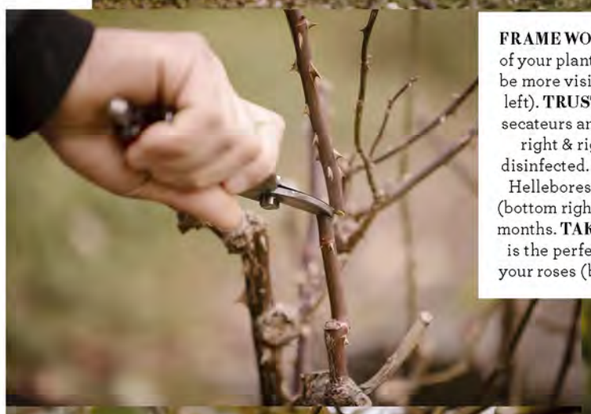
Next month, I will guide you through pruning your fruit trees and climbing wisteria. But for now, focus on pruning those roses and keeping your tools clean and sharp. July is also a great time to take advantage of the wintry opportunity to fill your garden with bare-rooted plants and trees. These are available at most nurseries and are a cost-effective way to add more variety to your garden.

Ashley James (below & opposite) is a horticulturist and garden designer based in Victoria, who has gained a reputation for creating gardens in a vast range of styles, from romantic plots to bold urban spaces. He has appeared on a number of TV shows and his own garden, named The Potager Garden, has drawn attention worldwide.









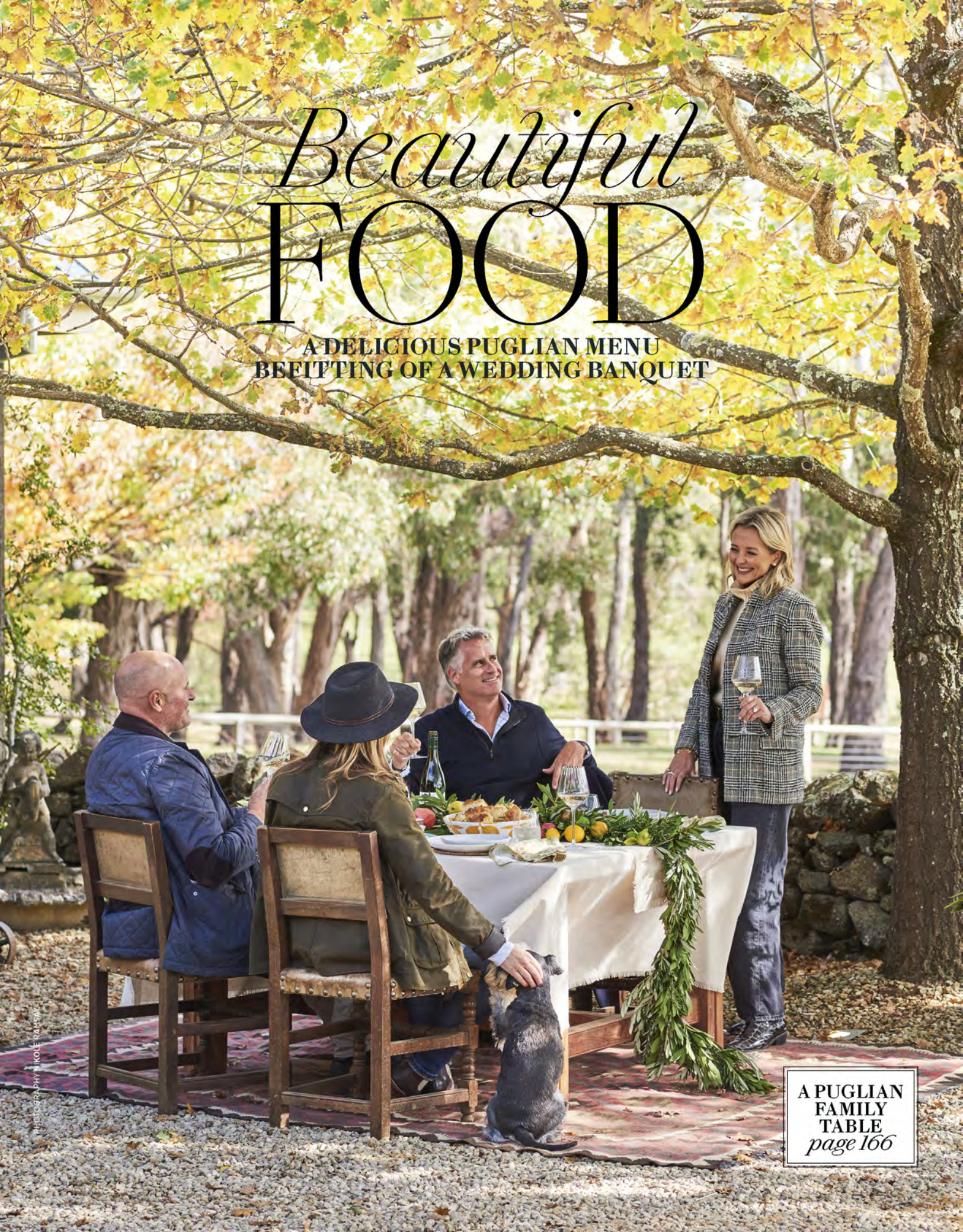




FRAME WORK The structure of your plants and garden can be more visible in winter (top left). **TRUSTY TOOLS** Keep secateurs and hand saws (top right & right) sharp and disinfected. **FEELING ROSY** Hellebores, or winter roses (bottom right), flower in cooler months. **TAKING SHAPE** July is the perfect time to prune your roses (bottom left & left).

Beautiful FOOD

A DELICIOUS PUGLIAN MENU BEFITTING OF A WEDDING BANQUET



PHOTOGRAPHY NIKOLE RAMSAY

A PUGLIAN FAMILY TABLE *page 166*

A PUGLIAN *family table*

A long lunch with friends is the perfect way to celebrate love. This Puglian-inspired menu is made for sharing, with matching wines to celebrate the delicious flavours and toast to future happiness

MENU

ANTIPASTI

No-knead focaccia

Burrata with grilled capsicum agrodolce

Marinated grilled zucchini

Heirloom tomatoes, capers and shallots

Orecchiette with broccolini, anchovy and chilli

MAIN

Grilled whole snapper with fennel, potato and olives

DESSERT

Stone fruit spelt galette

Recipes TOM CROWE Styling NICOLE GRIMSDALE
Photography NIKOLE RAMSAY

THIS PAGE: *The menu for this long lunch in Daylesford, Vic, was inspired by the Italian region of Puglia, in Italy's south, where our guest editor Kate and her fiance Anthony are set to wed this year. What better way to celebrate this joyous union than to gather around the table with friends and enjoy grilled fish, indulgent burrata and fluffy focaccia in this gorgeous setting?* **OPPOSITE:** *'Tierra'* ***serving bowls****, $39.95 each, Freedom.* ›

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: *Kate and her fiance Anthony enjoy drinks beneath the trees in full autumn colour; rainbow chard grows in the vegetable garden; the table is set, ready for welcoming guests for lunch, while Mini Schnauzers, Raffy (left) and Alfie are looking forward to the company; white rooster, Boston, with one of his hens; chef Tom Crowe puts the snapper on a charcoal 'parilla' grill that was hand-forged by a local artisan; a grapevine trails up the wall; the beautiful Daylesford property is just the place for making special memories.* >















NO-KNEAD FOCACCIA
See recipe page 173

"SIMPLE, QUICK AND A BIT MESSY, NO-KNEAD FOCACCIA CAN BE PREPARED ALL IN THE ONE TUB"

TOM CROWE, CHEF

HEIRLOOM TOMATOES, CAPERS AND SHALLOTS
See recipe page 173

THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: *'Ecology Ottowa' salt and pepper* ***pinch pot****, $24.95/set of 2, 'Tierra'* ***side plates****, $12.95 each (on top), and 'Magnolia'* ***dinner plates*** *(on bottom), $14.95 each, all Freedom. 'Limone' ceramic* ***serving bowl****, $340, Alex and Trahanas. Bormioli Rocco 'Florian' white wine* ***glasses****, $89.95/set of 6, and 'Weld'* ***table runner****, $22.95, all Freedom.* **OPPOSITE:** *'Fiore' ceramic* ***serving plate****, $280, Alex and Trahanas. All other items, stylist's own.* ***Flowers*** *(shown throughout), Flowers.by.eve. >*

BURRATA WITH GRILLED CAPSICUM AGRODOLCE
See recipe opposite

MARINATED GRILLED ZUCCHINI
See recipe opposite

NO-KNEAD FOCACCIA

Serves 4-6

455ml lukewarm water
A drizzle of honey
1 x 7g sachet instant dried yeast
515g plain flour
10g salt
Extra virgin olive oil
Flaked salt

1. In a large plastic container with a tight sealing lid, mix water, honey and yeast to combine. Add flour and salt and mix (using the handle of a wooden spoon works well) until you have a shaggy, lumpy mess. Drizzle mix and tub lightly with oil and replace the lid to rest for 30 minutes.
2. With wet hands, try to take a 'corner' of the dough, lifting and stretching it loosely over the top of itself. It will be tricky at first as the dough will seem too wet but repeat with each corner, lifting the base with a dough scraper, if needed. Drizzle with oil, replace the lid and leave 30 minutes.
3. Repeat this 'stretch and fold' technique twice more. Each time, the dough should come together a bit more until you can lift it out of the tub, folding it over itself with a nice smooth surface.
4. Preheat oven to 220°C. Line a 20cm x 30cm baking tray with baking paper and drizzle well with oil.
5. Scrape dough into tray and cover with a tea towel to rise somewhere warm for an hour or until bubbles begin to form. With wet hands, press fingers into the focaccia to create the classic dimpled surface. Finish with a drizzle of oil and a sprinkle of flaked salt, bake for 20–30 minutes until golden.
WINE SELECTION: Scotchmans Hill Pinot Gris. A bouquet of cut pear and spice with creamy barrel ferment notes and hint of oak. The tight mineral palette is a fresh and zesty counterpoint to the fruity, olive oil richness of focaccia.

MARINATED GRILLED ZUCCHINI

Serves 4-6

3–4 small to medium zucchini, sliced thinly lengthways
Slivered almonds, toasted

Marinade
Zest and juice of ½ lemon
1 clove garlic, finely minced
Small handful of finely chopped mint and thyme
Extra virgin olive oil, to coat

1. Lightly oil zucchini slices and grill over hot coals or a grill pan, turning once and seasoning as you go. Place zucchini into marinade mixture as they come hot off the grill and gently toss to combine.
2. Serve with a scatter of almonds, a few extra mint leaves and the marinade drizzled over the top.
WINE SELECTION: Scotchmans Hill Chardonnay. A complex and lively wine showing nectarine and grapefruit aromas rounded out by creamy notes and nutty oak, balancing the earthy, charred notes of grilled zucchini.

BURRATA WITH GRILLED CAPSICUM AGRODOLCE

Serves 4-6

2 large red capsicum
4 shallots, halved and sliced
1 clove garlic, finely minced
Extra virgin olive oil
Red wine vinegar
Caster sugar
Salt and pepper

1. Grill capsicum over a hot charcoal barbecue (or gas flame) until blackened all over and starting to soften. Place in a container with a lid to steam. When cool enough to handle, peel off blackened skin and remove seeds and core with a knife. Brush with paper towel if needed. Slice roughly into long strips.
2. Meanwhile, gently sweat shallots and garlic in oil in a small heavy-based saucepan. Cook until soft and golden and almost caramelised then loosen with a splash of red wine vinegar. Add sliced capsicum, a teaspoon of caster sugar and season with salt and pepper.
3. Cook gently, for 25–30 minutes, until deep in colour and flavour. Check seasoning and adjust with vinegar, sugar and salt as needed. Capsicum can be prepared in advance and tastes even better the next day.
4. Arrange a nest of peppers in a medium bowl and place burrata on top. Serve with a drizzle of oil and a crack of pepper.
WINE SELECTION: The delicate creaminess of burrata and smoky sweet capsicum are complemented with the intense and lively notes of tropical fruits and tangy acidity of Scotchmans Hill Sauvignon Blanc.

HEIRLOOM TOMATOES, CAPERS & SHALLOTS

Serves 4-6

500-600g tomatoes
1 medium shallot, thinly sliced (rinsed in cold water and pat dried)
Baby capers in brine
Flake salt and pepper
Basil leaves
Extra virgin olive oil

1. Slice a mix of tomatoes and loosely layer on a serving plate. Scatter shallot rings and spoon over capers, sprinkling a little brine as you go. Season well with flake salt and pepper, top with torn basil leaves and drizzle generously with oil (the "Pugliese Blessing").
WINE SELECTION: Scotchmans Hill Pinot Gris. Wild fermented in French barrique barrels, the creamy mid palette and light oak finish of this superb Pinot Gris round out the natural sweetness and acidity of heirloom tomatoes and capers.

OPPOSITE, TOP: *'Arcola' pasta serving platter, $39.95, Freedom. All other items, stylist's own.* >

GRILLED WHOLE SNAPPER WITH FENNEL, POTATO & OLIVES
See recipe page 178

ORECCHIETTE WITH BROCCOLINI, ANCHOVY AND CHILLI
See recipe page 178

THIS PAGE, FROM TOP RIGHT: *'Alberto' ceramic* ***serving bowl****, $340, large scalloped* ***serving platter****, $280, 'Venus Shell' ceramic* ***platter****, $340, all Alex and Trahanas.* **OPPOSITE:** *'Tierra'* ***mini bowl*** *(with parmesan), $6.95, Freedom. All other items, stylist's own or as before.* ›

THE ROLLING LAWNS LEAD TO THE REFLECTIVE WATERS OF THE LAKE, BORDERED BY TALL ACERS



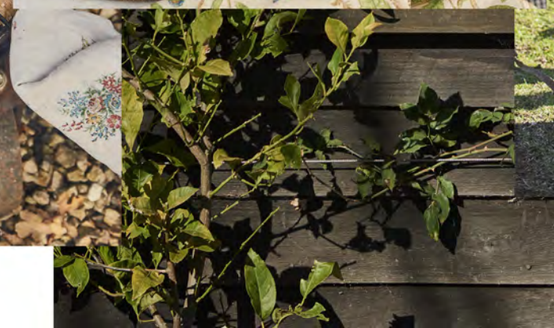












CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: *Kate serves out the marinated grilled zucchini; a medley of fresh tomatoes is combined with capers and shallots. "This recipe is as simple as it sounds, so use the best ripe tomatoes you can find," says chef Tom Crowe; Raffy (left) and Alfie stand gaurd at the front door, which offers a peek into the mudroom; Anthony and Kate enjoy the sunshine beside the lake with friends Kelli and David; eating the delicious tomato dish; snapper sizzles and smokes on the Argentinian-style grill.* >

GRILLED WHOLE SNAPPER WITH FENNEL, POTATO & OLIVES

Serves 4-6

For the potatoes:
4 medium dutch cream potatoes
1 fennel bulb (green tops removed and reserved), quartered and sliced
1 small brown onion, halved and sliced
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 bay leaf
A small handful of chopped parsley
12 whole kalamata olives
Small dash white wine
Salt and pepper
Extra virgin olive oil

1. In a large roasting pan, combine potatoes, fennel, onion, garlic, bay leaf, parsley and olives. Season well with salt and pepper. Spread roughly flat then top up the pan with cold water to 1cm below the top of the potatoes. Drizzle with olive oil then bake, uncovered, for 1 hour. Potatoes should give no resistance when pierced with a knife but not falling apart. The dish will still be quite soupy but with some brown tops and is best after its been sitting for about half an hour.

For the snapper:
1–1.5kg whole snapper, gutted and scaled
Extra virgin olive oil
Flaked salt
1 lemon, sliced, plus extra wedges
Reserved fennel tops, roughly sliced
Parsley or leftover parsley stalks

1. Pat fish dry with paper towel, inside and out. Trim fins, dorsal fin and tail with kitchen shears to prevent burning. Make three incisions in the flesh evenly spaced down the body to help the fish cook evenly. Dress and season the fish inside and out with a generous amount of olive oil and flaked salt, rubbing into the incisions. Stuff the cavity with the lemon, fennel and parsley.
2. Cook over a medium charcoal grill in an oiled grill basket for 8–10 minutes per side, depending on the size of the snapper. Turning only once allows the skin to crisp, helping to prevent sticking. Gently open the incision on the thickest part to see when the fish is just cooked through. Rest for 5 minutes then serve with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and a few lemon cheeks for squeezing.
3. Serve wth warm potatoes and sharply dressed fresh salad leaves.
WINE SELECTION: This pairs well with the red plum, dark berry and spice of Scotchmans Hill Pinot Noir. Earthy notes in the wine match the smoky grill, anise and briney olive flavours with the fish.

ORECCHIETTE WITH BROCCOLINI, ANCHOVY & CHILLI

Serves 4-6

Leftover bread ends to make 100g toasted breadcrumbs
Sea salt
Extra virgin olive oil
8 anchovy fillets in oil
Pinch of chilli flakes
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 small bunches broccolini, stems peeled, chopped into thirds
360g dried orecchiette
Small handful of chopped parsley
½ lemon
Pecorino

1. Make toasted breadcrumbs or pangrattato by whizzing leftover bread ends with a pinch of salt. Slowly toast in a little extra virgin olive oil in a heavy-based pan for 8–10 minutes, stirring frequently.
2. Gently cook the anchovy, chilli and garlic in a wide frying pan with extra virgin olive oil for 5 minutes until anchovy begins to soften and break apart.
3. In a large pot of boiling salted water, blanch the greens for 2 minutes or until just cooked. Lift broccolini from the water with a slotted spoon into the anchovy pan, set aside while you cook the orecchiette. Cook the pasta to al dente and add to the frying pan along with half a cup of the pasta cooking water. Toss over medium heat, adding parsley and finish with a squeeze of lemon. Check seasoning and serve with a grate of pecorino and a scattering of toasted crumbs.
WINE SELECTION: Scotchmans Hill Chardonnay. The buttery quality of chardonnay balances the strong flavours of anchovy and chilli, while a palate of white peach and grapefruit adds freshness.

STONE FRUIT SPELT GALETTE

Serves 4-6

For the pastry:
160g spelt flour
20g caster sugar
115g butter, chilled, rough cubed
70g iced water
1 egg
40 g butter, melted
1 tsp vanilla

For the frangipane:
60g almond flour
30g sugar

For the topping:
800g ripe stone fruit
Melted butter, for brushing
Raw sugar, for sprinkling
Ice-cream, to serve

1. Prepare the pastry first. In a food processor, briefly pulse together flour, sugar and butter until just combined in a floury sand. Add iced water and pulse until loose crumbs form. Be careful not to overmix and don't worry if it looks too loose. Tip crumbs onto the centre on a clean tea towel and bring corners together to make a parcel, gently tightening and pressing the mix together into a round puck shape. Check that you have a nice formed disk of pastry, repeat pressing if necessary. Place your wrapped pastry in the fridge for an hour to chill.
2. In the same processor (no need to wash), whizz together the frangipane ingredients until smooth.
3. Gently roll out the pastry on a well-floured surface until about 30cm wide and slide onto a baking tray lined with baking paper. Spread frangipane to cover the centre of the pastry leaving an edge of around 5cm.
4. Halve fruit and remove stones. Cut into wedges and arrange as roughly or neatly as you like over the frangipane circle. Starting from one point, fold the edges of the pastry over the fruit, working your way around, gently pressing down folds as you go.
5. Brush pastry with a little melted butter and scatter a small handful of raw sugar over the whole galette. Bake at 170°C for around 45–50 minutes until golden and crisp.
6. Serve warm with ice-cream.
WINE SELECTION: Scotchmans Hill Late Harvest Riesling. Lifted floral aromas, citrus notes and dried fruits in the background.



STONE FRUIT SPELT GALETTE
See recipe opposite

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