

LIVING the DREAM

A couple's patience
has been rewarded
with this inviting
modern family home

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KIP&CO THROW, LIFE INTERIORS, LIFEINTERIORS.COM.AU; CUSHION, PAMPA, PAMPA.COM.AU





HALLWAY (opposite) A Leila Jeffreys photograph sits above a wall-hung IKEA cabinet unit. The MadeMeasure leather tabs complement the lamp from Jardan. **KITCHEN** Owner Brooke stands at the expansive island bench with Olive the dog. The joinery and cabinetry were crafted by Competitive Joinery.

CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Brooke Grover, a stationery designer at Piccolo Studio; husband Adrian, director of Grover Constructions; their kids Morgan, 7; and Willow, 4; plus Jack Russell terrier, Olive.

Style of home: A 1950s cottage that has been transformed into a modern two-storey family home with local and Scandi style influences.

 The build took 12 months to complete, with Adrian running the job between other projects.

 The transformation of the house cost \$800k.



The kitchen is often the busy heart of the home, and for stationery designer Brooke and her builder husband Adrian, this is simply fact. When the couple were designing their long-dreamed-of home in Sydney’s Caringbah South, all the details were carefully considered, especially for the kitchen. From the open-plan layout to storage, finishes, fixtures and access to natural light, their attention to detail in the planning stage was the key to getting the space right.

When Brooke and Adrian purchased the home in 2007, it was a quaint ’50s cottage. They knew that they would have to upgrade the house to accommodate a family but “we loved the block as it was big and leafy,” says Brooke. The plan was to move into Brooke’s parents’ house for two years while renting out the cottage in order to save funds for the renovation. Two years turned into four-and-a-half years, during which time their family grew with the arrival of daughter Willow in April 2013. “Our kids loved living with their grandparents, and we enjoyed our time there, too,” says Brooke. “It allowed us to save money in a way we wouldn’t have otherwise been able to, and we had live-in babysitters as well!”

While living with Brooke’s parents, the couple were able to take their time planning their renovation, working with Stubbs Design Tribe Architects. “While practicality was our focus, we also wanted a home that was airy, spacious and light-filled,” says Brooke.



PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. POTS & PLANTS: FLOWERPOWER.COM.AU. PLANT STANDS: GREENCATHEDRAL.COM.AU. CUSHION (ON BENCH), ONE ANOTHER, ONEANOTHER.COM.AU. JAR (ON COFFEE TABLE): ZAKKIA.COM.AU. KIPSCO THROW (ON SOFA), LIFE INTERIORS. LIFEINTERIORS.COM.AU. CUSHION (ON SOFA), PAMPA.COM.AU

ENTRY (opposite) The front door painted in Taubmans Hedonist Half was one of the finishing touches of the house. **OPEN-PLAN LIVING** The staircase can be seen from the front door and the open screen allows light to flow through this central hub. Picture windows with louvres also bring the greenery in. A couple of local furniture stars shine in this living zone with the Jordan sofa and Mark Tuckey coffee table. A rug from Nick Scali provides a soft landing atop American oak flooring.



STAR PERFORMER

Brooke and Adrian’s focus on getting the open-plan centre of their home right has guaranteed a space that caters to their family’s lifestyle and needs.



Adrian took inspiration from a few house projects he had worked on through his construction business and incorporated these ideas into his own home design. One such idea was the black steel staircase with a white steel-rod screen, combined with oak timber stair treads. “It’s Adrian’s favourite feature of the house,” says Brooke. “The staircase is the first thing that catches your eye when you come through the front door, and we love it.”

The kitchen was the integral area to design and execute successfully, as all of the downstairs living spaces are connected to it. The couple opted for an extra-long bench of four metres so they had plenty of room for cooking preparation and also an eat-in area to share family meals. Storage was also a priority to help keep the home clutter-free. “We wanted to maximise our storage space so we had the cabinetry built all the way to the ceiling,” says Brooke. “We added built-in oak timber boxes as a feature; they’re a great way to display items that you don’t need to reach every day.”

The window splashback in the kitchen also serves a dual purpose. “We wanted to incorporate a splashback window into the design to give the feel of the outside being brought in,” says Brooke. “I also wanted to be able to see the kids playing outside in the yard while I’m busy in the kitchen.”

During the completion stage of the renovation, Brooke started studying design and styling at ISCD (International School Of

Colour + Design). Her new-found knowledge helped guide her decorative choices. “The course has helped me to evolve my style and be a bit braver with my choices!” says Brooke. “I now have more of an appreciation for unique pieces, colours and textures.”

Brooke decorated her family home in a fusion of modern-Australian-meets-Scandinavian styles. She used a minimalist Scandi feel and colour palette, pairing the approach with Australian-made furniture, homewares and art. “I’m someone who loves scouring through books and magazines for inspiration,” she says. “I’ve introduced a few eclectic and sentimental pieces to the living spaces and I am constantly moving things around and bringing in greenery in the form of indoor plants and cuttings from the garden.”

In the hallway, the two photographic bird artworks by Leila Jeffrey are a sentimental nod to Adrian’s upbringing. “We fell in love with them as soon as we saw them, as they exuded so much personality,” says Brooke. “Adrian actually grew up on a zoo that his parents owned. The zoo was home to native animals and birds, so the Corella birds felt nostalgic. The birds also continue the loose, casual Australian lifestyle feel that we have tried to achieve in the home.” This personal nod is the icing on the cake to a welcoming home tailor-made for this growing family. **10**

Visit piccolostudiostore.com.au, groverconstructions.com.au and stubbssdesigntribe.com.au.

TALL VASE ZAKKIA, ZAKKIACOM.AU THROWS, LIFE INTERIORS, LIFEINTERIORS.COM.AU



DINING AREA (opposite) Scandi style comes to the fore in this space with the Muuto ‘Under The Bell’ pendant light hanging above ‘Nerd’ dining chairs and ‘Adaptable’ table. **KITCHEN** Adrian and Brooke hang out at the island bench with Willow and Morgan. The combination of walls and handleless cabinetry in Dulux Lexicon Half with oak details and flooring is relaxed yet polished. Caesarstone benchtops in Fresh Concrete have a hard-wearing matte finish.

TIMELINE

2011

Late 2011 Plans are drawn up for Brooke and Adrian’s dream home by Stubbs Design Tribe Architects.

2012

Jan The then family of three move out of the house and rent out the property to save funds.
Oct The plans are submitted to council.
Nov The DA is granted for the construction of the couple’s new family home.

2015

Jun Demolition commences, with the front corner of the house and some flooring retained.
Aug Framing and steel beams are erected.
Dec Roofing is done. The windows are installed and exterior cladding starts.

2016

Jan The exterior is painted and the house internal linings are done.
Apr The stairs are built, flooring laid, and interior painting, tiling and joinery installation begins.
May Plumbing and electricals are fitted.

Jun Interior fit-out is completed and the family moves back in.
Aug The deck and kitchen stairs are finished.
Nov The front entry is finished, including stonework and the front door being painted pink.

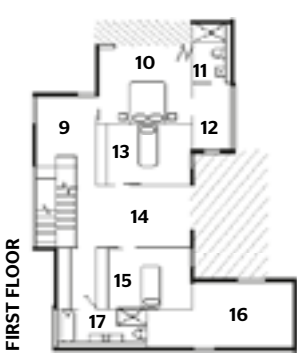
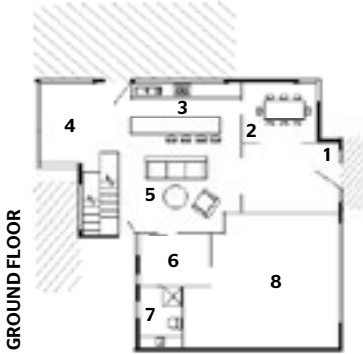


BRIGHT IDEA

Creating a graphic feature wall is a playful way to bring the fun factor to a kid's room. And if they outgrow the look, it can be easily fixed with a coat of paint or two.



MORGAN'S ROOM (this page) An Oeuf 'Sparrow' bed with matching bedside form the foundations for Morgan's bedroom. A zig-zag motif transforms a plain wall and Fictional Objects sheets bring pattern. And a boy's room isn't complete without a few superheroes. **WILLOW'S ROOM (opposite)** Willow gets a feature wall of her own, decked in 'Scallop Dots' wallpaper from These Walls. The bed and wall-hung storage are both from local company, Plyroom. The bed is decked in vivid Castle bedlinen and topped off by a plush pompom blanket from Kip&Co.



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|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Entry | 10. Master bedroom |
| 2. Dining area | 11. Ensuite |
| 3. Kitchen | 12. Walk-in robe |
| 4. Play area | 13. Bedroom |
| 5. Living area | 14. Playroom |
| 6. Laundry | 15. Bedroom |
| 7. Bathroom | 16. Studio |
| 8. Garage | 17. Bathroom |



"The scallop wallpaper adds interest and is a design that will grow with Willow"

BROOKE GROVER, OWNER



BATHROOM (opposite, right) Calacatta marble herringbone tiles and concrete-look floor tiles from Surface Gallery combine with oak veneer cabinetry created by Competitive Joinery for a timeless polished look. **MASTER BEDROOM (opposite, left & this page)** Muuto 'Dots' wall hooks and a Plyroom side table bring a fun and practical Scandi touch. The restored chair once belonged to Brooke's great uncle. A bespoke bedhead from BedNest is matched by a framed print from Apache Rose. The bed is topped with Cultiver linen sheets, a Langdon Ltd cushion and a throw from Tribe & Co Living.

— **5 GREAT FINDS** —

1

Kip&Co 'Deserted' tassel throw, \$269, Life Interiors, lifeinteriors.com.au.

2

'The Big Log' coffee table, \$4950, Mark Tuckey, marktuckey.com.au.

3

'Shag Diamond' cushion in Blush, \$145, Langdon Ltd, langdonltd.com.au.

4

Billi instant boiling, chilled & sparkling unit in Matte Black, \$3699, Winning Appliances, winningappliances.com.au.

5

Muuto 'Nerd' bar stool, \$775, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: NATALIE JOHNSON, TOWELS: CITTA, CITTADESIGN.COM, CANDLE: THE MINIMALIST, THEMINIMALIST.COM.AU, CONCRETE BOX (OPPOSITE, ON SIDE TABLE), ZAKKIA, ZAKKIA.COM.AU