



WELCOME home

LIGHT-FILLED AND OPEN, THIS HOME ON SYDNEY'S NORTHERN BEACHES IS A CALM AND INVITING OASIS

STORY DAVID SMIEDT STYLING SALLY PATERSON PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON WHITBREAD



READY, SET, RELAX After living on site during the renovation of their home, Matt and Sally (pictured opposite with children Penny, Abbie and Lachlan, and Kobe the cavador puppy) are happy to enjoy their new and improved outdoor area. "This home has completely transformed the way we live," says Sally. Indoors, the couple created a spacious open-plan kitchen and dining area (below), where a window splashback frames the purpose-built green wall and contributes to the light and bright atmosphere. A round table that was custom created to Sally's own design by her builder, using repurposed Oregon timber, is ideal for entertaining and is paired with classic 'No 18' chairs by Thonet. >

When homeowner Sally, the co-founder of Sydney interiors consultancy Heliconia and a regular contributor to *HB*, first laid eyes on the site of this Northern Beaches home, she saw past the clunky double garage out the back, abundance of concrete in the backyard and series of small rooms inside, and knew she could create something special. With a young family, it was the need for space that attracted her to the home, and her vision for what it could become was strong: so strong that she and her husband, Matt, put in an offer without Matt even seeing it. "It was a home that was designed to grow," explains Sally. "And we've already noticed that in the last couple of years. The kids have reached different stages and the home has kept up." Now the perfect fit for their family, the abode channels resort chic while still being practical enough for three growing kids – Lachlan, 13, Abbie, 10, and Penny, six – a cavador named Kobe (after the basketballer, not the beef) and Carmelo the cat.

After living in the original home for a year, Sally and Matt were ready to begin renovating – a process completed across 12 months. "We thought we'd live in it for a lot longer before renovating, but it was one of those things," she says. "After a few months you realise how things can take shape and then you can't wait to change them." >



LIVING AREA The same honey engineered American oak flooring from Preference Floors that appears in the dining and kitchen areas (previous page) flows throughout this space for visual consistency. It's echoed by the timber bull head hanging on the wall and offset with an ornate pendant from Allissias Attic & Vintage French Style. Atop a Persian rug – a gift from Matt's parents – rests an ottoman from Mayvn Interiors. The white vintage sofa (above) belonged to Sally's grandmother and has been lovingly refurbished for a new era. "I just kind of pulled the style together based on what we had," says Sally of the space. "And it has this elegant boho vibe to it."



KITCHEN In the bustling hub of this family home, Emac & Lawton 'Lumi-R' pendants in Copper help illuminate the Caesarstone bench in Snow. Cleverly, the island bench is fronted with Wall Candy 'Moroccan Tiles' wallpaper in Grey to give the impression of tiles. Cabinets in Dulux Vivid White and walls in Dulux Natural White are timeless.

"I LOVE TO CREATE SPACES THAT ARE
bright, FRESH AND SUMMERY" ~ SALLY

POOL The previous garage was converted into a pool house (below) complete with bi-fold doors – allowing the family to enjoy relaxed indoor-outdoor living. The dreamy pool, by Wright Pools, is a favourite spot for Penny, Abbie and Lachlan (pictured). “The pool works almost like a water feature,” explains Sally. “We wanted to make sure it could be seen from many different aspects in the house.” She opted to go with mid-blue mosaic tiling inside the pool “with enough variation to have a pearlescent effect – it makes it so inviting that you can’t wait to jump into it,” says Sally.



Working with architect David Hunt – who was recommended by a colleague of Matt’s – Sally designed her ideal renovation. On the ground floor, the kitchen was extended to where the driveway used to be, while the previous separate kitchen, dining and living areas were opened into a single area. A main suite and home office were also created, while upstairs became the kids’ domain with their bedrooms and bathroom. A sparkling swimming pool was added and the double garage was turned into a multi-functional pool house. “The kids can go in there and watch a movie or hang out with their friends,” says Sally. “But it can also be a guest bedroom or home office. It’s very flexible.”

With the pool house the first part to be completed, the family moved in en masse for several months during the renovation. With three kids, a cat, a dog and a husband, Sally says that “there were a couple of stressful moments, but it was more about excitement as the project came together. The builder was great at communication and it put us at ease and actually made the whole process quite smooth. So while it’s not ideal to live on site, we managed really well.”

To open the house up to natural light, the couple added skylights, plus bi-fold and French doors that connect practically every room on the ground level with the outdoors. A neutral colour foundation allows for a rotating array of decor items. “I fall in love with so many things,” says Sally. “I’ve brought in little pieces of Scandi, little pieces of boho, a bit of Hamptons, a bit of global. And I love the way it’s all come together. We haven’t felt like we’ve had to commit to one particular style category. You can be drawn to a certain scheme, but I find that creating a soulful home is more about finding what you love and then making it work.” And work it most certainly does.

FLOOR PLAN



LIVING ROOM As a counterbalance to the wall-mounted television, Sally opted to encase the fireplace shaft in the living area (top right) in Dulux Domino – creating not so much a feature wall as a feature flue. On it is a feathered juju hat from Africanologie, where Sally also sourced the duo of Malawi chairs. “They bring cosy warmth to what is otherwise a modern space,” she says. The sofa is from King Living.

HOME OFFICE What was previously a small living room on the ground floor now opens up to a new verandah alongside the custom-built desk (right). The Thonet ‘B9 Le Corbusier’ chair is in the same colour scheme as those around the dining table and can be pulled into service when extra guests drop around for dinner. A round rug from Rug Culture and beachy pendant light from Emporium Avenue add texture and pattern. >





WE LOVE...
a luxurious bathtub

Oversized, elegant and inviting, the 'Teresa' stone freestanding tub from ACS Bathrooms is a statement piece. "I loved that it was stone, because it will retain heat for longer," says Sally. "It's a much nicer surface to touch and, in my opinion, it just looks a million bucks." Minimalist tapware is built into the wall so as not to disrupt the fluid lines, with timber touches bringing Scandi spa chic into play. Visit acsbathrooms.com.au >

"THE black and copper HANGING PLANTERS TIE BACK TO colours USED ELSEWHERE IN THE HOME" ~ SALLY

BATHROOM The home's underlying colour scheme of greys, whites, timbers and blacks is echoed in the wet zone (top left). "The greys are a really easy palette to work with," says Sally. "And we love marble as a material. To be cost-effective, we brought it in through a hexagon mosaic in the niche above the basins." The grey is complemented by cement-look tiling from Color Tile and the custom-made vanity utilised a single piece of timber with the natural grain across both drawers.

MAIN BEDROOM In Sally and Matt's bedroom (top right), vertical V-groove wall panelling painted in Dulux Limed White creates the illusion of higher ceilings - adding texture and remaining consistent to the home's palette. True to Sally's love of black, the bedhead from Brosa channels a Hollywood Regency aesthetic and is offset by the tribal necklace wall hanging from Emporium Avenue. A Globe West bedside table warms the palette, with custom-painted pendants from Light Up Balgowlah offering sculptural flair and evening ambience.

ABBIE'S BEDROOM A wall of removable polka dot decals adds playfulness to Abbie's room (right). "I wanted little features without anything too dramatic, and I also wanted to be able to change it up," says Sally. The custom teal-toned velvet bedhead adds a touch of whimsy to the little designer's space. "She has some quite quirky little ideas as well, which is divine," says Sally.

OUTDOOR AREA Beside the pool, a Granada Beach dining table from Globe West often hosts gatherings of family and friends. Sally paired two Globe West Granada Butterfly dining chairs (at each end) with bargain buy white chairs from Kmart. The timber shingles on the exterior of the home were existing – Sally kept them as an acknowledgement of the history.

CONTACTS

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BOHO ELEGANCE



INSIDE STORY
SALLY & MATT'S HOME

Who lives here?
Sally, co-founder of interiors studio Heliconia and regular HB contributor; Matt, a corporate executive; their children, Lachlan, 13, Abbie, 10, and Penny, six; and pets Kobe, a cavador puppy, and Carmelo the cat.

What advice do you have for non-stylists?
Sally: "Take the time to create a vision that you can carry through the whole home first and the rest will flow. If you have a base foundation or colour scheme that underpins every room, it allows you to be creative with the layers that come next."

What's your favourite spot in the home?
"I love sitting in the living area with a cup of tea. The kids might be jumping in the pool and I can still see them in full view."

If you had your time again, what would you have done differently?
"I would have started renovating a lot sooner!"



ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

1. Ceramic pendant lamp, Allissias Attic & Vintage French Style.
2. The family (from left) Penny, Abbie, Matt, Lachlan and Sally.
3. Juju African headdress, Africanologie.
4. Cedar shingles colour-matched to the original home. For similar, try Dulux Foille.
5. 'Kimberley' rattan bar stool, Temple & Webster.
6. 'No 18' dining chair with custom paint finish and natural sock detail, Thonet.
7. 'Teresa' freestanding stone bath, ACS Bathrooms.