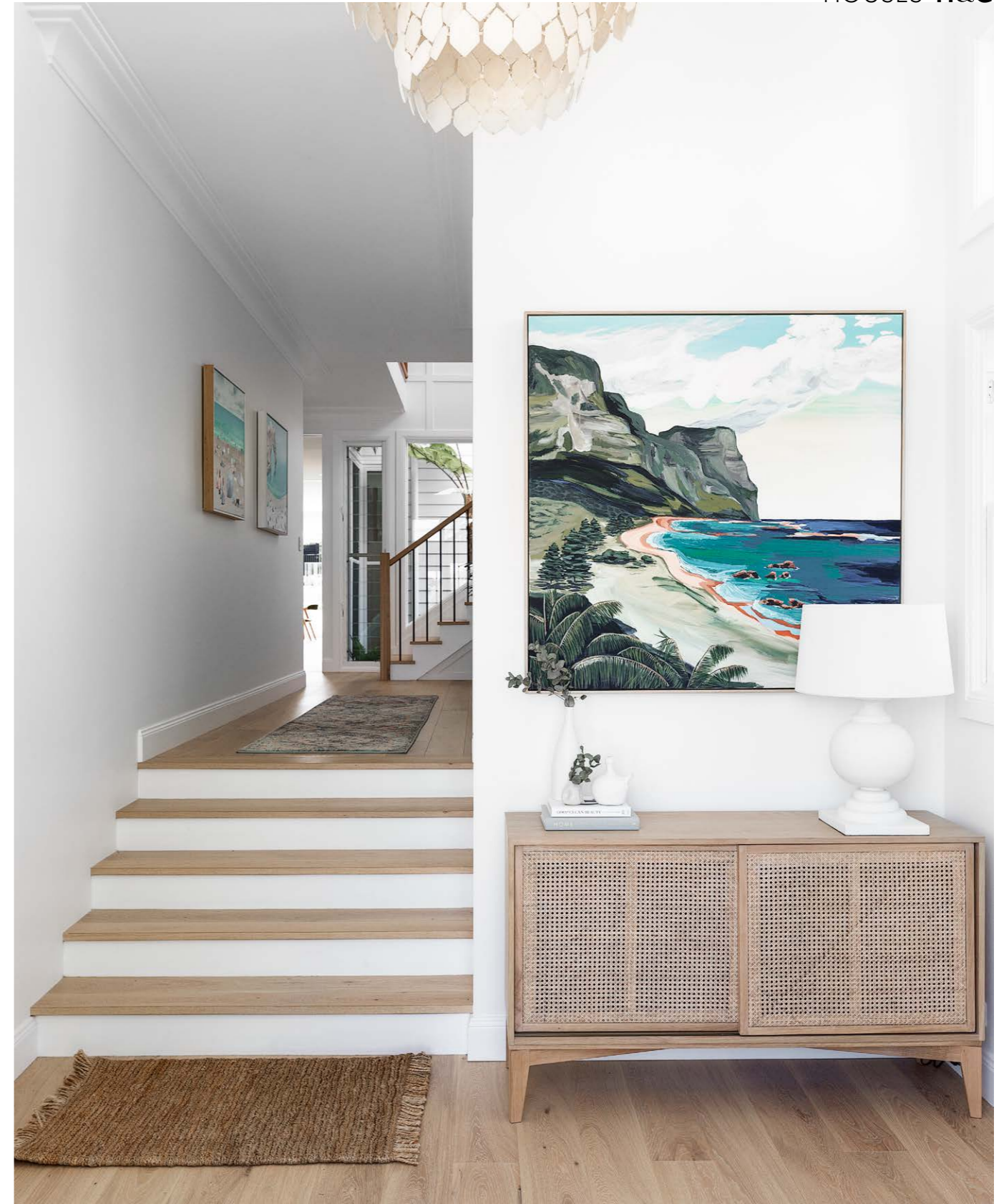


Breath of FRESH AIR

Starting from scratch allowed the owners of this Sydney new-build to combine contemporary and classic elements for a home that delivers family-friendly living and ample space for entertaining.

STORY *Annika Baker* | STYLING *Sally Paterson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Simon Whitbread*



ENTRY FOYER Engineered-oak flooring in Champagne Classic from Havwoods International flows through the house. The console and pendant light are by Heliconia. Lamp, Emac & Lawton. Artworks by Vynka Hallam (over console) and Jacqueline Burgess (both in hall). Rugs, Armadillo. **FACADE** Glass-panelled garage doors made by Personality Garage Doors play an important role in beautifying the front of the house. It's clad with James Hardie Linea fibre-cement weatherboards finished in Dulux Grey Pebble. Trims, Dulux Lexicon Quarter. Front door, Dulux Dark Door.

THE LAYOUT



KITCHEN A trio of Isabella Lantern lights from MDA Lighting hang over the island bench, which is clad with Talostone in Calacatta Luxe. The Polytec cabinetry is finished in Dulux Snowy Mountains Quarter and Dulux Monument (under island). New York stools, Satara. Pegasi M sink mixer, Faucet Strommen. The wall-side benchtop is Talostone in Neutral White.



When homeowners Emma and Colin were looking for a property on Sydney's Northern Beaches, they knew that their love for nature would heavily inform their decision about exactly where to buy. Somewhere close to both the beach and bushland was their dream. So when this property - backing onto parkland and a short walk from the ocean - became available, they realised they'd hit the jackpot.

The couple bought the 582-square-metre property in 2019. Since the existing 1960s house was riddled with asbestos and a family of possums had been occupying a hole in the roof cavity, knocking it down was a no-brainer. Emma and Colin had spotted an ideal opportunity to create a dream home for themselves and their young daughter.

At the top of their wish list for the new build was that the home have a good connection to the surrounding landscape. "We back right on to a large park and beyond that bush, with access to bushwalking and mountain biking," says Emma.

Light-filled, airy spaces were also important. Sally Paterson, interior architect and director of Heliconia, responded to this brief by creating a central courtyard that "connects the interiors with the outside from many angles". This courtyard compels

the gaze from many angles within the home and is flanked with louvred windows to allow sunlight and fresh air to fill the space. "This beautiful feature gave the project its nickname - 'The Breezeway' - as the gentle breeze, beautiful natural light and an outlook of stunning garden are all core to the home's atmosphere," says Sally.

"Emma and Colin wanted a house that was elevated, cleverly thought-out and comfortable, but nothing ostentatious," she says. "Our design needed to complement their lifestyle with family-friendly functionality and easy living. The couple's love of the outdoors informed the final design - both in its colour and materials, and the layout and flow of the home."

Creating spaces that work well for all members of the family is important to anyone building a new home. "Together with our draftsman at Action Plans, we spent some time making sure the back area was as level with the rear patio, yard and pool zone as possible, to help extend the family living zone but also allow Colin and Emma to keep a watchful eye on their daughter playing while they were in the kitchen," adds Sally.

The new home, completed in 2020, features an office, laundry and main living, dining and kitchen area as well a second media room on the ground level. "We always try to include additional living spaces in a family home. It's about being cognisant of the need for home layouts to adapt as a family ►

HALLWAY A mirror from Warranbrooke hangs over joinery custom-made for Heliconia in a brass mesh from Arrow Metal and with a Prime Oak top in Woodmatt from Polytec. Artworks seen in the mirror by Fiona Chandler. **LIVING** Concerto sofa, King Mads lounge chairs, Satara. Artworks by Fiona Chandler and fire surround in Dulux Maximus. **DINING** New York table, Chris chairs and Diamond buffet all from Satara. Pendant light, Bisque Traders. Lamps, Koala Living.



“THE COLOUR AND MATERIALS PALETTES REALLY COMPLEMENT THE HOME’S SURROUNDINGS.”

Sally Paterson, interior designer

grows. The media room is large enough to be a play zone for their daughter now but is also easily adapted to become accommodation when guests stay the night.”

The upper level of the home is dedicated to personal time, including three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a home gym. In keeping with the aesthetics of the architecture, the interior design is contemporary with a relaxed coastal feel. “The colour and materials palette was chosen to be timeless and to really complement the home’s surroundings and effortlessly luxe atmosphere,” says Sally.

Walls are painted Dulux Snowy Mountains throughout, amplifying the detail of the timber joinery, flooring and furniture. The timber’s warmth counters the marble-look stone-composite benchtops and brass elements. “We finalise internal paint colours at the end of the project, so we can get a feel for the way natural light plays within the home and across surfaces,” she adds.

The rear of the house is geared for gatherings. Guests are met with an idyllic entertaining zone featuring the main living

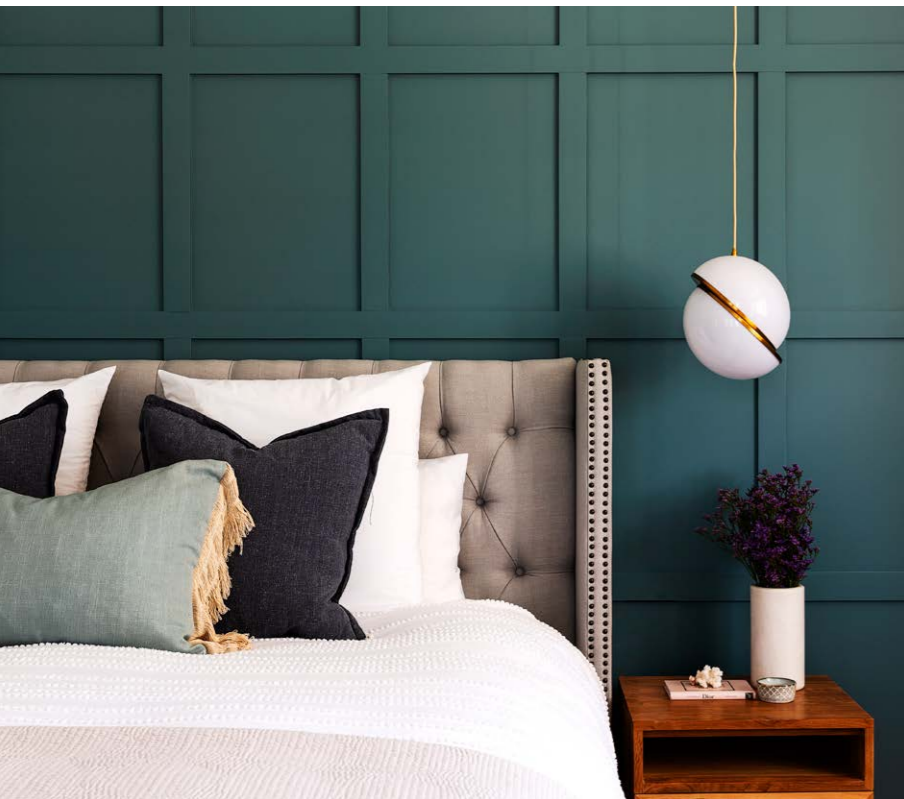
and dining areas and kitchen. Two sets of glass sliding doors spanning 7.5 metres allow this space to extend into the backyard, where there is an inviting pool, level lawn and fully equipped outdoor kitchen.

“The rear living and dining area was designed to feel like it naturally extended through to the garden,” says Sally. “It has a pitched roof that continues from the indoor kitchen through to the outdoor one.”

This impressive bush-meets-beach home is proof that beautiful design can coexist with a family-friendly space. Understandably, Emma and Colin couldn’t be more thrilled with what they now consider will be their forever home. “It’s the little details that all work together to build a harmonious and a lovely, happy feeling in our home,” says Emma. ▶

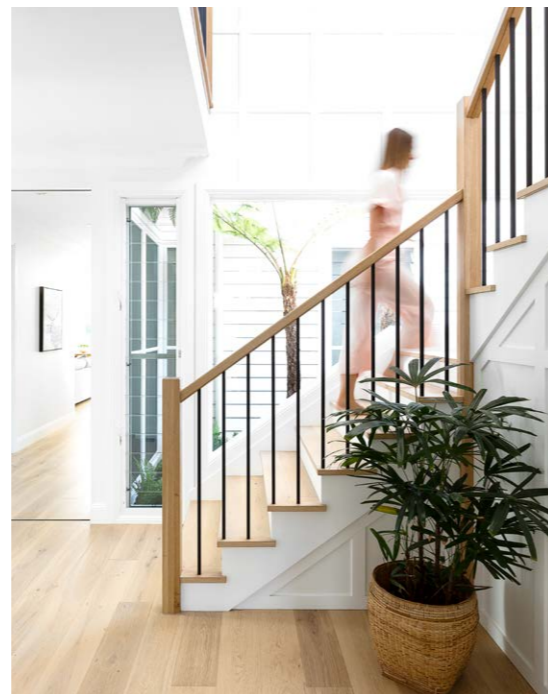
Heliconia, Sydney, NSW; 0404 810 395 or heliconia.com.au. Method Building Projects, Sydney NSW; 0402 922 618 or methodbuild.com.au. Action Plans, Manly, NSW; 0426 957 518 or actionplans.com.au.

GUESTROOM *This image* Crisp white walls are punctuated with artworks by Fiona Chandler (between windows) and Vintage Art Emporium (by bed). Palm Springs bedhead and lamp, Canvas+Sasson. Lattice wool carpet, Bremworth. **MAIN BEDROOM** *Below left* The wall panelling made by builder Jamie Schofield is painted Dulux Love Pat. Stella upholstered bedhead, Brosa. Willow bedside table, Globe West. **STAIRS** The treads are in Champagne Classic engineered oak from Havwoods International. **MAIN BATHROOM** Pill shaving cabinets by ADP are paired with Pegasi basin mixers from Faucet Strommen and Eden Round above-counter basins from Loughlin Furniture. The vanity was custom-made for Heliconia and features a Talostone top in Calacatta Luxe. Wall tiles, Tiles by Kate. Elegant wall light, Lighting Collective. ▶



THE PALETTE

Dulux Grey Pebble (exterior)	Dulux Love Pat (main bedroom)	Dulux Maximus (fire surround, outdoor dining)
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Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

THIS IS THE LIFE

To create a sense of sanctuary for Emma, Colin and their daughter, interior architect Sally Paterson focused on providing them with a fabulous, family-friendly outdoor space and open-plan living area. "When all of the sliding doors are opened up it's a summery sanctuary, with lovely cross breezes and the kids in the yard are in easy view of the adults – who'll be sitting around the island bench or lingering over lunch," says Sally.



BACK GARDEN With both an expanse of level lawn and a pool in the garden, there are plenty of outdoor play options for the family (and any little friends!) to enjoy. Ezzari 'Tahiti' glass mosaics line the pool while the pavers that surround it are Jurassic French stone from Barefoot Living. The roof is Colorbond Monument. **OUTDOOR DINING** The fully-equipped outdoor kitchen includes a drinks fridge and a built-in barbecue from Weber. The wall behind is painted Dulux Maximus to make the greenery in front pop. Stripe outdoor dining table and Sita dining chairs, Satara.



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THE SOURCE

Colour cues from nature bring the outside in, adding to the laidback feel of a calm, comfortable home.



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Produced by Sophie Wilson.

1 One Tree Hill art print, from \$295, Marcia Priestley. 2 Circle wall mirror, \$2695, Poliform. 3 Armac Martin 'Bournville' pull handle in Burnished Brass, \$165, The English Tapware Company. 4 Maison de Vacances 'Stonewashed' cushion in Avocat Kilim, \$599, Polite Society. 5 Southampton 1 exterior pendant light, \$369, Beacon Lighting. 6 Agua vase, \$79.95, Provincial Home Living. 7 Hedland marble footed bowl, \$189.95, Provincial Home Living. 8 Essastone stone-composite surface in Unique Calacatta Gloss, POA, Laminex. 9 Raffles buffet, \$999, Freedom. 10 Posh Solus basin set, \$145, Reece. 11 River Echo jute runner (80x180cm), \$390, Armadillo. 12 Hand towels in Clay (left) and Jasper, \$39 each, Kōbn. For Where to Buy, see page 190. H&G