

Design duo Duet stretched the limits of their imagination with this glorious country-meets-coast homestead brimming with contemporary flourishes and vintage treasures.

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FREE REIGN



This page Recycled brickwork and a sandstone step lead to the main house with a graphic custom rug gracing the central hallway which is clad in lining boards. The exterior is painted in Dulux 'Indian Reed' with a 'Gables' exterior wall light from Fat Shack Vintage. Hanging from the ceiling are 'Rye 3' outdoor pendant lights by Bright Sea Lighting. **Opposite page** The interiors are full of small vignettes such as these Guaxs vases from Conley & Co positioned in the hallway against a backdrop of walls also painted in Dulux 'Indian Reed'.

This page The kitchen in the main house features traditional joinery in Dulux 'Oakbank' with 'Galley' drawer pulls from The Society Inc. Cabinetry has been contemporised with a marble countertop in Calacatta Brescia Capria Royal from J&L Marble. Astra Walker 'Olde English' tapware in aged brass. A custom butcher block painted Dulux 'Aztec Tan' with 'Trader' drawer pulls from The Society Inc is on wheels for flexibility. Hanging from the pitched roof is a vintage pendant light with custom plastered shades. Fisher & Paykel cooker. Walls painted in Dulux 'Rice Crop', windows in Dulux 'Falkland' and architraves in Dulux 'Maiko'. Above the windows is a 'Red Snapper Fish' wall plate by Bordallo Pinheiro.



This page, clockwise from top left A small detail in the formal dining room. 'Asteria' side table from Koala Living with a vase and sculpture by Hilary Green. Vintage artwork from AM Art Projects. Mustard silk curtains from Marlow & Finch. "It's big but doesn't feel disjointed because there are breakaway spaces enveloped in colour. We filled the emptiness with billowing curtains and furniture that envelops you," says designer Shannon Shlom. The formal dining room in the main house features a 'Florence' table from MCM House with custom slipcovered chairs and a vintage pendant light with bespoke plastered shades. Custom cabinet by Duet painted in Dulux 'Tamed Texan' and 'Blood Mahogany' with Mi & Gei 'Forme No.4' handles. Beside the cabinet is a collection of vintage objects including a pair of flamingos and a side table with brass urn. Vintage artworks from AM Art Projects. The walls are painted in Dulux 'Benang', ceiling in Dulux 'Rice Crop' and architraves in Dulux 'Maiko'. In the main house, a servery was added in the kitchen. The benchtop is Calacatta Brescia Capria Royal from J&L Marble with joinery in Dulux 'Oakbank'. The Parisi 'Butler' double-bowl sink is paired with Astra Walker 'Olde English' tapware in aged brass. Guax vase from Conley & Co, 'Cabbage' bowl from Bordallo Pinheiro and 'Tartan' ceramic butter dish by Matilda Good. Windows painted in Dulux 'Falkland' and architraves in Dulux 'Maiko'.

George Geagea remembers the exact moment this deeply personal project he started with his business partner Charles Daoud became one he needed to share. "I was standing in the driveway overlooking the large orchard with its mandarin, orange, lemon and fig trees and saw the property in a new light. It had been so neglected and I could finally see it sparkling. Even though it was meant to be a private project, we knew this was something we had the privilege of sharing," says George. So while the Greyleigh homestead was intended to be a family weekendender, it's now available for stays and events.

The sprawling farmhouse was terribly run-down when George first saw it in 2014 but the location was so highly coveted that the purchase was a no-brainer. Established in the 1800s the renowned dairy farm was famous for its award-winning cattle. The tightly held pocket of acreage is now virtually unheard of in Kiama and it is uniquely positioned between the ocean and rolling green hills.

Dominique Brammah and Shannon Shlom of Duet were engaged to transform the homestead into an elevated farm stay with a strong connection to nature. While no architectural intervention was required, the interiors were completely gutted and restored beyond recognition. "We wanted to create something really distinctive and strong so it was about introducing layers of things that could fly in a holiday home, but not necessarily in a permanent residence," says Dominique. "Looking back, our initial concept presentation probably wasn't quite as bold as the final result. We may not have got it off the ground if it had been."

However, they needn't have worried. "We just let the girls run with it," says George. "They showed us moodboards and >



These pages The guesthouse is cosy and more compact than the main homestead. The vintage dining table with Calacatta Viola top is surrounded by vintage chairs with seat covers in Lisa Fine Textiles 'Pomegranate' linen in Dusty Rose from Ascraft and a custom banquette upholstered in jacquard with feature cushions in Lisa Fine 'Calico Floral Stripe' in Coco Charcoal. On table, 'Apulian Eyes' ceramic water jug from Alex and Trahanas and 'Tartan' ceramic butter dish by Matilda Goad. Vintage tole chandelier. Custom sideboard by Duet painted in Dulux 'Benang' and 'Blood Mahogany' with Mi & Gei 'Forme No.4' handles. On sideboard, vessel with arms by Hilary Green, and vintage bowl and candelabra. On the shelf are vintage vessels. On the wall, *Ming Vase I* artwork by Samuel Condon from Studio Gallery and a vintage plate. Roman blinds in navy gingham made by Marlow & Finch. In the kitchenette, custom joinery painted in Dulux 'Green Sea' and 'Grapple' with 'Ascot' knob handles and a 'Highland' cup pull in acid-washed brass, both from Hepburn Hardware. Carrara marble benchtop from J&L Marble. Oven and cooktop, both from Fisher & Paykel.



“We laboured over everything from scrunchies to pelmets and wardrobe interiors – and the clients never said no.”



This page, from top In the formal living room is a Nord Modern vintage sofa re-upholstered in 'Lexus Gingerbread' from Warwick, an antique gothic side chair and a vintage armchair upholstered in Schumacher 'Bermuda Check', all on a Berber rug from Kulchi. Duet designed the custom wall light and coffee table and sourced the vintage artwork. Hanging above the lounge area is an oversized pendant light by Duet. A doorway with a vintage starburst clock above leads to the central hallway. A vintage console divides the living and dining areas. 'Big Bakers Oven' fireplace from Nectre. Hanging above the 'Florence' dining table from MCM House is a vintage pendant light with custom shades. Slipcovered dining chairs by Duet. White powder-coated aluminium wall sculpture by The Visuals. Masks on display in the alcove are from Orient House. In the library of the main house, Duet re-upholstered a vintage sofa in The Isle Mill 'Inchture' tweed in Pimento from Tigger Hall Design. Vintage Turkish rug from The Rug Specialist. Statue and bird sculptures from Orient House. Vintage wall light. Vintage chair re-upholstered in Cloth 'Plushous' velvet from Ascraft with red gimp-braid trim. Custom coffee table in Calacatta Viola by Duet with pink vase from Studio ALM. Walls in Dulux 'Autumn Orange', ceiling in Dulux 'Frills' and doors and architraves in Dulux 'Rice Crop'. Roman blinds by Marlow & Finch.



This page The formal living room is wrapped in blue with walls painted in Dulux 'Benang'. The fireplace is original with a custom decorative painting design by Duet. Above is a mirror and pair of candelabras, all vintage. A vintage light sits on a custom side table with silk skirt and Calacatta Viola top by Duet. Armchair re-upholstered in Schumacher 'Ruan Dragon' damask in Emerald. Nord Modern sofa covered in 'Lexus Gingerbread' fabric from Warwick with custom cushions in Schumacher 'Vermicelli Velvet' in Emerald with Inge Holst brush trim in Natural. Calacatta Viola-topped coffee table by Duet. The glass sphere is vintage and the vessel is by Hilary Green. Berber rug from Kulchi.



« their overarching vision but, ultimately, I knew that only they could bring it to life and see it through to completion.” While the footprint remained unchanged, the homestead – which sleeps 10 – was given a whole new look, incorporating everything from window dressings to furnishings and cutlery.

“We would trawl around online at night, messaging each other at all hours so we wouldn’t miss out on a fantastic sofa we found on Facebook Marketplace,” says Dominique of the ever-evolving furniture scheme. With a tight budget, immense scope and short timeframe, Dominique and Shannon found new and inventive ways of working, enthusiastically rummaging through Etsy and Gumtree. “We’d buy something second-hand online but then cover it in luxurious fabric or expensive tweed. We never hit middle ground – we high-low’d it the whole way through,” says Shannon. “And if we bought it off the shelf we’d customise it with a flourish – a little cherry on top,” echoes Dominique of added pipings, trims and even scalloped marble aprons.

A wide hallway runs uninterrupted from the entry to the rear garden, decorated with plants on shelves, inspired by an indoor conservatory. A large bedroom sitting to the left is followed by a pitched-roof breakfast room and French doors that lead to the kitchen, a pretty and punchy space with new servery windows »

This page The wide hallway, with walls painted in Dulux 'Stellar Mist', is suitable for hosting with long tables for celebrations. The plant stand evokes a conservatory-like feel. Vintage pendant light with custom slipcover.

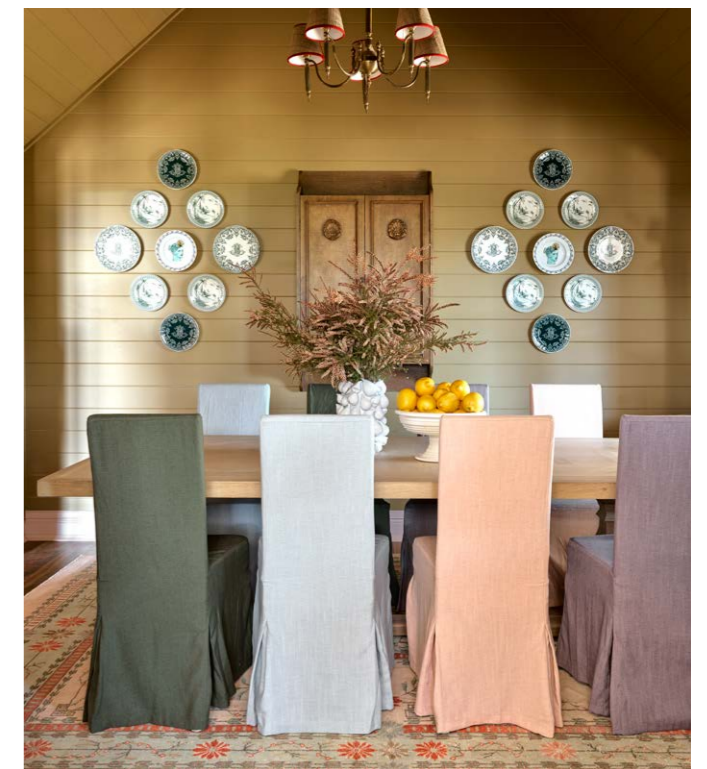
In the formal dining room is a 'Florence' table from MCM House and custom slipcovered chairs. Vintage pendant light with custom plastered shades. White powder-coated aluminium sculpture by The Visuals. Walls painted in Dulux 'Benang'. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** Designers Shannon (left) and Dominique in the guesthouse library nook. On shelves, vessels from Water Tiger and Orient House, 'Greek Key' basket from Mercer & Lewis and vintage items. Banquette and bolster in 'Lexus Cornflower' from Warwick with cushions in Schumacher 'Janis' velvet. Walls papered in 'Climbing Curios' by artist Fee Greening for Common Room.

Vintage wall light with custom gathered shade. A graphic rug is a statement piece in the hallway. Totem sculpture by The Visuals and artwork by Tim Summerton from Olsen Gallery. In the breakfast room in the main house is a feature wall of Richard Ginori plates by Luke Edward Hall from The Lost & Found Department. Mode 'Fig' vase from Peter's of Kensington and white Italian ceramic footed bowl from Aeria Country Floors. Vintage wall cabinet and pendant light with custom rattan shades. Vintage Nord Modern sofa, gothic side chair and armchair. Hand-plastered lamp with red silk shade and coffee table by Duet. Berber rug from Kulchi. *Palace Vase II* artwork by Samuel Condon from Studio Gallery.



SPEEDREAD

» George Geagea wanted a weekend for his family to enjoy in the coveted area of Kiama where he purchased an old homestead on an 1800s dairy farm. » Its location had all the spoils of a nearby beach but was set inland among rolling green hills. » Interior designers Dominique Brammah and Shannon Shlom of Duet were briefed to transform the run-down homestead into a luxurious 'beach farmhouse'. » The footprint of the house remained intact but its interiors were gutted. » With a tight budget and short time-frame, the designers stretched the imagination with dichotomous high-low pairings, trawling garage sales, Facebook Marketplace and Etsy, then re-upholstering and reconditioning vintage pieces. » Colour was integral, helping to define spaces within the sprawling main house. » A compact guesthouse on the site has been designed with a cosier aesthetic.





« in apricot and blue. On the opposite side of the corridor is a shared formal dining and living area, a space that initially proved challenging due to its breadth, but felt immediately better after a coat of deep green-blue paint.

Wrapping the house in colour was part of the strategy “to establish spaces and minimise the disjointed rabbit-warren”, says Shannon. “When we first arrived we got lost. Colour helped define spaces, to act as an anchor. It was about creating a journey through the home, a natural order.” To that end, the library is painted three different tones: burnt orange on the walls, cornflower blue on the ceiling, and doors and architraves in a warm white. On the south-east side of the building, one large room was carved into two – a playful mustard-hued casual zone and adjoining kids bunkhouse that sleeps six. Upstairs, the master bedroom has a loft with a kitchenette and claw-foot bathtub overlooking the water.

A covered brick path connects to the guesthouse with an open-plan kitchenette in the meals and living zone and three bedrooms. Due to its comparative compactness, Dominique and Shannon approached the guesthouse with a cosier sensibility, outfitting it with an inviting reading nook, navy gingham Roman blinds and patterned wallpaper. “It’s a little more traditional and we’ve just softened the intensity,” says Shannon.

When completed, Greyleigh will have a barn, kitchen shed, cabana, pool, chicken coop, workshop for artists-in-residence and a network of cottages and silos. Currently, though, it’s occupied full-time by ponies, llamas, sheep and sprightly chickens. “It was a whopper job,” says Dominique. “And there’s so much more to come.” greyleigh.com.au; weareduet.com.au



This page The bathroom in the loft suite is open plan with views out to a magnolia tree and the ocean. Demarcating the bath from the sleeping area is a small platform of Calacatta Viola from Granite & Marble Works on the floor. Victoria & Albert ‘Richmond’ bath with Astra Walker ‘Olde English’ floor-mounted mixer and hand shower in aged brass. Beside the bath is a ‘Verona Palazzo’ side table from GlobeWest with Guaxs vase from Conley & Co. The walls are painted in Dulux ‘Soft Impala’, the ceiling in Dulux ‘Soft Impala Half’ and architraves in ‘Benang’. Vintage pendant light. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** In the main house bathroom the joinery in Dulux ‘Deep Arctic’ features ‘Trader’ pulls from The Society Inc. Astra Walker ‘Olde English’ wall tap set. Benchtap in Brescia Capria Royal from J&L Marble. Cycladic sculpture from Mercer & Lewis. Vintage mirror and sconce. The main house loft suite was designed to be a romantic bolthole with a custom four-poster bed painted in Dulux ‘Celtic Rush’ with bed linen from Cultiver and a Society Limonta throw from Ondene. Brass concertina lamps from Matilda Goad. Vintage wall sconces. The casual living room in the main house is adjacent to the bunkhouse. The contemporary Faye Toogood ‘Roly Poly’ chair in Brick is from Hub and the ‘Gus’ wave stool from GlobeWest. ‘Jessie’ rattan cabinet from Abide Interiors. ‘Asteria’ side table from Koala Living. On walls, custom chequered mirror and sculpture from Cotton Collective. Vintage red and white pendant light. Walls in Dulux ‘Cobbler’ and architraves in ‘Spanish Olive’. Bunkhouse walls in Dulux ‘Tamas’. Custom-made beds paired with wall lights from Ikea. Jordan ‘Airo’ linen in Apple Butter and InBed linen in Midnight Blue. ‘Summit 12’ pendant light by Cedar & Moss. Custom rug by Duet.