

# FAMILY AFFAIR

*Basking in light and space, this reinvented Sydney home is the epitome of contemporary style and practicality for a growing clan.*

STORY Jackie Brygel | STYLING Megan Morton | PHOTOGRAPHY Pablo Veiga



**LIVING** Uninterrupted flow is just the ticket with three young children. Miller sofa and Boyd large floor lamp, Jordan. Nau 'Fat Tulip' armchairs, Cult. Re-edition Kangaroo chair by Pierre Jeanneret, Tigmi Trading. Bacchus coffee table by Tom Skeeahan, Artedomus. Moooi 'Chess Table' by Front, Space. Objekto 'Eclipse' lamp on floor, Hub Furniture. Leila rug in Graphite & Sterling, Armadillo. Curtains, Simple Studio. Artwork by Ash Holmes, sourced by AM Art Projects. **ENTRY** Please Wait To Be Seated 'Spade' chair, Hub Furniture. Vintage Italian rattan-and-brass console, Conley & Co. Italian linen pendant light, Lighting Collective. Artwork by Saxon Quinn, sourced by AM Art Projects. Freado European oak engineered floorboards, Tongue N Groove Flooring.



**DINING** Dining table, Lumber Furniture. Cappellini 'Fronzoni 64' chairs, Cult. New Volumes marble vase, Artedomus. Apparatus 'Cloud 19 Orb' pendant light, Criteria Collection. Paragon rug in Flint, Armadillo. Steel-framed doors, Skyrange. **STAIRWELL** Extensive use of Dulux Lexicon Half throughout the interiors opens up even the narrowest space. The balustrade was designed by Shannon Shlom of Duet and the owners, and made by Dankha. **LIVING** Two-pack polyurethane joinery unit in Dulux Briar. Envelope brushed brass handles, Auhaus Architecture. Calacatta Paonazzo marble fireplace surround, WK Marble & Granite.



**“THE INTERIOR DESIGN APPROACH WAS TO USE A MONOCHROMATIC PALETTE, BUT IN A POWERFUL AND STRIKING WAY.”** *Shannon Shlom*

*A very special* synergy exists between form and function in the Sydney home of Teanne and David. Not only does the undeniably stylish house maintain its ‘cool’, it also caters with ease to the needs of a family with three children aged under four - plus two active pooches. For Teanne and David, the rebirth of their century-old home in the eastern suburbs delivers on every count.

The couple have interior designer Shannon Shlom to thank for driving a contemporary overhaul that is as purposeful as it is beautiful. To Shannon - formerly of Hendrix Hoo and now the co-director of interior design firm Duet with fellow designer Dominique Brammah - the renovation brief made perfect sense.

“It was to create a durable, light-hearted family home that would both withstand sticky fingers by day and give a reprieve from the craziness by night,” says Shannon with a smile.

When she first met Teanne and David in April 2019, the couple had lived for three years in the house, positioned on a compact 316-square-metre block in close proximity to the sea.

“The original home, while freestanding, felt like a typical semi even though it was generous in width,” says Shannon. “The layout was also typical for a semi, with three bedrooms stacked in a row at the front, followed by a bathroom and living space, and then the kitchen and laundry backing onto the garden. Teanne and David knew that a renovation was pending, as their family was growing.”

Over a period of 20 months, the major revitalisation works took shape, including construction of a second-level addition housing

the family’s sleeping quarters. “We’ve nearly doubled the footprint,” says Teanne. “We now have a much more functional family home.”

Shannon adds: “The only rooms that remained at their existing size were the front two rooms, which are now a playroom and guest bedroom. What was a three-bedroom, one-bathroom, single-level house became a five-bedroom, three-bathroom, double-storey home. It was a mammoth but very necessary task.”

As for the colour and materials palette, Shannon again took her cues from the family and their lifestyle. “We do love to use colour, but this project wasn’t particularly about colour,” she says. “Colour came from the outdoors, the kids, the family’s relationships and their guests. The interior design approach was to use a monochromatic palette, but in a powerful and striking way. Teanne and David wanted texture. There’s the chevron pattern in the European oak flooring, marble floor and wall tiles, and soft curves to hard stone surfaces that create tactile moments.”

Throughout the home, an abundance of storage options keeps toys and that everyday clutter easily contained. “We now have built-ins in all the bedrooms, and there’s lots of storage in the living area as well as in the kitchen, the laundry and the pantry,” says Teanne. “It helps us to tidy up as we go along, before we move on to the next space or activity.”

Bringing the sunny outdoors in was also pivotal to the brief. Hugging the property’s rear fence, behind a renewed alfresco zone and lush courtyard-style garden, a plunge pool is forever in use.



“The pool was a welcome addition,” says Shannon, to which Teanne adds: “And it’s already paid for itself. The family loves it. Every space of the block has been maximised, inside and out.” Also true is that the couple have embraced the inevitable signs of wear. “You can’t have everything picture-perfect all the time with such a young family,” says Teanne. “It’s not a museum. Some surfaces will mark, but that builds character over time.”

**DESCRIBE THE BRIEF AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE RENOVATION.** Shannon: Durability and longevity were at the forefront of our minds.

**WHAT WAS THE DESIGN SOLUTION?** To be visually textural without being too animated - to showcase the treasures but keep them out of little people’s reach.

**WERE THERE ANY COMPROMISES?** Originally the client wanted the kitchen layout to be different, but where it is now works absolutely fine and has created much more storage.

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST HAPPY WITH?** That the home is a breath of fresh air, a welcoming and friendly space that is carefully curated for the lifestyle of a beautiful family.

**YOUR WORDS OF WISDOM FOR WOULD-BE RENOVATORS?** Renovations are not quick fixes. Make sure you have the right team behind you so the end result will be even better than you imagined and the journey will be a joyous one.

**HOW LONG DID THE RENOVATIONS TAKE?** Twenty months.

**BALLPARK PROJECT COST?** Over \$1,000,000.

*Design and building team* Interior designer Duet; [weareduet.com.au](http://weareduet.com.au); @we\_are\_duet. Architect Philip Abram Architects; [philipabramarchitects.com.au](http://philipabramarchitects.com.au) Builder Cumberland Building; [cumberlandbuilding.com.au](http://cumberlandbuilding.com.au). Joiner ARC Cabinet Making; [arccabinetmaking.com.au](http://arccabinetmaking.com.au). Landscaping Stone Lotus Landscapes; [stonelotus.com.au](http://stonelotus.com.au).



**KITCHEN** Two-pack polyurethane joinery in Dulux Maximus (including built-in banquette) and Dulux White On White. Calacatta Paonazzo benchtops, WK Marble & Granite. Normann Copenhagen ‘Form’ stools, HG Furniture Solutions. Highline pendant light, Archier. Kelly Wearstler ‘Melange Pill Form’ sconce, Becker Minty. City Stik tapware, Brodware. Steel-framed doors, Skyrange. De Le Cuona ‘Artist Canvas’ fabric in Swamp for sofa cushion, Boyac.



**THE  
PALETTE**

Resene Double  
Alabaster  
(exterior)

Dulux Maximus  
(kitchen joinery  
and banquette)

Bauwerk  
Colour Steel  
(ensuite joinery)



**MAIN BEDROOM** Custom American oak joinery with built-in sofa in Maharam 'Mohair Supreme' mohair in Rosette. Molteni & C 'D.154.2' armchair, Hub Furniture. Society bedlinen, Ondene. Blinds, Simple Studio. **POWDER ROOM** Thassos marble wall tiles and Carrara & Bardiglio marble floor tiles, Di Lorenzo Tiles. Carrara marble top on joinery unit under basin, Granite & Marble Works. Studio Bagno 'Shard 60' basin, Candana. City Stik tapware, Brodware. Gubi 'F.A. 33' mirror, Cult. Apparatus 'Trapeze 2 Surface' wall light, Criteria Collection.



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WITH SUCH A YOUNG FAMILY.  
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**BATHROOM** Two-pack polyurethane vanity in Dulux Pozieres with Elba marble top. Momenti floor tiles in Verde, Onsite Supply+Design. DLT82926 wall tiles in White Gloss and DL60212 wall tiles in Mint Gloss, Di Lorenzo Tiles, City Stik tapware, Brodware. Hermès bath towel.  
**MAIN ENSUITE** Opposite New York marble vanity top, CDK Stone. Evener 'Ravenna' timber veneer for vanity base, Elton Group. Flos 'Mini Glo-Ball' lights, Euro luce. Casa handmade Carrara marble wall tiles reflected in mirror, Onsite Supply+Design. Joinery painted Bauwerk Colour Steel. City Stik tapware and Linear Solo heated rails, both in Nero, Brodware. Apparatus 'Circuit 1' light, Criteria Collection. Antibes linen towel in Charcoal, Crave Wares.







**MATERIALS & finishes**

**JOINERY** Two-pack polyurethane in Dulux Maximus and Dulux White On White (kitchen), Dulux Briar (living), Dulux Pozieres (bathroom), Bauwerk Steel (ensuite).

**FLOORING** Freado European-oak engineered floorboards laid in chevron pattern, Tongue N Groove Flooring (entry, living, kitchen, dining). Carrara & Bardiglio marble floor tiles, Di Lorenzo Tiles (powder room). Momenti floor tiles in Verde, Onsite Supply+Design (bathroom).

**LIGHTING** Boyd large floor lamp, Jordan (living). Italian linen pendant light, Lighting Collective (entry). Apparatus 'Cloud 19 Orb' pendant light, Criteria Collection (dining). Highline pendant light, Archier (kitchen). Kelly Wearstler 'Melange Pill Form' sconce, Becker Minty (kitchen, powder room). Flos 'Mini Glo-Ball' lights, Euroluce (ensuite). Apparatus 'Circuit 1' wall light, Criteria Collection (ensuite).

**APPLIANCES** Miele, Qasair.

**TAPWARE** City Stik range, Brodware.

**COLOUR SCHEME** Dulux Lexicon Half (interior walls, stairwell). Resene Double Alabaster (exterior). Resene Surfmist (roof).



**ALFRESCO** Driade 'Roly Poly' chair by Faye Toogood, Hub Furniture. Hay 'Palissade' outdoor dining setting, Cult. Beauford sandstone pavers, Eco Outdoor. **NURSERY** Leander cot, Danish By Design. Moooi 'Chess Table' by Front, Space. Snoopy table lamp, Istdibs. Felt animal heads on wall by Fiona Walker, Winston + Grace. **EXTERIOR** Walls and trim painted Resene Double Alabaster, and roof painted Resene Surfmist. For Where to Buy, see page 8.