

AUSTRALIAN

THE WELLNESS ISSUE

HOUSE & GARDEN

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AUSTRALIAN
HOMES

TOP
50
ROOMS

Beautiful *ideas* for every
corner of your *home*

BUILDING HAPPINESS

Low-tox, healthy,
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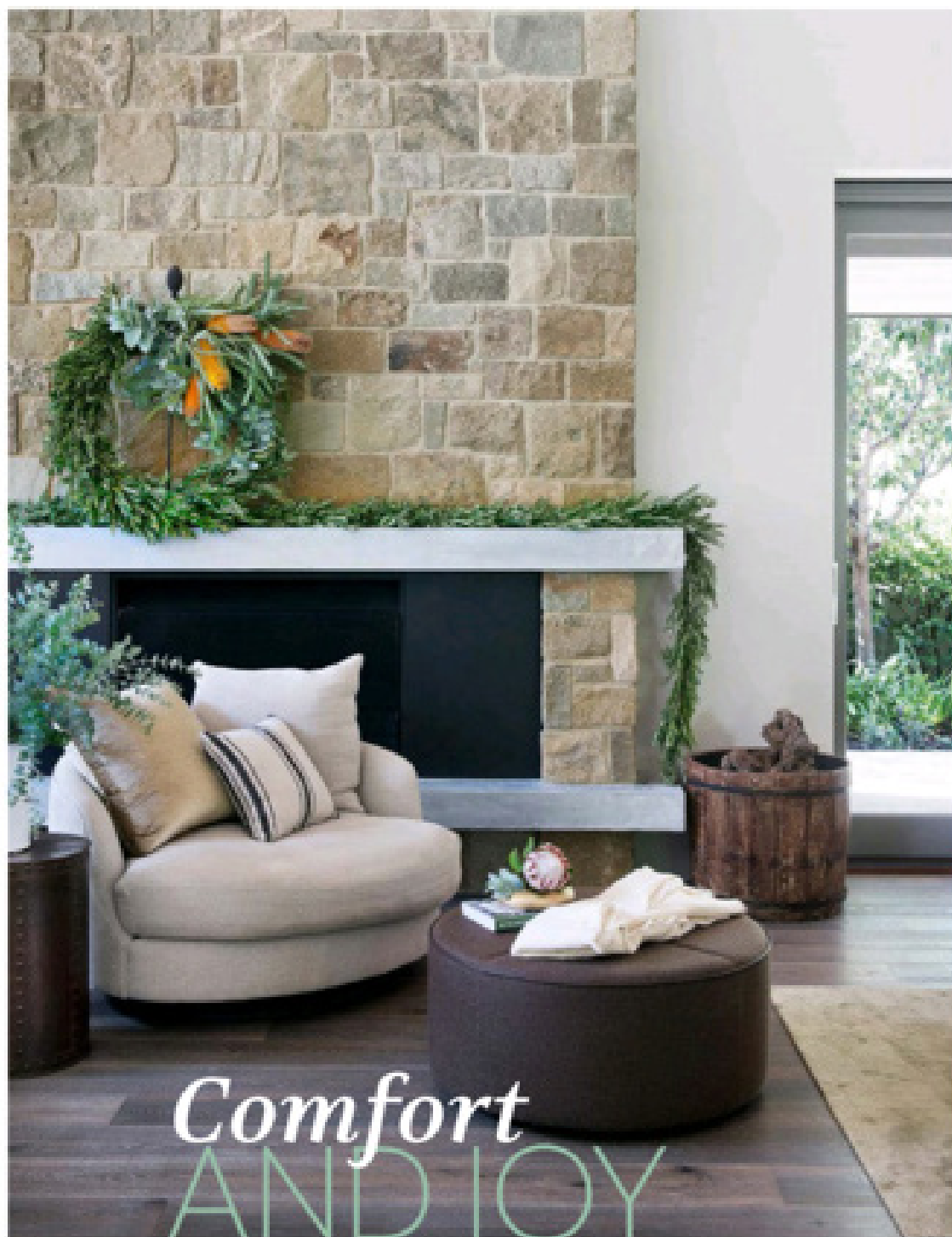
CLEVER WAYS WITH MATERIALS

FROM KITCHENS
TO KIDS' ROOMS

Bath time!
16 of the best

Living well

HOW TO DESIGN, DINE
& DECORATE WITH GOOD
HEALTH IN MIND



Comfort
AND JOY

A fusion of Australian homestead architecture and French Provincial decorating notes, this Perth home hosts festivities of a decidedly relaxed nature.

STORY *Rose Senese* | STYLING *Jo Carmichael* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Jody D'arcy*

FEATURE PLANTS

BACKYARD

Velvet buffalo lawn

Claret ash

(*Fraxinus raywoodii*)


Breytia 'Ironstone'

POOL AREA

Magnolia

POND

Giant papyrus

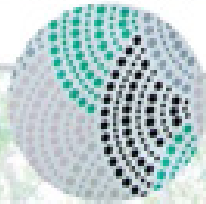


GARDEN Homeowner Tania Marshall trims the tree while her son Wesley plays with the family's beloved French bulldog, Boston. Landscape design, AP Garden Design. **LIVING** "The palette is soft grey but not at all cold," says architect Philippa Mowbray. "The use of stone and timber brings warmth." Custom-made chair and ottoman, Casa Villa Fine Upholstery. Side table, Bisquit Interiors. Barrel, Empire Homewares. Limewashed French oak flooring, Harper & Scavellards. Wreath and garland, The Flower House. Smart buy! Clarcy sandstone writing, \$172 incl. Eco Outdoor. For more to buy, see page 208.

FESTIVE PALETTE



Native flowers



Patterned paper



Gold accents

This is the life

The design of this home allows everyone their own space to decompress, says Tania. "The kids can shut a door and chill out, Craig can go to the pool house or the workshop downstairs." As for Tania, the leather chair in the reading nook just off the kitchen is her preferred spot. Here she can open the bifold doors and look out onto a reflecting pond. "That's my favourite place in the whole house."

KITCHEN/DINING "I love that we can spend time together without being on top of each other," says Tania. Custom-made pendant lights. Dining table, Blupeter Homestore. Rug, Jenny Jones Rugs. Calacatta marble splashback, Caesarstone benchtop in Shiloh, Tapware, The English Tapware Company. Stools, Thonet. Jannah island, Artwork by Betty Kuntina Purnani. Flowers, The Flower Hound (throughout). Designer buys 19th-century-style walnut dining chairs with leather and linen upholstery, \$2795/each, The Country Trader. For where to buy, see page 258.



Happy memories typically attach themselves to family homes over the course of years, but in the case of the Mitchells' Perth abode, these were woven into their new build from concept stage. For owners Tania and Craig, the expansive property brings back warm recollections of their country childhoods; for the whole family, it evokes reveries of two-and-a-half years spent living in the south of France.

After returning from Europe to their native WA, the couple secured an ideal block of just under 2000m², vacant but for a small shed, in a riverside suburb close their children's school. They approached architect Philippa Mowbray to design a home that would deliver casual living with a romantic French accent. "We told her we're from the country, so we love open spaces and greenery and big yards,

and we showed her pictures of where we lived in France and images from magazines," says Tania. "Philippa was very clever in putting it all together."

"Initially they asked for a combination of Australian farmhouse and French Provincial," says Philippa. "We decided to distil the qualities they loved most about both and create something that responded to the site."

The home, completed in 2013, winds down the long block in a series of beautifully articulated, offset spaces, with landscaping in between to link the interiors to the outside. A double-door entrance leads to a foyer with the main bedroom suite on one side and guest quarters on the other. At the end of a wide hallway is the social nexus: a large open-plan kitchen, living and dining area under a pitched roof, the beams reminiscent of a French barn. ▶



THE LAYOUT



◀ The children - Wesley, 16, and twins Grace and Annie, 13 - enjoy their own quarters at the other end of the house, where they each have a bedroom and share two bathrooms and a living room/study adjacent to the main living space.

Downstairs, the lower-ground area offers parking, storage and a workshop. At the rear of the property is a self-contained pool house, featuring a sunny living space, outdoor kitchen and covered entertaining area arranged around the sparkling pool. "It's such a relaxing space," says Tania. "It makes us feel like we're on holiday."

A noteworthy feature is the superb use of building materials and finishes throughout the property. Ranging from bluestone and local jarrah to Calacatta marble and limewashed French oak, the palette neatly encapsulates the merger of Australian and European aesthetics. The decor, by interior stylist Malvina Stone, layers rich comfort with specially sourced antiques, custom furnishings and textiles in organic materials, and colours that subtly range from muted neutrals in the main house to blue tones in the pool house.

It's the perfect base from which to reminisce about the past, enjoy the present as a family and forge more warm memories over the years to come.

Philippa Mowbray Architects, Cottesloe, WA; (08) 9385 2311 or philippamowbrayarchitects.com. Malvina Stone Styling Concepts, Design, North Beach, WA; 0405 339 088.



LIVING this page and opposite top "Because we have such high ceilings and a lot of hard surfaces, we had linen wall panels installed to take care of echoing," says Craig, pictured with Grace (left) and Annie. Belgian linen panels, Casa Villa Fine Upholstery. Tree, Mister Christmas. Rugs, Jenny Jones Rugs. Sofa, Casa Villa Fine Upholstery. Coffee table, Revival Furniture & Doors.

MAIN BEDROOM An ensuite and walk-in wardrobe are tucked behind the bedhead wall, which is upholstered in Belgian linen from Westbury Textiles. Bedcover and throw, Plane Tree Farm. Bedside table, Revival Furniture & Doors. For Where to Buy, see page 288.

Christmas at home

The Mitchell family marks Christmas the same way Tania did as a child. "We have a corny little tradition," she says. "We play carols and spend a whole afternoon decorating the tree." This year, it's the family's turn to host relatives from the country, so the guest accommodation will come in handy. The day itself will be a traditional Aussie affair: a lavish feast followed by a game of cricket in the backyard.

H&G HOUSES



"The house is designed to have a casual feel - no formal rooms, just various living spaces that extend into the garden." Philippa Mourbray, architect

POOL HOUSE "The steel-framed windows and doors have a slightly industrial but very elegant feel," says Philippa. Sofas and bar stools, Blupeter Homestore. Cushions, Bungalow Living. Brass pot, Shedwallah. Rug, Temple Fine Rugs. Bifold, Westco Doors & Windows. Pool, Indibla Pool & Spa. Outdoor sofa, King Living. Outdoor coffee table, Empire Homewares. Smart bags, Capri lounge chair with linen upholstery, \$1650, Blupeter Homestore.

GARDEN Every inch of space is well used: to the left of the path is a pond with giant papyrus, an attractive and efficient natural filter plant; on the right are raised vegetable beds. Bluestone pavers, Eco Outdoor. Slate gravel, Country Earth. **ENTRANCE** "The street frontage is low-key but inviting," says Philippa. Zinc dormer windows are set into the timber-shingled roof. Cedar weatherboards, Planter, Shedwallah. Wicath, The Flower Hound. For Where to Buy, see page 208. H&G

