

INSIDE

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

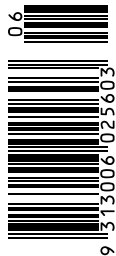
before & after

- + CITY APARTMENT
- + MODERN BEACH HOUSE
- + CALM BUSH OASIS
- + HERITAGE OVERHAUL

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HOW TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE OPEN FIREPLACE

\$8.90 NZ \$9.90 JUNE 2022



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LIVING AREA This room opens fully to the courtyard. The new Nook four-seater sofa in Iron/Darcy fabric joins the other Jordan piece, a Rufus armchair the owners have had for a while. Cushions, Linen & Moore and stylist's own. Monolith coffee table, Boyd Blue. Midas rug, Tribe Home. Wall cabinet, Dulux Modern White polyurethane with a fluted finish. Woven jugs (under TV), Watertiger. Floral pot, Few & Far. Foliage throughout, Poho.

light work

Reimagined for a growing family, this coastal home in Sydney is enjoying a bright and beautiful new lease of life

cheat sheet

Who lives here Louise and Pierre with their two daughters: Eloise, seven, and Anais, three.

Style of home A 1960s red-brick duplex that's been rendered externally and renovated internally.

Location Sydney's east, on land of the Bidjigal and Gadigal Peoples.

Timeline Seven months from design to completion in September 2021.



To walk through this freshly renovated duplex is to be enchanted by a serene beachside home that encapsulates the essence of relaxed Australian coastal style. A celebration of natural light and luxe yet tranquil interiors, the south-east Sydney abode shines as brightly as its glistening seaside locale. But that wasn't always the case...

When Louise and Pierre bought the 1960s property in 2020, it was in need of a significant revamp. Yet the couple were far from deterred. Neither was Jodie Carter, director and principal of Jodie Carter Design, who was engaged by the pair before settlement had even taken place. "We had Jodie over to inspect the home while the original owners were still there, for an initial walk-through and discussion," says Louise. "Once we had the keys, we went back with the builders and ran through our plans and ideas to get the new design underway."

At that time, home for the couple was a two-bedroom apartment they had been renting for five years after moving back to Sydney from Europe with their toddler, Eloise. But with a second child on the way, it was clear that additional space would soon be needed. "When they decided to stay here permanently, it was time to find a family home," says Jodie. "As they all loved the beachside area and work was close by, they were thrilled when they came across this place." Adds Louise: "Certainly, the size appealed. And the high ceilings."

The duplex – housing the core living and entertaining spaces on the ground level and sleeping quarters upstairs – had previously undergone a number of alterations that included the addition of the second level and a rear extension. Yet all agreed that it was calling for a major style refresh. "When I first walked through the home, I was surprised at how roomy it was, and could see there was enormous potential to make some dramatic changes," says Jodie. "The three bathrooms had seen better days and needed to go. In addition, the colour of the timber floor was very dated, as was the colour of the timber stairs. The original renovation was also dated, with insufficient storage in the kitchen, laundry and bathrooms, plus there were old fixtures and some odd layouts. The colour scheme was more country than coastal and lacked personality and freshness."

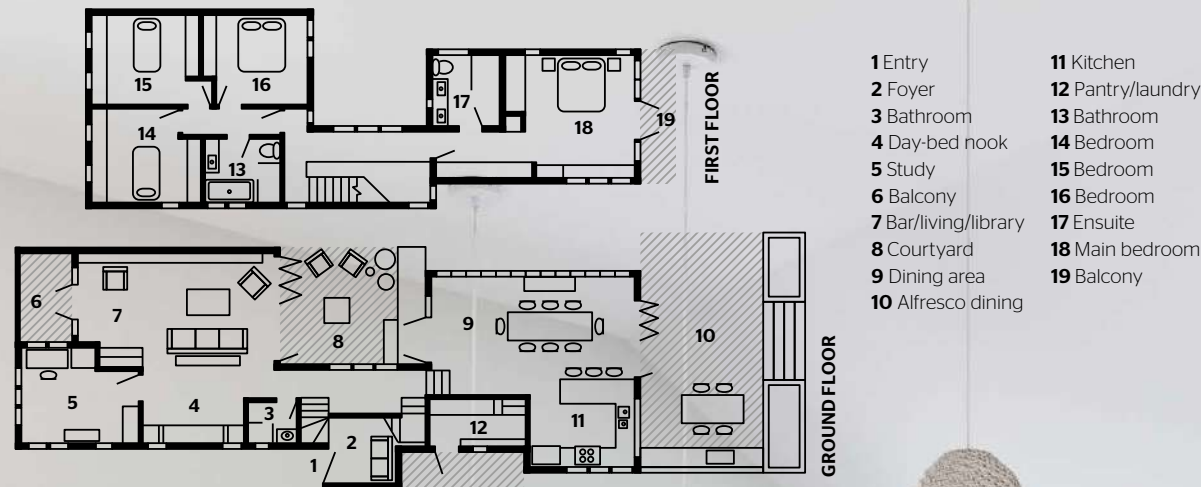
For Jodie, inspiration presented, quite literally, before her eyes. "My vision was based around Louise and Pierre themselves," she says with a smile. "When I first met Louise, I was impressed by how stylish and chic she was, yet very down to earth. I wanted to embrace a look of casual elegance that

LIVING AREA (top) Bifold doors at the back of the room enable Louise to be in and out at the same time. The decking is blackbutt. **DINING AREA** (opposite) Windows on three sides make for wonderful all-day light. The Linea sleigh dining table is from GlobeWest and the chairs are a complementary mix of Vitra designs by Jasper Morrison and Wishbone chairs by Hans J Wegner. Walls, VJ panelling painted Dulux White Verdict Quarter. Vase, Watertiger.



 good news

Rather than replacing the original floorboards with engineered timber, the hardwood flooring was simply sanded back and lightened. "We did the same with the timber staircase," says Jodie. "And instead of air-conditioning, we put ceiling fans in each of the bedrooms."



appears effortless.” From the outset, the project proved to be a joyful one for the designer. “The family are beautiful and really knew what they wanted. Adding details such as panelling and a soft colour scheme, with timbers and texture in the finishes, reflected the brief for a home with a coastal sophistication.”

The transformation commenced in April 2021, with Quay Building & Design overseeing the works. “We designed a gorgeous bright and airy style to suit the area,” says Jodie. “VJ panelling was added in the entry, stairwell, dining room and main bedroom. We also designed an entirely new kitchen and laundry – mostly working within the existing footprint but adding fresh finishes and more functionality. The three bathrooms underwent a complete renovation with lovely tile combinations and custom vanities that complement the rest of the home. And we designed a custom library and bar, with key furniture pieces to finish everything off.”

Greatly enhancing the home’s metamorphosis are a reinvigorated lush central courtyard and rear garden by landscape architect Andrew Sidie of Stone Lotus Landscapes. “Now we can open up all the doors and windows from the dining and kitchen area and be in the beautiful backyard,” says Louise. “It’s a true connection of indoor and outdoor living. There’s also a built-in bench seat to relax on, a barbecue, and a table for

outside dining, plus an outdoor shower for a refresh when you return from the beach.”

The reborn house with its airy open spaces and verdant vistas perfectly suits the family’s lifestyle. “We love having family and friends over for casual barbecues,” says Louise. “There’s wine, platters of food, and kids running around and enjoying the backyard and beautiful Sydney climate.”

As for what the delighted couple love most about the house, the answer, it seems, is a simple one. “It’s the fact that this is our home – our little piece of Australia,” says Louise, smiling. “This is definitely a reflection of all that we love, in the colours and the style, and in the open, airy and calming feeling.” ¹⁰

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HALLWAY (top left) Anais on her way downstairs. The refurbished timber flooring is stained a light oak colour and finished with matt polyurethane. Wall hooks, Muuto. Stool, Few & Far. Jute bag, The Dharma Door.

BATHROOM (top right) Two-tone walls put the focus on both materials: Bianco Naturale tiles by Eureka Stone to hip height and a Lingotti Denim Matt design above, both from Di Lorenzo. Vanity, custom design in Dulux Calandre with Caesarstone bench in Cloudburst Concrete. ADP mirrored cabinet, Reece. **KITCHEN** (opposite) The cabinetry is Dulux Lexicon Quarter polyurethane, installed by In Vogue Kitchens & Joinery. Bench, Silestone Nolita Suede by Cosentino. Seagrass pendants, Beacon Lighting. Stools, Uniqwa.



THE JOURNEY

1 The original ensuite had to be completely gutted because the shower cubicle was small and poky, there was no storage at all, and the room was just generally unappealing. **2** Redesigning the living space with streamlined cabinetry has maximised the usable storage and display areas without overloading the wall with unnecessary clutter. Now even the TV looks attractive in its niche, and the eye is drawn to just a few key elements on its way out to the courtyard.



ENSUITE Long rectangular mirrors with Dulux Eyre surrounds mimic the shape of the window. The custom joinery in Laminex Classic Oak is by In Vogue Kitchens & Joinery. Benchtop, Silestone Nebula Miami Vena by Cosentino. Wall tiles, Nolita Bianco Satin from Di Lorenzo. Floor tiles, as before in a herringbone format. **MAIN BEDROOM** (opposite, top left and right) Shuttered doors allow the light to stream in. For similar bed linen, try Cultiver. Throw, Watertiger. Bench seat in Zepel Colourwash Sesame fabric. Bench cushion, Eadie Lifestyle. Artwork by Karibou. **FAMILY BATHROOM** (opposite, bottom left) Handmade Fez white gloss wall tiles from Di Lorenzo create a beautiful backdrop. Bianco Naturale floor tiles by Eureka Stone, also from Di Lorenzo. Bathroom Life vanity in Laminex Classic Oak with solid surface white benchtop, Kado Neue Arch mirror and Posh Solus back-to-corner freestanding bath, all from Reece. Towel, Eadie Lifestyle.

“The back garden, courtyard, kitchen and dining area are my favourite spaces. We have everything we need there and can see the girls playing while we relax”

LOUISE, HOMEOWNER

lessons learnt

“Prioritise how you wish to live in the home”

JODIE CARTER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

“Ask yourself what’s important to you. Is it family dinners around a big table, entertaining friends, or watching the kids swimming in your pool? Is it space for the grown-ups to enjoy in the evening? Or less precious space for the whole family to enjoy together? And be sure to think about practicality in all of that.”

GARDEN (right) Eloise and Anais on the built-in bench directly outside the dining and kitchen areas. Cushions, Watertiger. Landscape design by Andrew Sidie of Stone Lotus. **OUTDOOR DINING** (opposite) The family has reused their own extendable white table, which is a great match for the porcelain pavers installed by Andrew in a French pattern. Chairs, Ici Et La.



GREAT FINDS



CLOCKWISE (from top left) Spyglass Gallery *Seaside Abstract* framed print (84cm x 84cm), \$309, Temple & Webster. Kusina elm bar stool, \$519, Uniqwa. Seagrass 1 Light Tall pendant light in White Wash, \$289, Beacon Lighting. Moss hand-knotted wool and bamboo-silk rug (250cm x 300cm), \$6104, Tribe Home. Nook 3.5-seater sofa in Meadow Snow, from \$9341, Jardan. Mirage Haven ‘Agery’ cushion cover, \$44.95, Hard To Find. Kustfly cushion cover, \$12, Ikea. Blackbutt timber flooring, POA, Kustom Timber. Eureka Stone tile in Bianco Naturale, POA, Di Lorenzo. Fima ‘Mast’ gooseneck kitchen mixer, \$564, Bathe. Kado ‘Neue Arch’ two-door mirrored shave cabinet, \$960, Reece. Monolith coffee table, \$4870, Boyd Blue. Borneo rattan vases, \$165 each, Watertiger.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: PALOMA GARAY