

Living the DREAM

A once tired California bungalow in Sydney now shines as a stylish, spacious home with a swimming pool for a happy family of five.

STORY *Karen Spresser* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Chris Warnes*



HOUSES **H&G**

KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Scallywag Half with Cabinetti 'Move C' in Engineered Oak, Carrera By Design. Benchtop and splashback in Diana Royal natural stone, Signorino. Hardware, Lo & Co. Cooktop, Artusi. Ovens, Fulgor. Sussex 'Scala' mixer tap, Reece. Stools and bowl, all James Lane. Vase, The Foundry. Faux branches, Rogue Home. **EXTERIOR** Wall in travertine and limestone dry stack, Veneer Stone. 'Atura' roof tiles in Seashell, Monier Roofing. Bricks painted Dulux Oyster Linen. Trims and front door painted Dulux Tuft.



DINING Joinery, Carrera By Design. Shelf and benchtop in Diana Royal natural stone, Signorino. Pendant light and lamp, Beacon Lighting. Dining table and chairs, all James Lane. Artwork by Vynka Hallam. Candlesticks, Few & Far. **LIVING** Walls painted Dulux Scallywag Half. Curtains, Luxaflex. Door in Surfmist, Stegbar. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Fireplace, Lopi. Bench in Grace Garrett 'Fence Line' Palermo velvet with Foam Booth insert. Artwork by Emma Martin. Armchair and ottoman, Ellison Studios. Tables, all James Lane. Rug, Miss Amara. Herringbone floors in



With a vision of 'Cali Cool' style, light-filled open-plan living and entertaining spaces, warm soft tones, organic textures - and a beautiful new swimming pool - are all woven into the design of this recently renovated California bungalow on Sydney's North Shore.

The owners, who have three children, bought the house in 2019, and had two main requests before handing the keys to the Three Birds Renovations team of Bonnie Hindmarsh, Lana Taylor and Erin Cayless: more space and a swimming pool.

"It was full of potential but desperately in need of a refresh," says Lana of the original house. "With only three bedrooms, it simply didn't offer enough space for a modern family. The layout

felt rabbit warren-esque, with small, disconnected rooms that weren't making the most of the home's footprint. It had good bones but was crying out for a style makeover and a new extension to unlock its full potential.

"Our vision was to transform their dated family home into a 'Cali Cool' masterpiece - complete with a brand-new extension, a sparkling pool, and plenty of room for family and friends to socialise," she says.

The project took a year from start to finish. The floorplan was reconfigured so that spaces worked for modern-day living, without "dramatically changing" the footprint of the house. The entrance, which originally sat at one side of the building, was moved to the front, and a new foyer added. A main bedroom suite, with wardrobe and ensuite, was created in the space ▶





occupied by the original living room, another bedroom was added in what was once the kitchen and an extension built that includes the new kitchen, living and dining areas.

A grand 5.5 metre ceiling with timber mouldings adds light, volume and character to the open plan kitchen, living and dining area, while a fireplace with a tiered, curved surround, takes centre stage in the living space, flanked either side by built-in window seats (with storage); the perfect spots to curl up and relax.

Stone benchtops and splashback in Diana Royal from Signorino layer in texture and muted earthy hues in the kitchen with both joinery and walls painted in Dulux Scallywag Half. “We also added a statement rangehood that extends all the way to the ceiling, creating a dramatic focal point that draws the eye upwards,” says Bonnie of the kitchen crafted by Carrera By Design.

Soft, warm colour and textures are highlighted throughout with deeper shades introduced in some furnishings and accessories – in the living area a generous modular sofa in a warm dark rust shade anchors the space. Walls in the nursery also feature a deep rosy shade (Dulux Terra Rose) with a green (Dulux Moorland) also coming in to play in the bedrooms.

In the bathrooms, striking Calacatta Viola is used to great effect on vanities or shelves.

Nods to the house’s history can be found in the new design, with exposed brick feature walls using some of the home’s original bricks. “We reclaimed the original bricks along the hallway to preserve the home’s charm. Exposing existing brickwork adds warmth, texture and history,” says Bonnie.

At the back of the home, the living area enjoys views out to the pool, with the kitchen and dining open to the outdoor entertaining area complete with built-in barbecue and a pergola built from reclaimed timber.

Outside, the makeover continues – the front door has been relocated and the porch reworked, and stone cladding and timber arches complete the transformation.

Now that the renovation is complete, the owners say that living there feels like “a dream come true”. “The transformation by the Three Birds Renovations team has completely elevated our space. It’s more than just a house; it’s a sanctuary that reflects our personality and lifestyle. Every corner brings us joy, and we feel so grateful to call this beautiful place home.”

Three Birds Renovations: threebirdsrenovations.com.

Hipages: hipages.com.au.

LIVING Three Birds Renovations team Lana, Erin and Bonnie. ‘Pirouette Shadings’ blinds, and curtains, all Luxaflex. Pendant, Beacon Lighting. Fireplace, Lopi. Benchseats, Grace Garrett fabric with Foam Booth insert. Artwork by Emma Martin. Chair and ottoman, Ellison Studios. Sofa and tables, all James Lane. Cushions, Bonnie and Neil. Rug, Miss Amara. **POOL** Pool, Concept Pools. Pool fence, Prestige Fencing. Umbrella, Basil Bangs. Tiles, TileCloud.

Portrait photograph by Lauren Schulz.

“Every corner brings us joy, and we feel so grateful to call this beautiful place home.”

THE OWNER



KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Scallywag Half and Cabinetti Engineered Oak, Carrera By Design. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Benchtop and splashback in Diana Royal natural stone, Signorino. Hardware, Lo & Co. Cooktop, Artusi. Ovens, Fulgor Milano. Sussex tap, Reece. Stand mixer, KitchenAid. Furniture, all James Lane. Floors, Woodcut.

THIS IS THE LIFE

The open-plan kitchen, with its large island bench and generous storage, now has space for both family and entertaining. "Behind a cabinetry door, the hidden butler's pantry/laundry provides extra prep space and a practical zone to hide the mess out of sight," says Erin. "The pivot door can also sit open to elongate the kitchen. Beyond the kitchen, we extended the benchtop into a bar area."

THE PALETTE

Dulux Terra Rose
(nursery)

Dulux Scallywag Half
(walls, ceiling and joinery)

Dulux Moorland
(bedrooms)

BEDROOM Curtains in 'Kori' Ginger, Luxaflex. 'Capri' bed, James Lane. Oi Soi Oi 'UFO' pendant light, Tigmi Trading. Bed linen, Bed Threads. 'Orchard' carpet in Melrose 2638, EC Carpets. Faux branches and orchids, Rogue Home. **ENSUITE** Vanity in Calacatta Viola natural stone from Signorino, Carrera By Design. Mirrors, Granite Lane. 'Noosa' gloss zellige wall tiles in Beige, and 'Kirribilli' travertine-look floor tiles in Ivory Matte, all TileCloud. Wall light, Lighting Collective. Sussex 'Scala' mixer taps in Brushed Platinum Gold, Omvivo 'Villa' thin-edged basins in White Haven, all Reece. Faux orchids, Rogue Home.

Main bedroom photography by Kristian van der Beek. Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

“It’s more than just a house – it’s a sanctuary
that reflects our personality and lifestyle.”

THE OWNER

NURSERY Walls and Intrim Mouldings painted Dulux Terra Rose. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. 'Sonata' cot, Mocka. *Peachy* by Nicole Nelius print, fitted sheet and cushions, all Kip&Co. Rug, Miss Amara. **BEDROOM** *Opposite, top left* Wall painted Dulux Scallywag Half and Dulux Moorland. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Bed, James Lane. Bed linen, Society of Wanderers. Lounger, Philé. Shelf and bedside table, Mocka. **HALLWAY** Joinery in Dulux Moorland, Carrera By Design. Artwork by Rikki Day. Chair, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. Lamp, Beacon Lighting. **BEDROOM** *Bottom right* Artwork by Vynka Hallam. Bedhead, Merci Maison. Bed linen, I Love Linen. Bedside table, James Lane. Rug, Miss Amara. **BATHROOM** Wall and floor tiles, TileCloud. Issy 'Cloud' vanity, and tapware, all Reece. Shelf in Calacatta Viola natural stone, Signorino. Wall light, Beacon Lighting.



Children's striped bedroom photograph by Kristian van der Beek.

OUTDOORS 'Hardie Fine Texture' cladding painted Dulux Oyster Linen, James Hardie. Pool, Concept Pools. Pool fence, Prestige Fencing. Bar table, Unrivalled Stone. Stools, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. Floor and pool step tiles, TileCloud. Sliding doors in Surfmist, Stegbar.



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THE SOURCE

Turn up the comfort factor in your home with organic shapes in warm ivory and russet hues.



Produced by Andrea Healy and Marissa Foye.

1 'Tamarind' oval linen **shade** in Ivory, \$259, Beacon Lighting. 2 'Laila' braided wool **rug** in Ivory, \$699, Miss Amara. 3 'Puddle' organic **wall light** in Eggshell, \$1050, Lighting Collective. 4 'Studio Form II' **mirror** in Brass, \$385, Granite Lane. 5 'Chess' **bar stool** with coin top, \$750, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. 6 'Mars' **side table** in Ivory, \$499, James Lane. 7 Sussex 'Scala' **sink mixer** in Brushed Platinum Gold, \$2223, Reece. 8 Calido 'Flare' **shade** in Tan Hessian, \$429, Beacon Lighting. 9 'Grain' **cushion** in Cream, \$129, Bonnie and Neil. 10 'Stack' four-seater **sofa** in Cabarita Hazel, \$4499, Ellison Studios. **H&G**