

Cosmopolitan & blissful
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS
FROM AUSTRALIA'S BEST

belie

AHEAD OF THE FLACK

FROM A BOLD WORK
A DESIGN MAVERICK

DION
LEE
TAKES
MIAMI

TOUR THE MASTERPIECES OF OUR TOP DESIGNERS:
DAVID FLACK + HECKER GUTHRIE + DAVID HICKS + YSG + MADELEINE BLANCHFIELD + AMELDA WILDE

OPEN-DOOR POLICY



This page A bank of three windows replaced with steel framing open from the dining room to the rear garden. Walls painted in Porter's Paints 'Snow White'. 'Up-Down' wall light from Lighting Collective. 'Amalfi' sofa and black cushions from Janus et Cie. 'Camille' vessel on the floor from McMullin & Co. 'Amalfi' chair and check cushion from Janus et Cie. Opposite page In the foyer a large 'Aldo' dining table from Boyd Blue. 'Monroe' vase from Mecque. Tumbled marble checkered floor tiles from Industrie Tapware. Blush-pink tall plinth from Worldstone Solutions. Sculptures on plinth, stylist's own. Artwork *I Always Thought You Were Mine* by Kerry Armstrong from Studio Gallery. Iron wall sconce from Last Aristocrat.

The more, the merrier is the motto in
this rejuvenated Mosman home.



Words **CARLI PHILIPS** Photography **SIMON WHITBREAD** Styling **JAMEE DEAVES**





Every Saturday for two years the owners of this home dedicatedly went “house shopping”. Despite its lacklustre real-estate images, they knew this Mosman property was ‘the one’ instantly. “The listing wasn’t great and the outside wasn’t particularly charming but we were instantly captivated by the high ceilings. We knew we could do something really special with it,” they say.

Owned by one family for five decades, the home had been divided into three separate apartments, each with its own kitchen and lived in by different members of the family. “We met the vendors at the auction and they shared their memories of the house over a bottle of celebratory champagne. They gave us a box documenting all the additions and changes made over time and even if it was a little hodgepodge it had been renovated with love and all the original features were intact,” explain the owners who engaged Sarah Comerford, founder and CEO of Sydney-based practice Home By Belle for the renovation.

The couple had been living in a terrace nearby for 11 years but after Covid they realised the need for more space. Their brief was for a house well-suited to entertaining guests and practical enough for family life. One of the owners grew up in a typical North American home in Canada and yearned for something similar with “the warmth of an old house married with a modern vibe”. Functional amenities were important, but not at the expense of retaining traditional aspects. “Sometimes when people take on big, old houses they try to modernise them. We were pleased to work with Sarah who wanted to retain features such as the stained glass even though some pieces didn’t necessarily match,” say the owners.

The interiors were so voluminous that Sarah and her team used wainscoting to minimise the “excessive scale”. On the ground floor, panelling was introduced with a dado rail and large artworks added to absorb some of the vastness of the walls. The soaring ceilings likewise called for generous pendant lights, often hanging in clusters. »

These pages The kitchen island is painted in Porter’s Paints ‘Aniseed’. Splashback in honed Calacatta Borghini marble from WK Stone. Armando Vicario ‘Provincial’ kitchen mixer from Marina Isles. Tall vase from Mecque. Pair of large ‘Flared’ vases in Foothills finish from Studio Cavit. ‘Eldridge’ pendant lights from Hudson Valley Lighting. ‘Keystone’ roman blinds in White with nail-head tape trim in Black from Nuevue. ‘Freddie’ marble dining table from GlobeWest. On the table is a Tom Dixon ‘Bone’ brass bowl from Mecque. ‘Eliza’ dining chair in Port/Black from GlobeWest. Custom-made bench seat. Two Missoni cushions from Top3 By Design and one custom cushion from Home By Belle. Artwork is *Summer Flowers* by Dutch painter Rachel Ruysch (1664-1750) from an estate sale. Grand Oak Flooring floorboards in Driftwood.



This page Generous dining table custom-made by Tim Griffiths from MBT Timber Designs. 'St James' dining chairs and pair of 'Creo' vases in different shapes, all from Coco Republic. Audo Copenhagen 'Échasse' vase from Top3 By Design. 'Riva' long pendant lights in perforated iron from Florabelle Living. The tiled floor was designed as a 'carpet' of tiles to make cleaning up easier. Heritage 'Clover' encaustic tiles from Industrie Tapware. **Opposite page** A 'Sencillo' rug in Indigo from The Rug Establishment anchors the living room. Tim Rundle 'Caristo' chair from Space. Baxter 'Tebe' coffee table from Lusso Casa. Large blue Holmegaard '2lips' vase from Top3 By Design. Small vase from Mecque. On the stack of books is a 'Helsi' dog sculpture from Horgans.





« While the house has a grand foyer with a bedroom and ensuite off to the left and a music room off to the right, the day-to-day entry is around the side. Access is now via a mudroom and generous adjacent laundry kitted out with thoughtful bamboo drawers so shoes can be aired out, hooks for schoolbags, three washers and dryers, and joinery that runs all the way up to the ceiling. “We have stepladders all over the house, but it still made sense to use the whole wall as cabinetry. We store Christmas decorations in there – you’re only going to get them down once a year and this way it doesn’t take up much-needed everyday space. It felt like an indulgence but it’s also very practical,” says the client.

The living room runs off the central spine, and the kitchen and dining areas are arranged in an L-shape at the rear. An opening beside the dining banquette leads to the butler’s pantry. The dining room is a special spot for the couple who put a call out on social media for a woodworker to design them a table. Suggestions led them to Mudgee-based Tim Griffiths from MBT Timber Designs who carved them a five-metre table in camphor laurel cut from a tree on his own property. “It has a steel frame that could hold up a building,” says Sarah, who laid the floor underneath with a modern, monochrome ‘tiled carpet’ to make cleaning up easier. Six months in and it’s already a regular hotspot for friends. “We just hosted a birthday that started on the front porch for cocktails, moved upstairs for champagne and oysters on the terrace, and then for dinner downstairs – we could fit all 18 people for a sit-down meal. The spaces feel grand but warm. It caters well to a lot of people.”

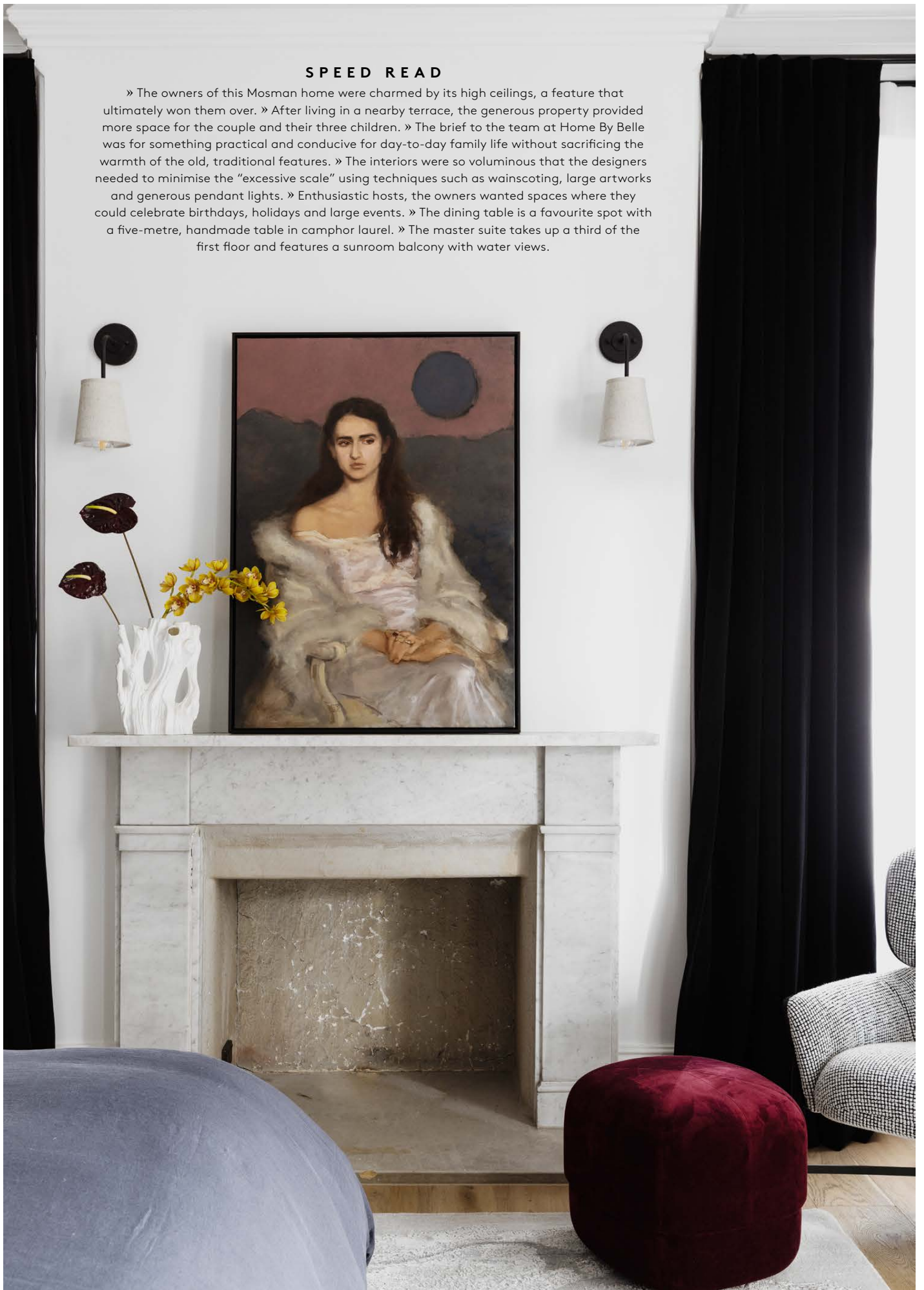
The parents retreat takes up a third of the first floor, the bedroom and ensuite split by a walk-in-wardrobe. The bathroom, a calm space in fresh hues, contrasts with the rich, moody scheme of the bedroom. Sarah borrowed floor space from the sunroom balcony to create more seating and a workout area. On the same level, the couple’s sons share a bathroom while their daughter has her own ensuite. “This new home of ours is a place we want filled with family dinners, celebrations, Christmases, Easter lunches and neighbourhood parties. It’s a place we want our kids to bring their friends home to.” **IN** homebybelle.com.au

This page, from top In the upstairs hallway, emerald-green diamond-quilted ottoman from Arthur G. ‘Bidjar’ rug from The Rug Establishment. *New Light* artwork by Jane Thompson from SIBU Gallery. Normann Copenhagen ‘Circus’ pouf in Dark Red from Top3 By Design. In the son’s bedroom upstairs, ‘William’ leather bed from Incy Interiors. Linen sheet set in Olive, duvet cover in French Navy and European pillowcases in Black Grid from Carlotta+Gee. Design House Stockholm ‘Knot’ cushion and Missoni Home ‘Yoghi’ throw from Top3 By Design. ‘Moss’ rug from Designer Rugs. ‘Gus’ bedside table from McMullin & Co. Gingham curtains from Adairs. Pendant light from Schots Home Emporium. Wall in Porters Paint’s ‘Yacht Race’. Artworks from Mitchell Road Antiques. **Opposite page** The marble fireplace is an original feature. On the mantel, littala ‘Finlandia’ vase from Top3 By Design, artwork by Terri Brooks and sculpture, stylist’s own. ‘Catalina’ curved sofa, side table and ‘Gianna’ occasional tub chair all from Boyd Blue. ‘Sienna’ chandelier from Florabelle Living. On shelving from top, white vase from McMullin & Co. and black object from TK Maxx UK; object from Boyd Blue; amber vessel from Top3 by Design; green vase from Papaya next to object from Black Blaze; black vessel on books stylist’s own, next to a vase from Mecque; vase from Studio Cavit, and tall object and small black dish from Black Blaze.



SPEED READ

» The owners of this Mosman home were charmed by its high ceilings, a feature that ultimately won them over. » After living in a nearby terrace, the generous property provided more space for the couple and their three children. » The brief to the team at Home By Belle was for something practical and conducive for day-to-day family life without sacrificing the warmth of the old, traditional features. » The interiors were so voluminous that the designers needed to minimise the “excessive scale” using techniques such as wainscoting, large artworks and generous pendant lights. » Enthusiastic hosts, the owners wanted spaces where they could celebrate birthdays, holidays and large events. » The dining table is a favourite spot with a five-metre, handmade table in camphor laurel. » The master suite takes up a third of the first floor and features a sunroom balcony with water views.





This page, from top On the front porch is a 'Camille' vessel from McMullin & Co. next to a side table from Freedom. 'Amalfi' chair and cushion from Janus et Cie. Throw from Ivy Lane. 'Riverside' square lantern from The Montauk Lighting Co. The serene master ensuite features a freestanding 'Rottnest' bath from Industrie Tapware. Brodware 'Yokato' tapware. Dekton floor from Cosentino. Curtains are Vida in Blanc from Nuevue. **Opposite page** In the master bedroom, 'Country' wall sconces with linen shades from Oscar & Mila frame the fireplace. Freya artwork by Olivia Valentine from Studio Gallery. Bed linen from In the Sac. Normann Copenhagen 'Circus' pouf in Dark Red from Top3 By Design. Tim Rundle 'Caristo' armchair from Space. Athina velvet curtains with Cavalier sheers from Nuevue. 'Marmo' rug from The Rug Establishment.



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SIGNATURE STYLE
KEY PIECES



1 Art deco column table lamp, \$1600, from The Vault Sydney. 2 Visual Comfort 'Westport' hanging shade in Brass, \$2350, from Bloomingdales Lighting. 3 'Elysian' floor-mounted basin/bath filler in Brushed Brass, \$1250, from ABI Interiors. 4 Moooi 'Container' table in Black, \$3430, from Space. 5 'Amalfi' adjustable chain-back sofa, from \$16,320, from Janus et Cie.