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+ An arts & crafts do-up

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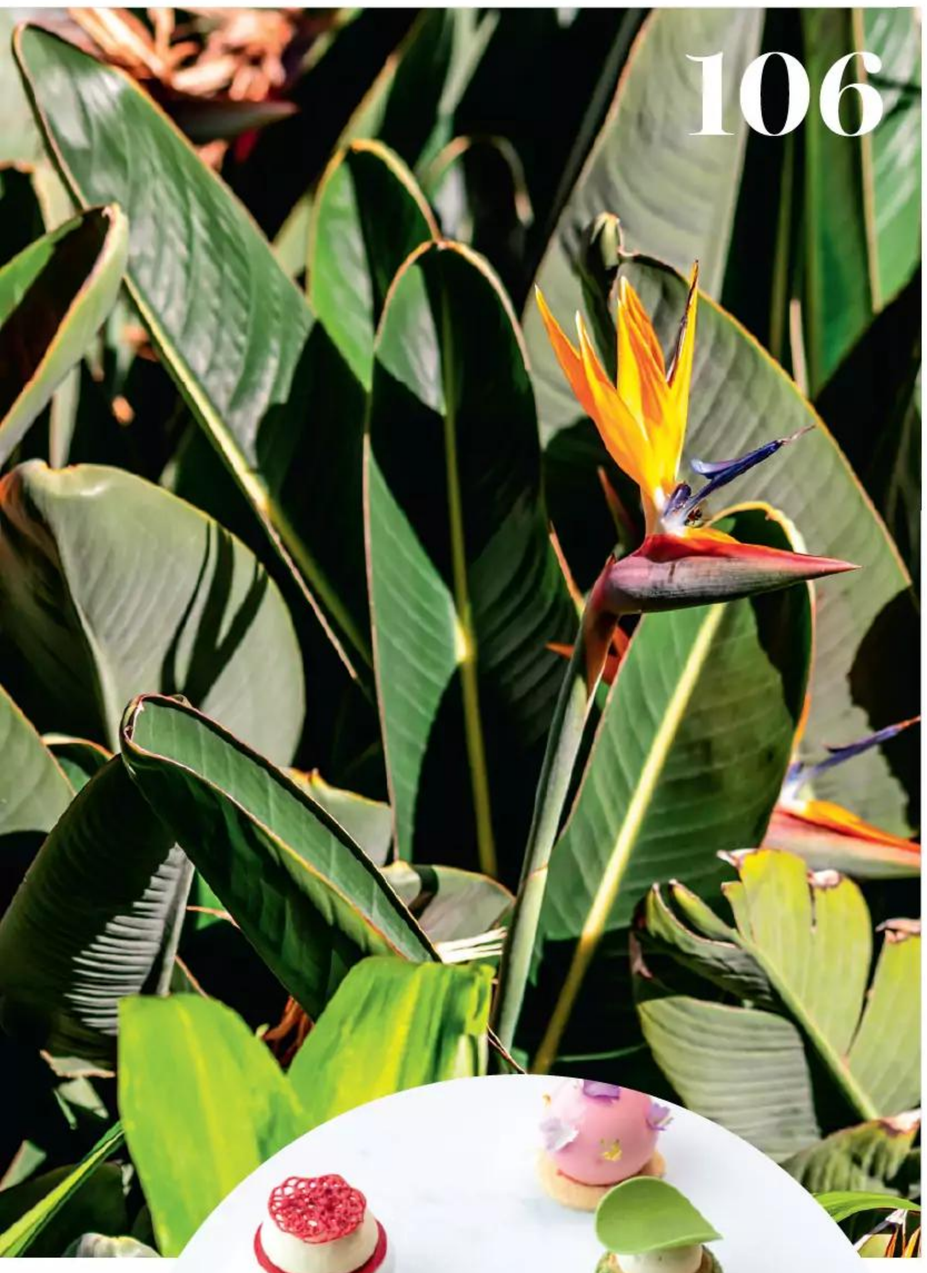
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## On the cover



Clare and Peter Chapman's home is an ingenious New York loft-styled barn in rural Millwater. They get the best of both worlds. To see more, turn to page 26.
Runner from Baya
*Photography Babiche Martens*

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**Fiona Hawtin, Editor**

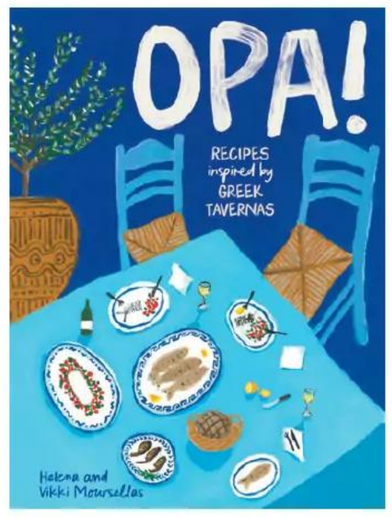
# Hello

Last month's spring cleaning went so well, I'm turning my attention to the outside now. Waterblasting the deck isn't glamorous or exciting like choosing a new benchtop, but it needs to be done. We've put together a guide for the essential spruce-up jobs you really should work your way through, on page 78.

Because hard work deserves a reward and when you've done the maintenance comes the fun part – putting your outdoor room together (that's what we call the deck/patio/backyard now). This means approaching your outdoors the same way you would your living or dining space, using similar materials, colours and styling to what you have inside. That way, the prized indoor/outdoor flow becomes even more seamless. To get the lowdown on creating the outdoor room, turn to page 98.

Or, check out Clare Chapman's North Shore home on page 26, in which she's practically got a degree in bringing the indoors outside. Of course, coastal-styled homes are also a masterclass in doing the outside well. We've got a great story on page 72 outlining the various sub-genres of coastal and what sets the Hamptons apart from tropical, Mediterranean and modern. All up, it's set to be a busy November, but do reserve some energy for the following issue because that's our favourite month – Christmas.

## This month I'm...




**Dipping into** *Opa!* by Helena and Vikki Moursellas ($64.99, Smith Street Books). The sisters travel through Greece collecting the recipes of their heritage. Aside from some great recipes (Black olive village bread, Rice-stuffed zucchini flowers, Sour cherry & vermouth granita and plenty more), you're introduced to some classic tavernas from around the country.



**Going all in for asparagus.** It's my favourite vegetable, so being able to burn an asparagus candle on the table is the absolute best. $45 (for four), from maisonbalzac.com



**Restocking** my dinner plates. These Robert Gordon white plates let the food be the hero, but the swirl keeps them interesting. $29.99, from farmers.co.nz

PHOTOGRAPHY, HAIR AND MAKE-UP CAROLYN HASLETT. FIONA WEARS ZOE & MORGAN NECKLACE, LONELY CAMISOLE AND HELEN CHERRY JACKET.



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# Social club

## Paris dreaming and spring joy

WE LOVE



The Parisian apartment of our dreams.
*@lise_frt*

Let this be an argument for a chic coat rack.
*@at_home_in_the_hayward*






### PODCAST OF THE MONTH

We're enjoying late spring with flower-related podcasts like *The Backyard Bouquet*.

### CONNECT WITH US

We love seeing images from our #yourhomeandgarden community.
*@yourhomeandgarden*





### TOP INSTAGRAM POST

A cottage full of treasures won hearts.
*@yourhomeandgarden*

### TRENDING ONLINE

This Dunedin villa is a firm favourite.
*yourhomeandgarden.co.nz*


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**EDITOR**
Fiona Hawtin

**ART & EDITORIAL**
**Content producer** Bryony Ammonds-Smith
**Art director** Nicola Feeney
**Chief sub-editor** Michelle Joe
**Garden editor** Mary Lovell-Smith
**Senior designers** Hayley Pearce, Béla Trussell-Cullen
**Designers** Anna Pétursdóttir, Shane Kelly

**CONTRIBUTORS**
Anna Briggs, Bureaux, Emily Chalk, Florence Charvin, Rachel Clare, Eleanor Cripps, Debbie Harrison, Nikki Kettle, Jacob Leaf, Living Inside, Babiche Martens, Ben Parry, Shelley Tustin

**ADVERTISING | CORPORATE**
**Sales director** Claire Chisholm
**Senior commercial brand manager** Angela Wei, angela.wei@aremedia.co.nz
**Senior account managers**
Chloe Jordan, Chloe.Jordan@aremedia.co.nz;
Amy Madden, Amy.Madden@aremedia.co.nz;
Jacquie Fraser, Jacquie.Fraser@aremedia.co.nz
**Classified sales** Kim Chapman, Classifieds@xtra.co.nz
**Head of digital** Melissa Walsh
**Commercial editor** Sarah Templeton
**Senior digital content producer** Katie Delany
**Shopping editor** Hemma Vara

**EXECUTIVE**
**Chief executive officer** Jane Huxley
**General manager** Stuart Dick
**Editorial director** Sarah Henry
**Distributor** Are Direct

**+ Contact us** Email yhgnz@aremedia.co.nz.
Postal address: PO Box 52122, Kingsland, Auckland 1352
**+ Subscription enquiries** Phone: 0800 624 746.
Email magshop@magshop.co.nz or visit magshop.co.nz.
**+ Advertising enquiries** Sales Director Claire Chisholm, email: Claire.Chisholm@aremedia.co.nz. Directory Advertising: Kim Chapman, email classifieds@xtra.co.nz.

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SCENE STEALER The Margaux curved modular sofa draws inspiration from Hollywood's golden age with its sweeping curves. So beguiling, it's always ready for a close-up. From $9590, cocorepublic.co.nz

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# SHOPPING


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**Window shopping**
What's hot in store.

**15**

**Trending**
Lilac love; 10 of the best planters; it's a steal; the glam age.


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# Window shopping

**TAKE A PEEK AT THE LATEST FINDS**



## GIN BOMB

MAKE FRIDAY DRINKS MORE FUN WITH THESE LULLU GIN BALLOON GLASSES. $78 (FOR TWO), FROM FOLKLORESTORE.CO.NZ



HOME & DRY

## COOL LINE-UP

These multi-stripe towels from Donna Wilson are the bathroom pick-me-up you need for a refreshed spring look. It's made from 100 percent cotton for a cosy and luxurious feel. We're tempted to get the full range, which includes a face cloth and a hand towel. From $28, from paperplanestore.com



## CUP HALF FULL

Your pens need to live somewhere, so make their home a cute one. Spring clean your desk and jazz it up with a Tulip pen cup, $7, from kmart.co.nz



## DOUBLE LIFE

BE IT A BIRTHDAY CAKE OR JUST FOR FUN, EVERY CAKE DESERVES A PRETTY PEDESTAL. &K AMSTERDAM CAKE PLATTER, $115, FROM BOLTOFCLOTH.COM



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**CRUSTACEAN CORE** Lobsters on homewares are still one of our favourite decor trends. La Mer coastal lobster melamine tray, $44.99, from adairs.co.nz



## IN THE CORNER

Having a place for everything is easy with this Orta interior fittings range. The front shelves pull forward, while the rear ones are individually extendable for easy access – even in corners. From designwithhettich.co.nz




## LIGHTS ON

***SAVE*:** GLASS CANDLEHOLDER, $49 (FOR TWO), FROM GORMANSHOP.CO.NZ
***SPLURGE*:** BEN DAVID BY KAS ELEMENT CANDLEHOLDER, $175, FROM SMALLACORNS.CO.NZ




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# FEVER PITCH

## Ikea is almost here. The number of sleeps until the opening day is down to double digits. Here's what you need to know ahead of 4 December




If you happen to see a stylish man with black Joe 90 glasses in a heap on the floor of Ikea in the opening days, that will be Ikea New Zealand's home furnishing and retail design manager, Edward Hincks.

He's joking. You'll be too busy finding the Dejsa lamp, the Barslov sofa, or any other of the Swedish furniture giant's best sellers to notice him anyway. But he and members of the management team will all be on hand. "It's the way we work at Ikea. We don't have offices for the team. We'll be there, pulling our sleeves up, helping the guys on the floor, stacking shelves."

Don't worry. There will be plenty of product for all – pallets and pallets of it, says Edward.

So, how to navigate the long-awaited mammoth 34,000sqm Sylvia Park store? "Good walking shoes," says Edward. Enter the store up the stairs or escalator and you'll enter the showroom, then just follow the arrows along a path called "the long natural way" that goes through the whole store.

When you've twisted and turned along the "way", you'll arrive at the restaurant, a cafeteria-style set-up in which you can refuel on cinnamon buns for the second phase – the market hall downstairs.

It's in the market hall that you'll find all those essential storage pieces, including Edward's personal favourite, the 365 storage container. He says container – singular – but there are plastic, metal and glass versions in different shapes and sizes. "I make lots of soups and I do poke bowls, so for me, it's great. I can utilise the leftovers." Another of Edward's picks is the Uppdatera plastic boxes. He stores his paints in those.

If you're getting the idea Edward is a fan of storage, he's not alone. "There is the universal frustration of the lack of storage. It comes from the desire to be organised and make a space your own."

When Ikea went through 500 Kiwi homes ahead of entering the New Zealand market, they found we're no different and one of the biggest challenges here is the entrance and where to put your keys, umbrella, shoes and coats. He's anticipating the Mackapar shoe rack will come to the rescue of the nation.

By the time you reach the checkouts, you may also have a Billy bookcase in your trolley. There is one sold somewhere in the world every five seconds. By this stage though, you'll have done up to 13,000 steps by Edward's calculation, but that's him taking detours off the path. It's amazing that you can exceed your daily exercise step count while shopping, proving that shopping is good for you. ●










Clockwise (from above): Uppdatera storage boxes; the Mackapar shoe rack; the Billy bookcase; the 365 Storage containers.

### AT A GLANCE

- Ikea opened in Sweden in 1943.
- More than 500 people work at Ikea New Zealand.
- The Sylvia Park store is 34,000sqm.
- There are 500 parking spaces under the store if you don't want to lug your kitset bookshelf home on the train.
- Bathrooms, mattresses and built-in wardrobes have a 10-year guarantee. Kitchens have a guarantee of up to 25 years.
- Open 9am-9pm, seven days a week.
- Most of the wool for Ikea products globally is sourced from New Zealand.
- The in-store restaurant has 426 seats – all the better to eat the famous meatballs from.
- There are also plant-based meatball and hotdog options.
- Perhaps best of all, you can order online at ikea.com/nz for delivery to 29 locations around New Zealand. You can also do Click and Collect at Sylvia Park.
- Ikea did 500 visits to New Zealand homes to get a handle on the needs and wants of Kiwis.



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Olympic twin bell alarm clock, $49.99, from Housekeepers Design.




Maison Deux candy blanket, $398.90, from Tea Pea.

Bambury Christos cushion, $113.71, from The Iconic.

Orla Kiely flower pillowcase pair, $54.99, from Bolt of Cloth.

Nico portable lamp, $24, from Kmart.

Drip bowl, $29.99, from Typo.

# Lilac love

## The soft purple hue is ideal for spring



Remember Ole light, $99, from Studio Matakana.

Beach towel, $102, from Hommey.






Kip & Co Alpine Peaks mug, $79 (for two), from Superette.



Enchanted tea for two, $98, from T2.



Morgan Wool throw, $190, from Sheet Society.

Fleur cocktail coupe, $79.99 (for four), from Home Lab.



Open Concept storage locker, $269, from Space General.



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# 10 *of the* BEST

Spring for a new outdoor planter (or two)



Rembrandt hand statue planter, $250.99, from Folders.



Bateau tabletop planter, $59.95, from Freedom.



Claymont flower planter, $35, from Early Settler.



Rise planter, $650 (extra large), from Citta.



Pot round tubs, $459 (for two), from Artedomus.



Gardeners Edge barrel, $69.98, from Mitre 10.



Antipodes urn, $639, from Greenslades.

**PLANTER PRO**

Always double-check that your planter is appropriate for indoor and outdoor use. Place them strategically around your outdoor space, taking into account the sun and wind exposure.



Urban Products Evergreen planter, $23, from Mighty Ape.



Seguaro planter, $94.95, from Freedom.



Lisbon 500 planter, $339, from Modscene.



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THE ARRIVAL OF

# Summer



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2-slice toaster, $249, from Kitchen Aid.



Maxwell & Williams cocktail tray, $99.99, from Ballantynes.



Georg Jensen Bloom salt cellar with spoon, $99.40, from The Iconic.



Alessi Girotondo basket, $162.56, from The Iconic.

TRENDING

# It's a steal

## The classic metal steel-ing people's hearts

### Heavy metal

Stainless steel is no longer just for the commercial kitchen. It's coming into the home and we're stoked about it. The metal is both sleek and durable, and can work with retro or contemporary style. Add it to busy spaces, such as the bathroom or kitchen, or jazz up the lounge with eye-catching decor.



Red wine glasses, $43.69 (for two), from Mighty Ape.



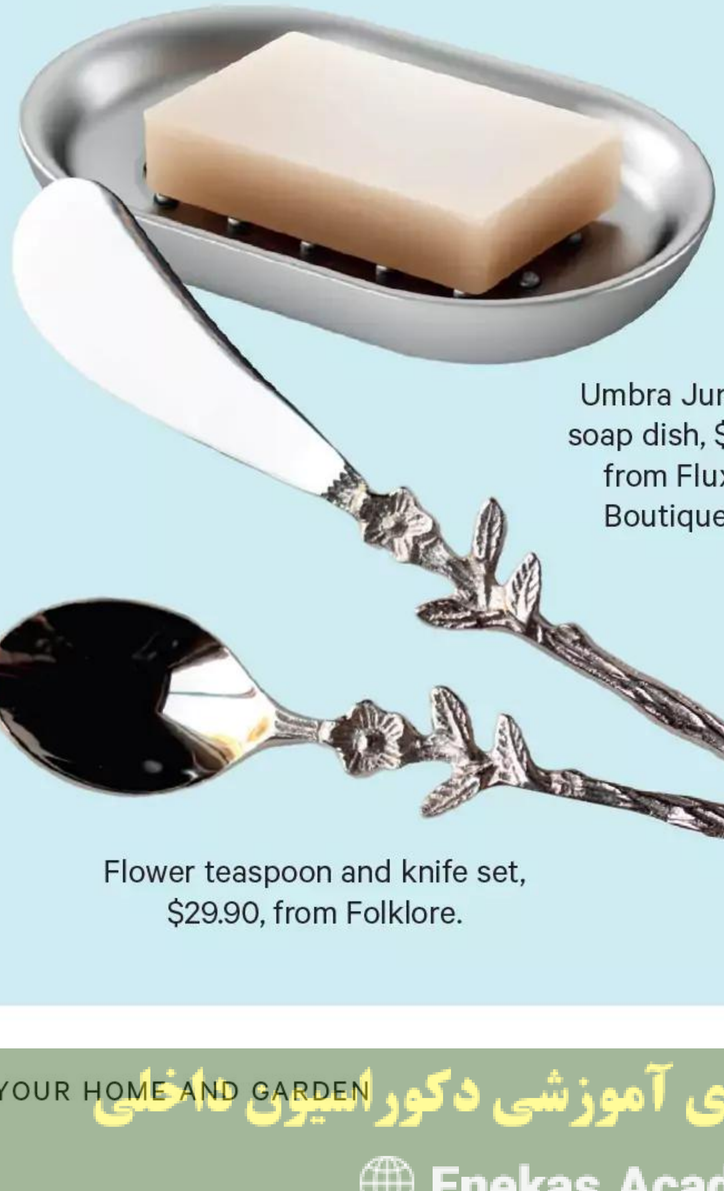
Philippi Bella vase, $139, from The Studio of Tableware.



Eva Solo Mellow candleholders, $375.40, from Farfetch.



Peugeot Paris salt mill, $169.95, from Milly's Kitchen.



Umbra Junip soap dish, $29, from Flux Boutique.



Pet bowl, $74.99, from Frank Green.



Flower teaspoon and knife set, $29.90, from Folklore.



Arne Jacobsen coasters, $190, from Citta.



Umbra Junip wall soap pump, $110, from Flux Boutique.



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# Glam age

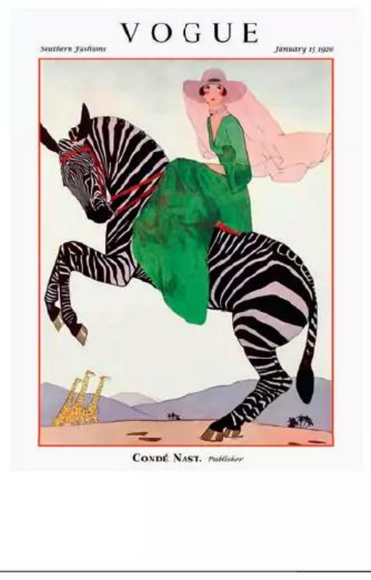
Alfie glass pendant, $219, from Mr Ralph.

Art Deco Baroque fans wallpaper, $140, from The Inside.

Selena mirror, $379, from Nood.

Design Republique Peta side table, $499.90, from Bed Bath & Beyond.

Wedgwood Gio Dwarris mug, $119, from Ballantynes.




Vintage Archive *Vogue* cover, Jan 1926 print, $79, from Pop Motif.

Sparkling accents fit for a party at Gatsby's estate



Waterford Lismore Essence champagne saucer, $409, from Ballantynes.



Nadia coaster set, $29.95, from Bed Bath N' Table.



Peacock table lamp, $229, from Early Settler.




Beyond Time wall clock, $199, from Early Settler.

Portofino champagne bucket, $225, from French Country.



Kingsley towel rack, $195, from Notting Hill Interiors.

## Art decadent

+ A century on from F. Scott Fitzgerald's iconic novel, we're taking design notes from West Egg itself.

+ Art deco was focused on geometric pattern, bold colours and glamour, glamour, glamour. Go for gold – literally.

+ Graphic art was having a moment. Frame and display magazine covers and posters that pay homage to the era.

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SPECIAL EDITION

your home and garden

# CHRISTMAS & THE HOLIDAYS

RECIPES | DECORATING | DIY | HOME STYLING



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The ultimate guide to celebrating Christmas, the summer holidays and the New Year in style

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# SUMMER FORECAST

*Your Home and Garden* editor Fiona Hawtin clues us into this season's upcoming interior trends



## *Bright or pastel spring/summer colours*

Even the most devoted lovers of neutrals might find the celebratory summer season tempting them toward colour. You don't need to go wild with a paintbrush. Just a few small touches can bring in colour elegantly.

**PORTO BANANA SPLIT DESSERT DISHES, SET OF 4, $39.99** These sweetly coloured glass banana-split dishes are a nostalgia trip, especially in their contrasting hues. Mixing and matching glassware adds a playful, vintage feel to the table. And they're not just for ice cream. I'll fill them with nuts and olives during aperitivo hour.



**VERANO KIDS JUNIOR FLAT BEACH TOWEL RANGE, $19** The makings of a perfect summer afternoon: a good book, a shady patch of sand and a fresh towel. These lightweight velour-and-terry towels are the perfect size for drying off after dip and the contrasting fringe is a chic touch. Plus, they're easy to spot on the sand.

## *Biophilic design*

Weaving the natural world into interiors with organic shapes, raw textures and greenery is said to boost health and wellbeing. And really, who doesn't crave a little more nature? It's not just about houseplants, it's about shape, texture and creating a calming, zen-like retreat.



**LUCA FURNITURE CRETE SIDE TABLE, $299** This fibre-cement side table looks as if it's been poured into soft stacks. Use it as a side table, seat, or plant stand – it's been treated for indoors and out, taking the biophilic trend quite literally. Pair it with the wonderfully on-trend chocolate brown LUCA Furniture Parla fabric chairs, $999 each, for an effortlessly earthy look.



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## *Natural materials*

These aren't just buzzwords – I'm trying to embrace natural fibres while cutting back on harsh chemicals and dyes in my home this summer. Small and reasonably effortless swaps are beneficial for both the home and the planet.

**DOMANI DOLCE DUVET COVER, $79.99 – $319.99** I reach for breathable linen and cotton as the temperature rises. This reversible duvet blends both fibres. It's been enzyme-washed for softness, is Oeko-Tex certified, and yes, it's machine washable. Two looks, one set – that's the kind of effortless decor I require. The tight tiramisu stripe particularly shines alongside the **MARCELLO&CO CATALINA SIDE TABLE, $699** I love rich tones in my bedroom.



## *Outdoor entertaining*

Summer and alfresco entertaining go hand in hand. I'll be taking my cues from the Europeans this season: embracing bold colour, relaxed design and long outdoor lunches.






**PORTO POSITANO DINNERWARE RANGE, FROM $9.99** Plates and bowls adorned with pomegranates, oranges, lemons and anchovies – all the best things – at a surprisingly affordable price. Mix, match and pair with Farmers CinCin glassware filled with bubbles. Live la dolce vita.



**TILLY HOME ARCADIA VESSEL (32CM, 17CM), FROM $39.99**
Perfectly imperfect speckled clay and soft curves make these vases ideal for offsetting sharp lines and square furniture. Fill with succulents and indoor plants, grouped in threes at different heights for a naturally pleasing arrangement.





**TERRACE PICNIC BASKET, $99.99** On sunny afternoons, I'll pack cheeses and snacks into this chic basket and set up in the shade. The **TERRACE WAVE STEMLESS TUMBLERS, $12.99 EACH AND CINCIN CHARLOTTE COUPES AND FLUTES, $14.99 EACH** are my secret weapons. They turn casual drinks with friends into an event, particularly if you make an effort with the garnish. Cheers.

Scan for more homeware items from Farmers.

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**COUNTRY GLAM** Inspired by a New York loft, this barn-style home is filled with chic decor and clever ways to utilise space. For more swoon-worthy interiors like this kitchen, turn the page.

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# HOMES


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**Rural idyll**
A barn-style home channels a New York loft in a country setting.

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**Vacay vibes**
The Three Birds team converts a suburban home into a Cali Cool family retreat.

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**Arts & crafts**
A family accustomed to living in new-builds unexpectedly falls for a grand old dame in the capital.


PHOTOGRAPHY BABICHE MARTENS


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**DINING** The table is an old school lab table, sourced from Junk & Disorderly and paired with wishbone chairs from homeowner Clare Chapman's Hello Darling store. The hanging chair was shipped home from a trip to Byron Bay and now serves as a whimsical perch that also helps divide up the room.

Text **Shelley Tustin** Photography **Babiche Martens**

# This North Shore barn-style home channels the metro glamour of a New York loft, within a quintessentially Kiwi rural setting

Clare Chapman well understands the ability of objects to spark joy – in fact, she's made a career out of it. Hello Darling, her Millwater store in Auckland, is a shot of serotonin, with the shelves of clothing and homewares curated for quirkiness, charm and cheer. The secret to Clare's retail success, she says, is simply stocking what she would buy for herself. "I only buy what I love," she says. "The store is kind of a curated version of me." A similar philosophy applies to her and husband Peter's converted barn home, which has been designed less around a strict theme or interior style and more as a large-scale embodiment of their dynamic personalities.

## Barn dance

The story of their one-of-a-kind home began in another property just up the road, where they were living in a lovely home they'd built from scratch. While they weren't short on space, Peter had dreams of a more rural lifestyle. The farmer at the end of their road agreed to sell and Clare and Peter soon found themselves trading in their two-odd acres for a hundred and their snazzy new-build for a sprinkling of assorted rundown houses and outbuildings. The only luxury was that of choice, with the couple able to hopscotch around the property over several years, starting at a house near the street, which they later sold, and ending up here, in a meticulously converted barn.

Originally built for the wedding of one of their daughters, the barn inspired them to realise another domestic fantasy. "We'd always wanted to live in a New York loft-style place, so we thought, let's move in here and make it a home." Metropolitan luxury and rural idyll delightfully collide here – soaring ceilings, wide-open spaces and vast steel-framed doors call to mind an urban warehouse conversion. Yet, one steps outside into acres of tree-punctuated lawn, fresh air and birdsong – the full Kiwi rural dream.



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## Taking it slow

Construction projects can be a dream or a nightmare, but Peter and Clare had some advantages – they had been through the building and renovation process before and had a wonderful builder in Matt Findlay of Findlay Residential. In addition, Peter is enormously handy himself.

"He can kind of read what's in my head," says Clare. "And he has barns on the property full of old things – he's a bit of a hoarder – so if I ask him to make something, he's often got what he needs to put it together."

When he's not reading minds, Peter is an electrician, so he was able to tackle all the electrics, including underfloor heating (which, with passive solar heating through the glass doors, is enough to keep the vast space toasty) and a solar system that powers the barn, plus water pumps and other dwellings on the farm.

But skill and experience didn't equate to a speedy build – although Clare says she prefers it that way. "I've always maintained that it's better to live in an unfinished dwelling – you do things differently, and of a better quality, if you wait and do them properly."

With a background in interior design, Clare had no trouble coming up with a strong vision of what she wanted for the space – the lengthier process was coming up with the funds to

## home profile

**MEET & GREET**

Clare (owner of Hello Darling store) and Peter Chapman (owner of Coyote Electrical) and their dog Coco.

**THE PROPERTY**

New York loft-inspired barn conversion, North Shore, Auckland.



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**KITCHEN** The kitchen is a mix of old and new, with built-in cabinetry (painted in Clare's favourite pink, Resene Paper Doll) paired with a kitchen island made from an old French draper's counter from Vitrine in Auckland. Peter created a textured paint effect on the back wall, against which an open shelf displays Clare's ceramics – a collection of Tony Sly works, plus collected pieces by Brogan Pottery and Dawn Clayden, which she stocks at Hello Darling.



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**LIVING** "It's a lot harder to design an open space like that because everything's kind of got to go together," says Clare, who used furniture to divide the space, choosing sofas from Forma arranged in conversation clusters around a brass coffee table from Hello Darling (far end) and an Indian trunk from Small Acorns in Wellington. Bright Bonnie and Neil and Kip & Co cushions – all from Hello Darling – add a splash of colour. The textured wall was created by plasterer (and friend) Mike May using hand-trowelled Resene Fitzroy Render.

"It's a family home and I like people to feel



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welcome as soon as they walk in.”

CLARE CHAPMAN

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achieve it, sourcing materials, and finding the skilled tradespeople to bring her vision to life.

Though the result was worth the wait, the downside was operating without a kitchen or an indoor bathroom for three years. Instead, the couple had an outdoor shower installed – a fixture that has remained after the barn's completion and even been supplemented by an outdoor bath. "You look back sometimes and think, 'God, how did I do that?' But showering outside wasn't too hard. Being outside under the stars was a lovely wind-down," Clare says.

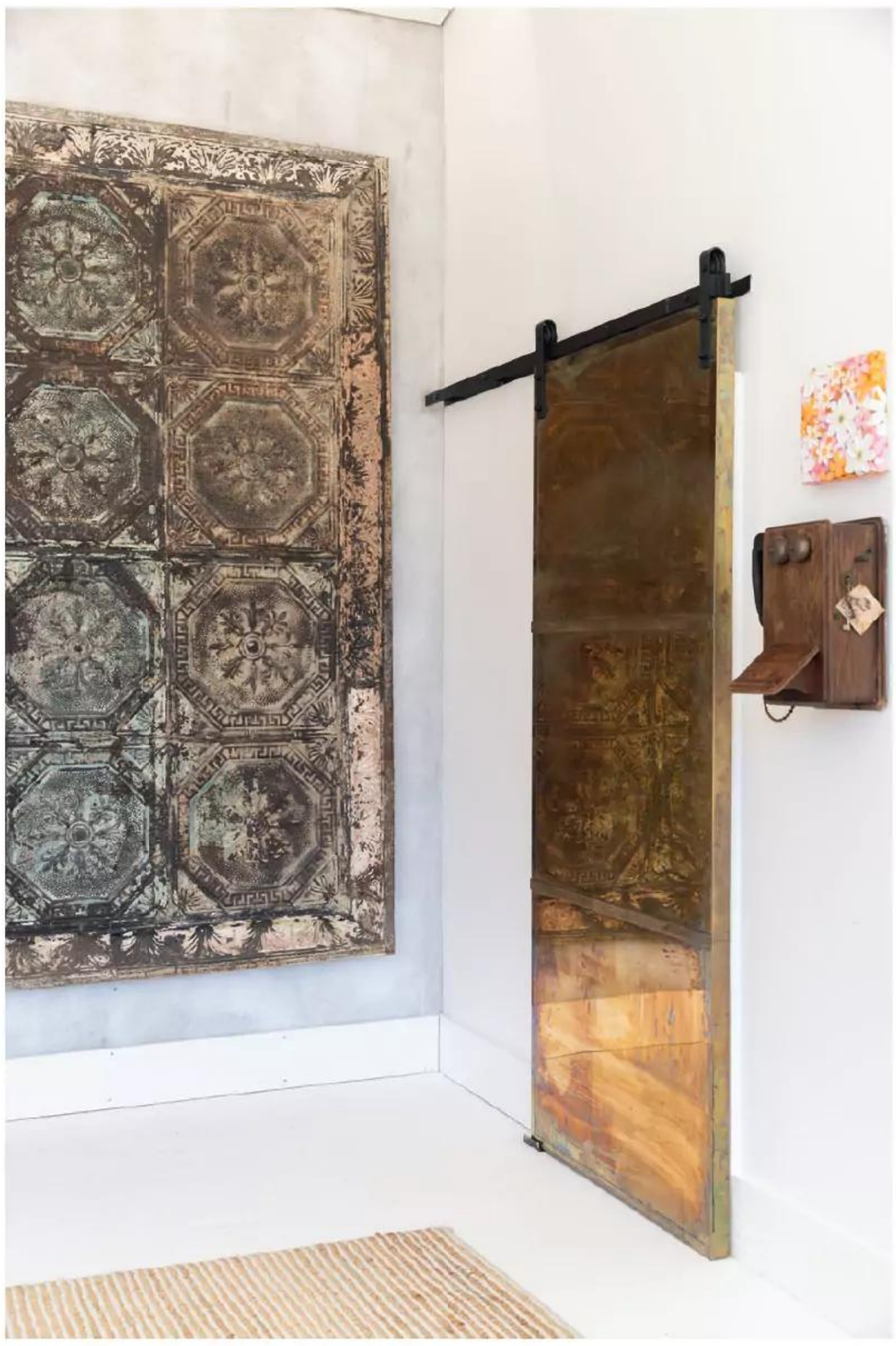
## Made to measure

Though opting for off-the-rack interiors might have seen the barn completed sooner, taking their time has achieved a uniquely beautiful result, with custom-made objects and finishes and a mix of old and new – every detail weighted with fascinating anecdotes. New and bespoke finishes, like the pair of brass doors and the enormous steel-framed sliders, sit alongside reclaimed treasures, such as the French draper's counter that serves as a kitchen island and the raw timbers (seen around the enormous doorways to the patio), which Peter salvaged from a falling-down barn in Whakatāne.

Finding specialist tradespeople who could share and realise their vision was a complicated process, too, but worth it in the end. Finding a tiler who wasn't phased by Clare's request to write words in mosaic tiles, for example. Or the clever plasterer, who created a distressed effect on the walls to give the new-build



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## METAL WORKS

A pressed tin ceiling panel from India has been hung as a piece of art. The custom brass door is one of a pair, each leading respectively to a bathroom and a storage room.

## SPACE TO ROAM

The patio area has a footprint to match the inside and is perfect for Clare and Peter's grandchildren to scoot and ride bikes. With that in mind, Clare says she's been reluctant to fill the space too much. Outdoor furniture from Design Warehouse and bean bags from Coast create little islands for relaxing and entertaining.

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# home truths

**ANY SAVES?**
Our steel doors were made by a local engineer.

**SPLURGES?**
Our brass doors are pretty special. Always spend the most you can on your surfaces as they are the things least likely to be changed.

**LESSONS LEARNED?**
We have built and renovated lots and love the process. I would maybe say nothing is impossible – and if a contractor tells you it can't be done, it's because they don't want to do it.

**ONE THING YOU'D CHANGE IF YOU COULD?** Nothing. We love it. Although I would love some beautiful linen curtains and new couches.

**MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE**
There are a lot of memories here. All our children and grandchildren are here a lot, so I think it's a happy place.

**BEDROOM** The half wall creates a walk-in wardrobe for Clare to store her clothes. The bed is made up with linens from Foxtrot Home and a Bianca Lorenne Leggera bedspread from Hello Darling. An embroidered floral artwork, commissioned from Fleur Woods, sits atop a chest of drawers bought from an antiques dealer in Kentucky, when the couple lived there. The pink door was bought years before, cut to size and painted Resene Paper Doll.



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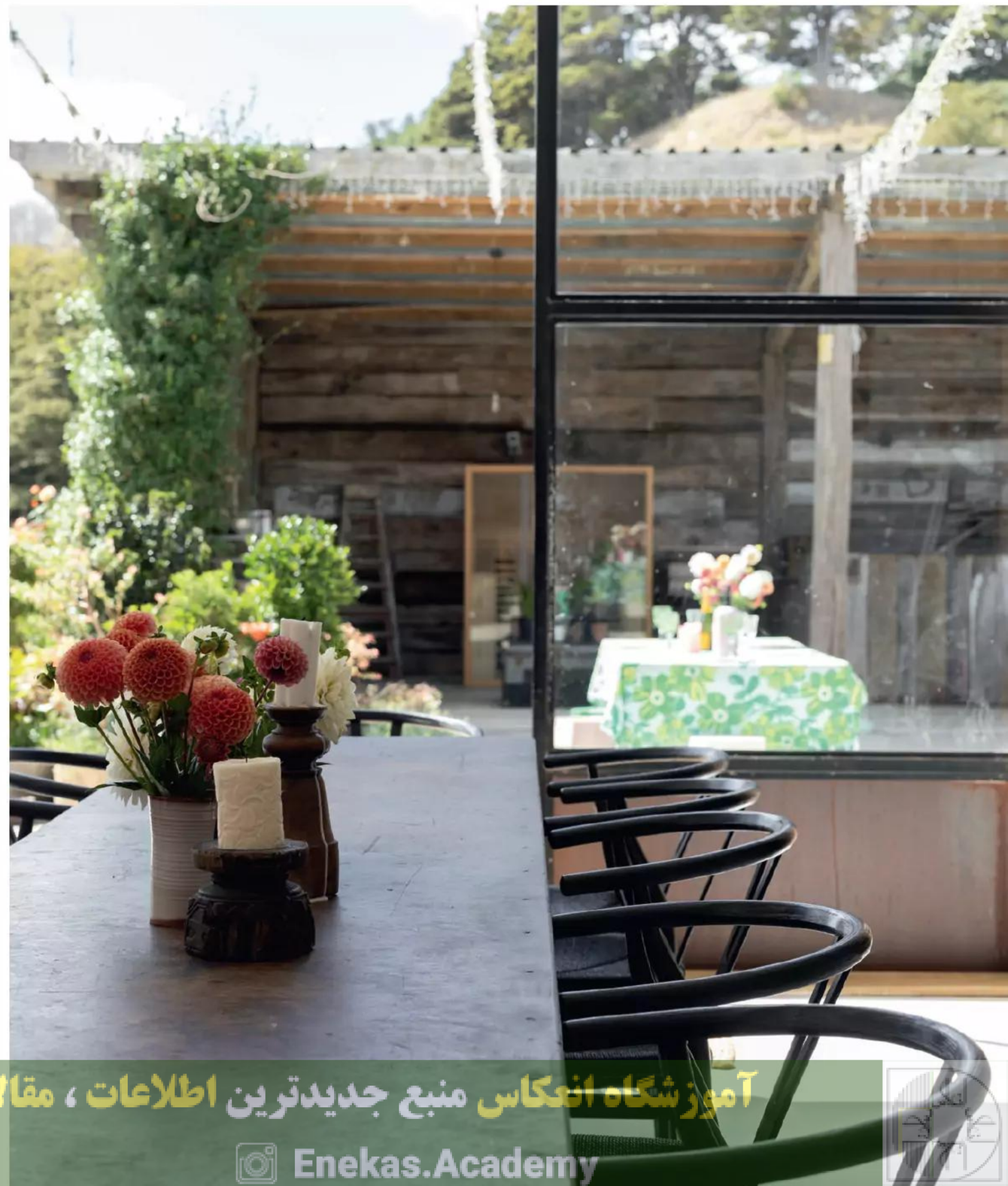
**MOW BETTER** The hedge-divided lawn is vast. “It takes us both about eight-and-a-half hours to mow on two ride-ons,” says Clare.

**BATHROOM** ‘Hello darling’ written in mosaic tiles is both a sweet sentiment and a dedication to Clare’s store. “One day I won’t have the shop, so it’s a nice memory.” The walls are finished in a Moroccan plaster using Rockcote Marrakesh. A custom brass countertop is finished with a pink concrete basin, made by a friend, and illuminated by a pendant light found in France.









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**GARDEN**
Clare is slowly filling the garden with sculptures. The main veggie garden is marked with a “Poppa’s patch” sign made by his grandchildren. In the background, the iron daybed, found in a junkyard in France, has been moved from its usual spot inside and serves as a charming place to relax on sunny days.



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**STARS AND BATHS**
Clare and Peter went without an indoor bathroom for three years and became accustomed to bathing under the stars. The pink door leads to the couple's bedroom.

## CLARE'S FOUR DESIGN TRICKS TO STEAL

01

**TELL A TALE**
Fill your home with things that tell a story.

02

**CARE LESS ABOUT MAKING THINGS "GO"**
Don't try so hard to match things. If you love it, you will find a place for it.

03

**MAKE IT YOUR HAPPY PLACE**
Your home should bring you joy every time you walk into it.

04

**COLOUR IT IN**
Don't be afraid to use colour, it adds warmth and light and sunshine.

a sense of history. "I wanted it to look like the walls were kind of falling apart and old, and he just came in and did it," says Clare.

## Making memories

To match the singular materials and finishes, the barn is furnished with a mix of meaningful objects, all chosen for the feelings they inspire (for example, the bright textiles, quirky artworks and bold splashes of Clare's favourite shade of pink), or for the memories they evoke, many of which were gathered on the couple's travels. "I always try to buy things in places I go to because that's how the memories are attached. Everything in the home tells a story," says Clare. It's a decorating philosophy that transcends trends and ensures longevity. "There's nothing here that I would discard or replace. I know where everything came from and what we were doing when we got it."

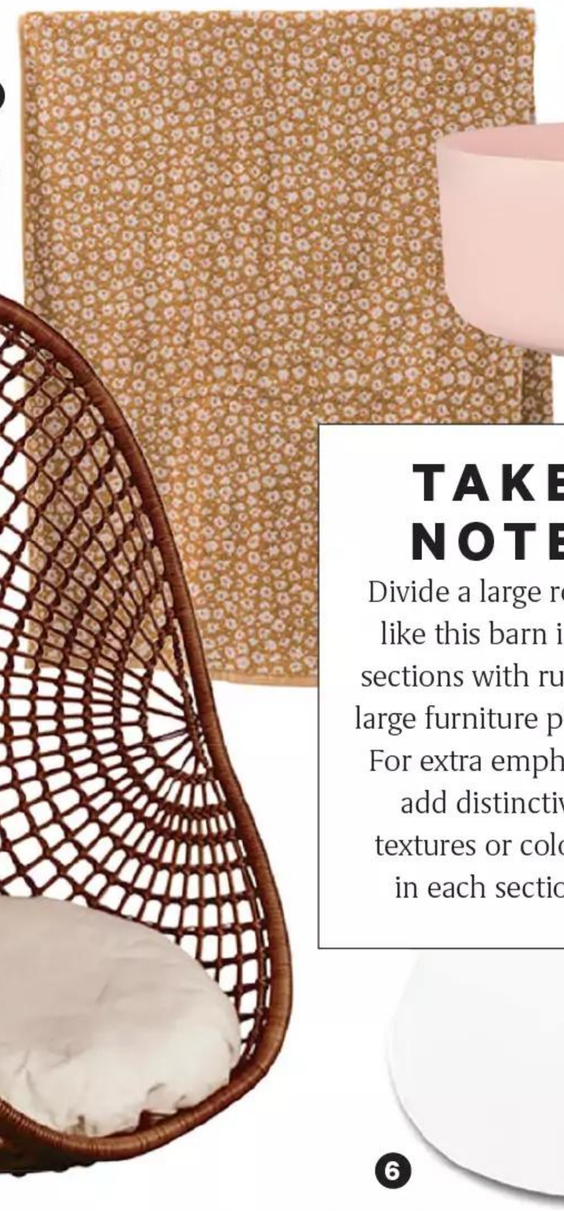
Clare and Peter's furnishings are also chosen for comfort and resilience – a must with the high traffic flowing through the barn. "It's a family home and I like people to feel welcome as soon as they walk in," says Clare. "Normally we've got seven grandchildren running around and it's absolute chaos."

With two of their children, plus a couple of grandchildren, also residing on the farm, the barn is home for two but a regular gathering place for many. Though Clare and Peter intend to build another, cosier home on the property in the future, the intention is for the barn to retain this purpose, as a hangout space for the whole family. "This will be the hub of the farm, like a communal building for everyone."


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## TAKE NOTE

Divide a large room like this barn into sections with rugs or large furniture pieces. For extra emphasis, add distinctive textures or colours in each section.












# SHOP THEIR STYLE

Make a big impact in an open-plan space

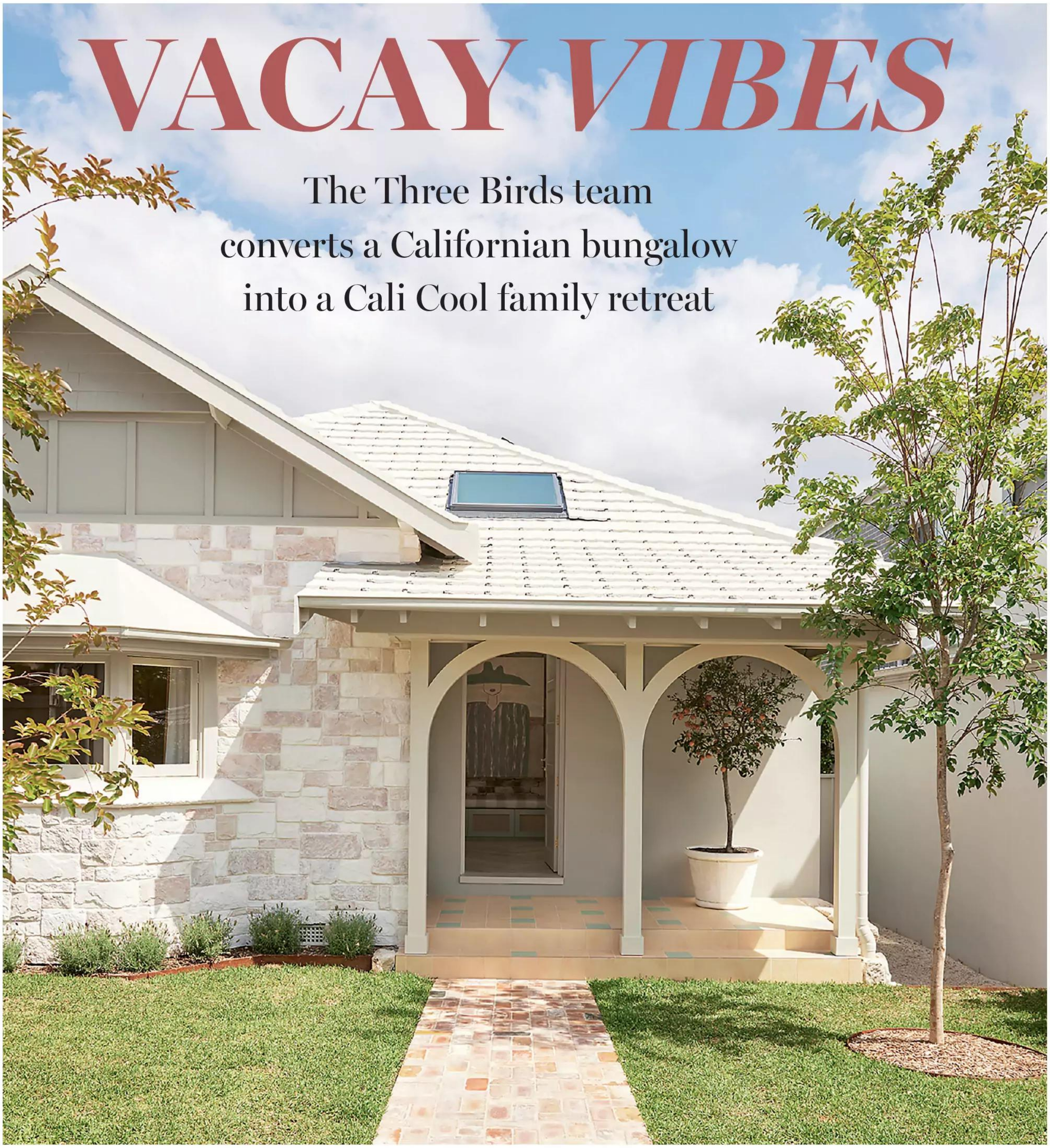
**1** Pansy **bath mat**, $105, from Hello Darling. **2** Hanging pod **chair**, $970, from Palette Design. **3** Forget me not **bath towel**, $39.90, from Citta. **4** Celine **basin**, $533.40, from Abi Interiors. **5** Joffre **dining chair**, $529, from Hello Darling. **6** Made of Tomorrow blob wall **mirror**, $399, from Flux Boutique. **7** Ejiya jute **runner**, $299, from Miss Amara. **8** Bongo **coffee table**, $1199, from Freedom. **9** Fabian **sofa**, $4999, from Nood. **10** Bonnie and Neil flannel flower **cushion**, $199, from Hello Darling.



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# VACAY *VIBES*

## The Three Birds team converts a Californian bungalow into a Cali Cool family retreat



Home to a family of five, this suburban Californian bungalow in Sydney needed some TLC and extra space to accommodate a growing family and their busy lifestyle. With a dream of polishing their rough diamond into a sparkling jewel, the family handed Bonnie Hindmarsh, Erin Cayless and Lana Taylor of Three Birds Renovations their keys, budget and trust, then moved out. The vision? A "Cali Cool" family retreat that's both stylish and functional for everyday life.

Cali Cool is a relaxed yet refined design inspired by the laidback California coast. It blends natural textures, soft neutral tones and open, light-filled spaces to create a calm and inviting vibe. Layered textures, ceramics and greenery add warmth and character, while a strong connection between indoors and outdoors keeps things relaxed.

The transformation was dramatic. A demolition derby at the back of the house kicked things off, clearing the way for a stunning rear extension and sparkling new swimming pool. The front facade got a glow-up, adding much-needed street appeal. Inside, beautiful bathrooms were added, cosy yet stylish bedrooms took shape, and the company's boldest nursery yet was created for a beautiful baby girl. Seeing the family walk through their transformed home for the first time was pure magic (tissues required). This reno was a true labour of love.



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## Not all glass is created equal

A key factor in a winning interior design is how your home feels and the type of glass you choose (or don't choose) plays a big role in that. Ideally, "performance glass" would feature throughout your home, but if your budget doesn't allow for that, prioritise a few key areas where it will make the biggest impact. For instance, if your main living space is exposed to direct sunlight, like in this home, consider glass that reduces UV exposure and harsh glare. Trust us, it's a worthwhile investment – your family (and your furniture) will thank you. You should also check with your local council and consult MBIE's guidance to see if a building consent is required for the upgraded windows. Check with them before you start. Bonus tip: Decide on your glass early and include it in your builder's scope of work, as your choice will affect your quote.

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## Should you keep the existing roof tiles?

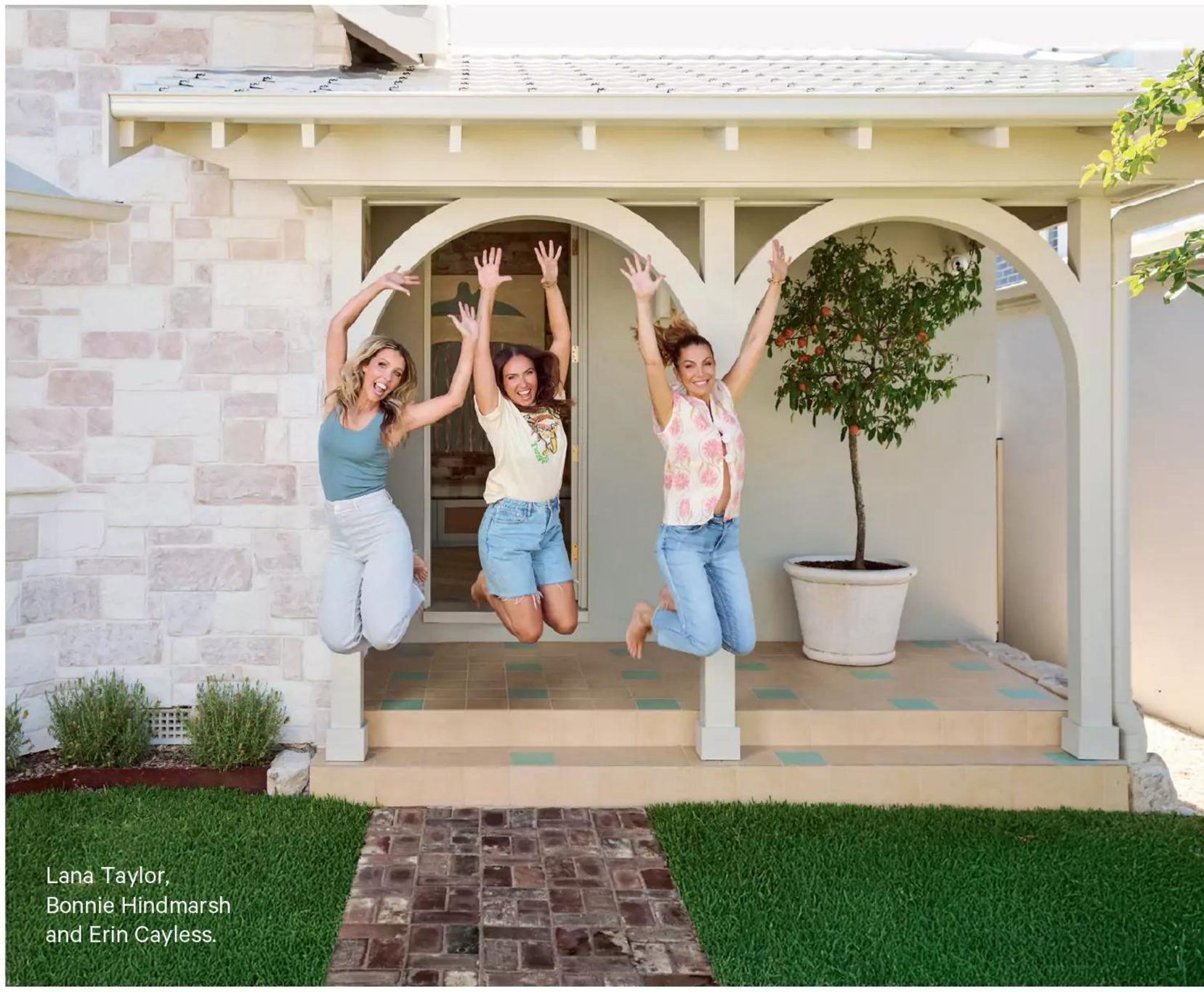
Get your builder to check they'll go the distance. These roof tiles started crumbling during the installation of the skylight, so we had to pivot and replace them with new concrete tiles instead of just a fresh spray of surfmist.

## Arched elegance

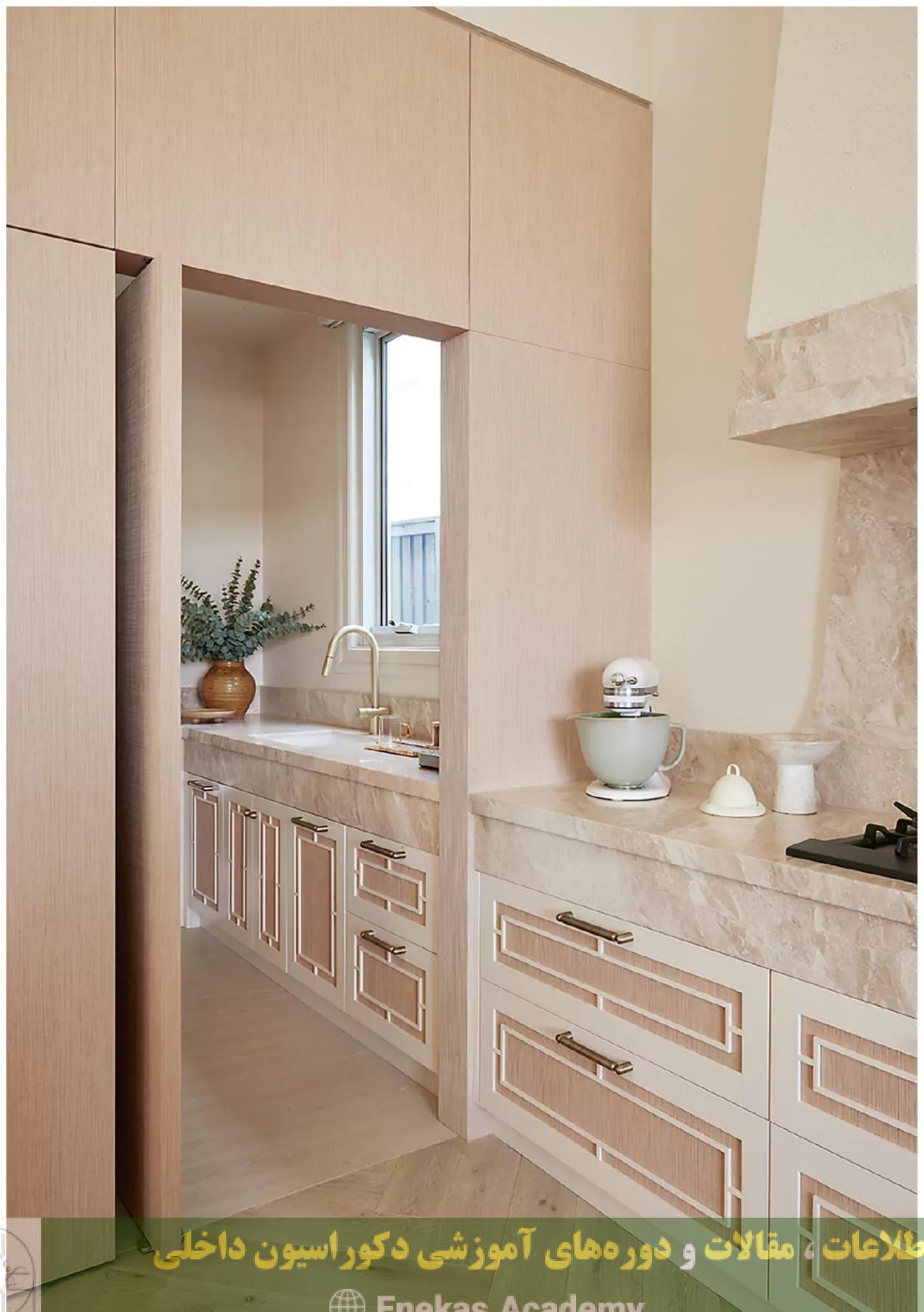
Why stick to straight lines when you can go for gorgeous arches? These beauties add timeless charm and a soft, welcoming vibe to this entryway. We paired them with patterned tiles for a playful twist that's the perfect blend of sophistication and fun.

## Exposed and elevated

Let your bricks shine. Exposing existing brickwork adds instant charm, warmth and buckets of character to any interior. It's the perfect way to embrace your home's personality while keeping things effortlessly cool.



Lana Taylor, Bonnie Hindmarsh and Erin Cayless.



## Kitchen upgrade

If your kitchen island is the heart of your home, why not make it a statement piece? Adding a feature column, such as this classic-meets-modern beauty, gives your bench a touch of timeless elegance and that extra wow factor.



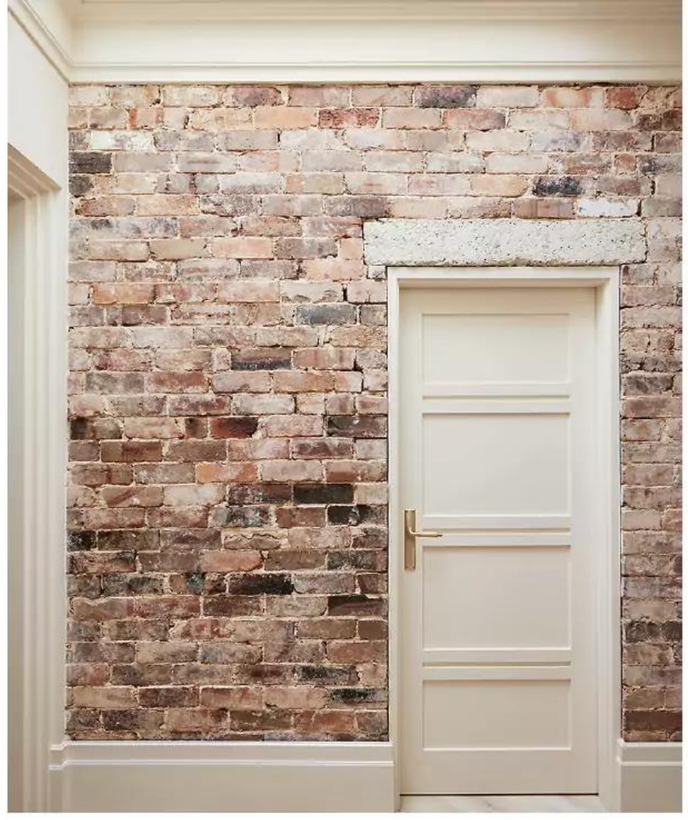
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## Make your rangehood a masterpiece

Transform your rangehood into a standout design feature by customising it to extend all the way to the ceiling – no matter how tall. This creates a dramatic focal point while adding height and grandeur to your kitchen. Make sure to choose your rangehood well in advance, so your builder and cabinetmaker have the size and specs to design your masterpiece around.

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## Stylishly seamless, Bonnie says...

"When you're blending different architectural elements – like we did in this Californian bungalow with its Cali Cool vibe – keeping things cohesive is non-negotiable. A tonal colour palette is the secret sauce. It's simple, it's super effective and it makes the whole home feel seamless and stylish, from front door to back deck."

## Keep it light, light, baby

Don't let your dining pendant block your view of the outdoors. If you're opting for a large, sculptural light, choose a design like this paper-inspired piece. It serves as a stunning centrepiece, adding texture and interest without overpowering the space or obstructing the view.

## The design magic Lana loves...

"Reimagining a floor plan can make the biggest difference to how your home looks and feels – it's a total game-changer. But let's be real, it can also be a pricey fix if you don't nail it the first time. So, take your time, play around with options, and perfect those plans before diving headfirst into your reno or build. A clever floor plan doesn't just look good – it can change your life. This open-plan kitchen, living and dining space is an absolute winner in my books. I went for a similar layout in my own home and I'd recommend it a thousand times over. Trust me, you'll thank yourself later."





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## 7 MUST-HAVES FOR A CALI COOL WELCOME

Your foyer is the first taste of your home, so make it unforgettable with these Cali Cool essentials

**1. BENCH-SEAT BLISS**
A comfy spot to kick off your shoes, complete with built-in storage – of course.

**2. HERRINGBONE HEAVEN**
This flooring with its arrow-like pattern draws your eye down the hallway.

**3. EXPOSED BRICK MAGIC**
Brings all the rustic charm.

**4. SWOON-WORTHY STORAGE**
Cupboards with rattan inserts – because practical can totally be pretty.

**5. DREAMY CREAMY PALETTE**
Opt for a soft, neutral colour scheme that's as delicious as it looks.

**6. OVERSIZED ARTWORK**
Add a statement piece to stop visitors in their tracks.

**7. NIFTY DESK NOOK**
It's the perfect little corner for writing, working or just pretending to be busy while admiring your gorgeous foyer.





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## Living room luxe

The plush rust-toned sofa is perfect for lounging, napping, or kicking back with your nearest and dearest. The rich, warm tone adds depth and cosiness to the room while being kid-friendly. Pair it with soft neutrals for balance and position it strategically to highlight your room's focal points – like a fireplace or a feature ceiling.

## Look up

Ceilings aren't just for hiding the roof space – they're your chance to add serious wow factor, from subtle detailing to bold design statements. This one, topping out at 5.4 metres, shows how clever ceiling details can elevate an entire room.

## Window to wow

Oversized windows and floor-length curtains are a match made in renovation heaven. The picture window frames the stunning water view during the day, while the curtains offer privacy and temperature control at night.





## Laundry luxe

You'll know by now that we're massive fans of creating laundry rooms that look just as fabulous as every other room in the house. To make this one sing, we've continued the kitchen cabinetry and stone benchtops into the space at exactly the same height, so it looks seamless when the door is open. We also added a pop of personality with a pendant light, artwork and greenery. ●

## Family living space, but make it luxe

Open-plan living is all about flow. Use consistent tones and textures to tie together the kitchen, dining and living areas for effortless style and function. Add a touch of luxury to each zone with statement lighting, plush furnishings and beautiful cabinetry.




Edited extract from *Three Birds Renovations: Vacay Vibes at Home* by by Bonnie Hindmarsh, Erin Cayless and Lana Taylor ($49.99, Murdoch Books). Photography by © Three Birds Renovations 2025.



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## TAKE NOTE

Elevate a room with the flick of a switch – literally. Make an instant change to any space with a fun piece of lighting. Try wooden or raffia pendants in one room, or how about brass sconces?

# SHOP THEIR STYLE

## Light and bright rules in this home

**1** Eric **pendant**, $399, from Early Settler. **2** Vitrine sphere **table**, $5990, from Ornament. **3** Agapi **vessel**, $249, from Freedom. **4** Xena **coaster**, $39 (for four), from Loft Furniture. **5** Nature's Oak Sierra herringbone **flooring**, $170 (sqm), from Flooring Xtra. **6** *Brothers* by Studio Dalli **art print**, $129, from Kiki Bazaar. **7** Ribbed **cocktail glasses**, $79.99 (for four), from Home Lab. **8** Chicago **swivel chair**, $1999, from Flux Boutique. **9** Elysian commercial **kitchen mixer**, $637.90, from Abi Interiors. **10** Finnian 2-seat **chaise**, $3999, from Nood.

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**KITCHEN** The bar stools are from The Axe, splashback tiles from Tile Space and the kitchen island lights are from Lighting Direct. The wave fruit bowl is made by Kate Major's friend Dee Johnston from Plain and Simple Ceramics and the blue vessel is a wedding gift from her husband Mark's family friends in Shanghai. "It's a special Chinese vase that symbolises marriage – and we broke the lid before we even got it in the house."



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# ARTS & CRAFTS

A Wellington family accustomed to the convenience of new-builds unexpectedly falls for a grand old dame that offers plenty of space for everyone

Text **Debbie Harrison** Photography **Anna Briggs**

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## home profile

**MEET & GREET**
Kate (head of HR) and Mark Major (technology sales manager) and their children, Evie, eight, and Harrison, six, and cats, Abby and Benny.

**THE PROPERTY**
A 1927 four-bedroom, two-bathroom, three living areas, brick Californian bungalow in Wellington.



**OUR HOUSE** Mark and Kate Major pictured with Evie and Harrison outside their bungalow. “We had a feeling that this was going to be the one for us from the moment we walked in.”



After years of crisp white walls, shiny new fittings and freshly poured driveways, Mark and Kate Major thought they knew what kind of homeowners they were. Their first two properties were new-builds – practical, low-maintenance and designed to suit modern family life. But when they stepped into the grand entranceway of a 1927 Californian bungalow in Wellington in 2022, they felt an instant pull.

“It was such a ‘wow’ moment,” recalls Kate. “I remember walking through the front door and being completely floored by the entranceway, dark timber and stained glass. We’d been looking for a new house for over a year and missed out on seven homes before we saw this one. We both had a feeling that this was going to be the one for us from the moment we walked in.”

Neither of them had ever lived in a character home and the idea of taking on a 98-year-old property was a little daunting. But two years in, the couple and their children, Evie and Harrison, have fully embraced life in this special place.

The brick bungalow, rare for Wellington, was built in 1927 for Henry Stewart, son of Charles Stewart, whose timber, glass and hardware company still has a building standing on Courtenay Place.

The house has been carefully cared for across its near-century. It still boasts loads of original details, including bevelled glass internal doors, stained glass



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YOUR HOME AND GARDEN
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**PERIOD DETAILS** Original features like the stained glass windows, bevelled glass internal doors, light fittings and timber panelling were retained. New additions include the blue rug from Aladdin, coffee table from The Design Depot, Hamilton, the custom-made couch from Stacks, the side table from A&C Homestore and the standing lamp from Lighting Direct.



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windows, solid fireplaces, light fittings and screeds of nut-brown timber panelling, which Kate is pleased she resisted her initial urge to paint.

"Before we moved in, I thought one of the first things we'd do was paint the dark wood in the lounge rooms white. I am so glad we didn't. I couldn't imagine changing it now. The richness of the wood is one of the things that makes the house feel so warm."

The living and bedroom areas had already been beautifully repainted by the previous owners. The kitchen, however, was a different story.

"It was a complete 1990s throwback," says Kate. "Broken terracotta floor tiles, dated cupboards and a ginormous pot rack hanging from the roof – we removed that within a week of moving in. The space was great, but the finishes weren't. I knew straight away we'd need to tackle that room and fix the flow."

The rest of the house had already charmed them: tonnes of natural light, a gorgeous view that takes in Miramar, Brooklyn and Mt Vic and a safe, family-friendly backyard with a cubby house that's almost 20 years old.

"For our first Christmas in the house, my dad's gift to the



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kids was building a new deck for the cubby. They play on that deck more than in the cubby – they absolutely love it."

Despite being an old dame, the house offers a family-friendly flow, with plenty of space for everyone.

"The floor plan is so flexible. The original internal doors mean we can shut or open spaces as needed," says Kate. "And despite being an old home, there are modern practical elements that we appreciated – all bedrooms have wardrobes and the home has central heating, as well as the lovely wood fireplace in the lounge."

After living in the home for two years, the couple was ready to address the dated kitchen. The brief was to create a kitchen that was quality, timeless and blended into the rest of the house.

Kate's retired plumber father led the project alongside his builder mate Mike Wiggins, with Mark putting in the hard labour of carrying two skip-loads of tiles out to the driveway. The couple were keen to retain key original features – the quirky servery, the stained-glass internal window that provides light to the staircase on the other side and the solid brick fireplace that the oven now sits within. But Kate says the solid butcher's block that had been there for 30-odd years had to go.

Now, the centrepiece is the solid walnut island, which matches the home's doors and timber detailing. It was a splurge – an additional $3000 – but Kate found a way to offset the cost.

"It was spendy, but I felt strongly that this was the right move for the house. Dad suggested I list the old kitchen on Trade Me. It was partly rimu and solid wood, so he thought it would sell for at least $1000. I sold it within 24 hours for $3500 – what a result."

Drawers beneath the island store pots and pans, while the overhanging breakfast bar is where the kids eat breakfast each morning. The old internal servery is now a more useful drinks cabinet on one side and a glass cabinet on the other.

Kate was stumped with what to do with the flooring, wanting something that tied in with the rest of the house and all the dark wood. Designer Charlotte Minty suggested a checkerboard tile floor, which now links seamlessly with the entrance and bathroom. The colour palette for the cabinetry, however, was more of a last-minute choice.

"We were at our joiners finalising our colours and I surprised Mark by changing the entire colour palette," Kate laughs. "We'd loved the colourway of beautiful dark blue and brass that the designer had presented, but as we got closer to finalising



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**DINING WITH A VIEW** The dining table and chairs are from Stacks, the U-shaped vase is from Flux Boutique, the Ikea sideboard is from Urban Sales and the flowers from Melissa Jane Flower Studio in Kāpiti.

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everything, I became more and more unsure. I felt like it would make the kitchen stand out too much and would date. My hope with the cream and dark wood colourway is that it's timeless, plus it ties in seamlessly with the rest of the house."

For a family used to contemporary design, adjusting to a period home required a shift in perspective.

"Our previous houses were very minimalist: everything white, lots of clean lines," says Kate. "That doesn't work here. Once we realised we'd be keeping the original dark timber, everything started to fall into place. Each room has a colour palette that ties in with an original feature. The lounge room is greens and blues from the stained glass and the sitting room is light colours to let the original features of the dark wood detailing really shine. But I think it's important not to worry too much about any style rule books – just do what works for you and what you love."

Visitors tend to comment first on the lush, slightly wild cottage garden. A kōwhai tree is a particular highlight, drawing a daily chorus of tūī, with up to seven in residence at a time.

"When we first moved in, I told our gardener I wanted a simple, minimalist look. Now we've completely leaned into the cottage style – nothing is uniform and each spring we're surprised with new blooms," says Kate.

Looking ahead, the couple hope to eventually renovate the main bathroom, add skylights in the kitchen and one day create an outdoor kitchen area and new deck. But they're in no rush.

For now, they are focused on enjoying the home – both for what it is and what it represents. "Before this house, a house was just a house to us," says Kate. "We always liked where we lived, but we were never truly attached. A month into living here, that changed. I truly adore this home and can see why it's been so lovingly cared for over the years. It feels like such a privilege to be its custodians. We want to keep it beautiful so it can be loved by families for another hundred years."



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**BATHROOM AND BEDROOMS** The bathroom is painted Resene Karen Walker Fuscous Grey. In the main bedroom, the drawers are from Mood and the Adairs checked blanket is a gift from Kate's mum. Evie's pretty room is painted Resene Karen Walker Pearl Lavender.





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## TAKE NOTE

Lean into a home's existing charm with a thoughtful colour palette and carefully chosen furniture. Even if you're not used to the style, let yourself enjoy it. Chances are you'll fall in love, just like these homeowners did.












# SHOP THEIR STYLE

## Pay attention to character details while adding personal flair

**1** Tube **vase**, $69, from Flux Boutique. **2** Abode Design Carson 400 **pendant**, $279.90, from Lighting Direct. **3** Namika **kitchen mixer**, $428.90, from Abi Interiors. **4** Parvani bouquet **mirror**, $849, from Early Settler. **5** Ankara **rug**, $499, from Early Settler. **6** *Landscape at Collioure* by Henri Matisse **art print**, $59 (A3), from Pop Motif. **7** Resene Timeless **paint**, $5.70 (testpot), from ColorShops. **8** Resene Valentine **paint**, $5.70 (testpot), from ColorShops. **9** Leo **armchair**, $799, from Cintesi. **10** Odelia freestanding **bath**, $4949.90, from Abi Interiors. **11** Ella **sideboard**, $2999, from Nood.



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# floor plan




**KEY**
**1** Entrance/ hallway
**2** Living
**3** Dining
**4** Kitchen
**5** Stairs
**6** Bathroom
**7** Toilet
**8** Shower
**9** Bedroom

# home truths

**HIGH-END OR BARGAIN BUYS?**

Probably a mixture of both, we are practical. With two young children, buying expensive furniture is probably a waste of time at this point.

**BEST MEMORIES IN THE HOME?**

Our first few months. We moved into the house in October and were treated to a beautiful summer. The kids spent all day outside, which they hadn't been able to do before, as we didn't use to have outside space. We entertained literally every weekend that summer.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM OR SPOT IN THE HOUSE?**

For entertaining, it's the dining room and kitchen. The doors open onto the deck, where we get afternoon sun until it sets. The view out across Miramar to Brooklyn, Mt Vic and beyond is amazing.

**WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS HOUSE THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY?**

Definitely all the space and the layout. With three living areas and the internal doors, there's so much flexibility, which will continue as the kids get older. We love that the living areas are open plan without being too connected. The kids can be at the art table or watching TV while we are in the kitchen. We're close enough to hear each other but not so close that we disrupt each other.

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## EASY BREEZY

We'll always embrace the coastal aesthetic. Perhaps it's living on an island that makes it even more timeless. For a guide to nailing the interior style, turn to page 72.

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# DECORATE


**62**

**Living colour**

Scraps from the past helped inform the multi-hued future of this Napier cottage.

**78**

**Spring spruce-up**

Sunny days are on the horizon, which means its time to give your outdoor spaces some love.


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# LIVING COLOUR

## Tiny scraps from its past helped inform the multi-coloured future of a Napier cottage that had faded from glory

Text **Debbie Harrison** Photography **Florence Charvin**

Colour beams from every corner of Ingrid and Shay Russell's Napier cottage – on the kitchen cabinets, the letterbox, the fireplace and even inside the bedroom closets. In fact, there are 18 different paint colours in this home – but you wouldn't expect anything less from an interior designer who studied colour psychology.

However, while this home might seem like an exuberant expression of modern creativity, Ingrid found the playful palette by looking at the past.

Built in 1940 for Thora Mitchell in the final chapter of Hawke's Bay's art deco era, the home was modest in size and rich in charm. Its pitched roof, rather than the flat style typical of the period, makes it an architectural outlier. Originally a one-bedroom plastered cottage, the house gained a second bedroom in 1947. In the 1990s, a hallway was built to connect the main home with the old wooden toolshed out back. Today, it includes three bedrooms, a hobby room for Ingrid (the former toolshed), and 110sqm of colour-drenched living.

When Ingrid and Shay bought the house in the summer of 2021, its original vibrancy had been dulled by decades of neglect and outdated updates.

"It was cosy, but it felt like being underwater," says Ingrid, recalling the dark periwinkle walls and black shag carpet. Even at midday, light struggled to fill the rooms.

The back garden was a jungle of ivy and fallen trees, with weeds towering overhead. As the couple cleared it, they uncovered relics from the past: fossils, glass inkwells, antique china fragments and horseshoes.

Ingrid, an interior designer with a qualification in colour psychology, knew immediately that this home needed more than renovation – it needed energy.

**DINING**
The pedestal table is from Nood and the rattan chairs are from Paula's Home & Living. Ingrid had the tablecloth made by a local seamstress after finding a few metres of this cotton floral fabric.



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**KITCHEN** The vintage Le Creuset yellow cast iron frying pan was found during a road trip in Tennessee. “It took up so much room in our luggage and was heavy, not an ideal souvenir at all. But it was well worth it as it gets used every morning.” The 1950s yellow cooking pots were found at a vintage market on their honeymoon in Hawaii and the glass Kilner square clip-top jars were bought on clearance at Briscoes – “I scooped up the lot,” says Ingrid.



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"Colour has power and I use it to shift the mood of a space," she says. "My approach is to understand the feelings and energy that colours evoke, while taking into consideration the orientation and natural light in the room to create harmonious spaces. For this home, my concept was 'retro meets art deco' – the character needed to shine through in a playful style."

Rather than follow a traditional colour wheel, Ingrid took cues from the house itself. Faded hints of pink, green, and yellow paint lingered on walls, doors and trims, evidence of the home's earlier palette.

"I was drawn to these colours before I even uncovered them," she says. "These colours complemented the house 80 years ago and they still suit it now. It felt serendipitous."

Now, each room tells its own story through the use of those 18 different paint colours.

There's the peach-toned bedroom that their daughter Imogen chose from among three options presented by Ingrid (Resene Wax Flower was the winner).

A soothing soft green (Resene Gum Leaf) in the bathroom allows the geometric pattern of the tiles to shine. "The tiles look and feel like individual geometric shapes but are 316mm squares, which were considerably less labour-intensive to install," Ingrid says.

Removing the old hot water cylinder revealed that the laundry was once painted a dark forest green, so Ingrid chose Resene Crusoe as the basis for the bold laundry design, paired with Melteca Olympia Yellow



## home profile

**MEET & GREET**

Ingrid (interior designer) and Shay Russell (electrician), their daughter Imogen, six, and Bosco the cat.

**THE PROPERTY**

A 110sqm 85-year-old three-bedroom art deco-era cottage on 502sqm on Hospital Hill in Napier.



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**LOUNGE**
The big round mirror was a Trade Me buy and the elephant and jug on the shelf are special keepsakes. “The elephant was a gift from a grandparent in 1999 and the antique cobalt blue graniteware enamel coffee pot is another purchase from our road trip in Tennessee. It had a matching spittoon, which I declined to purchase,” says Ingrid. The antique oak lamp is an heirloom from a grandparent and a new shade was custom-made for it. The couch is from Danske Mobler, the rug from rugs.co.nz and white locker from Good.



## INGRID’S THREE COLOUR PSYCHOLOGY HOME DESIGN TIPS

01

**NOTICE YOUR OWN VISCERAL REACTIONS TO COLOUR IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE** What colours are the joyful flowers you spotted on a walk? What colour are you excited to see on the racks in your favourite clothing store? Test those colours out by bringing the flower or clothing into your space to see whether they improve or diminish the feeling in the room.

02

**LOOK TO THE PAST** Colours are deeply entwined with childhood memories. Note the positive or negative colour reactions you have – one colour might fondly remind you of your grandmother’s kitchen, while another may bring back thoughts of your school uniform.

03

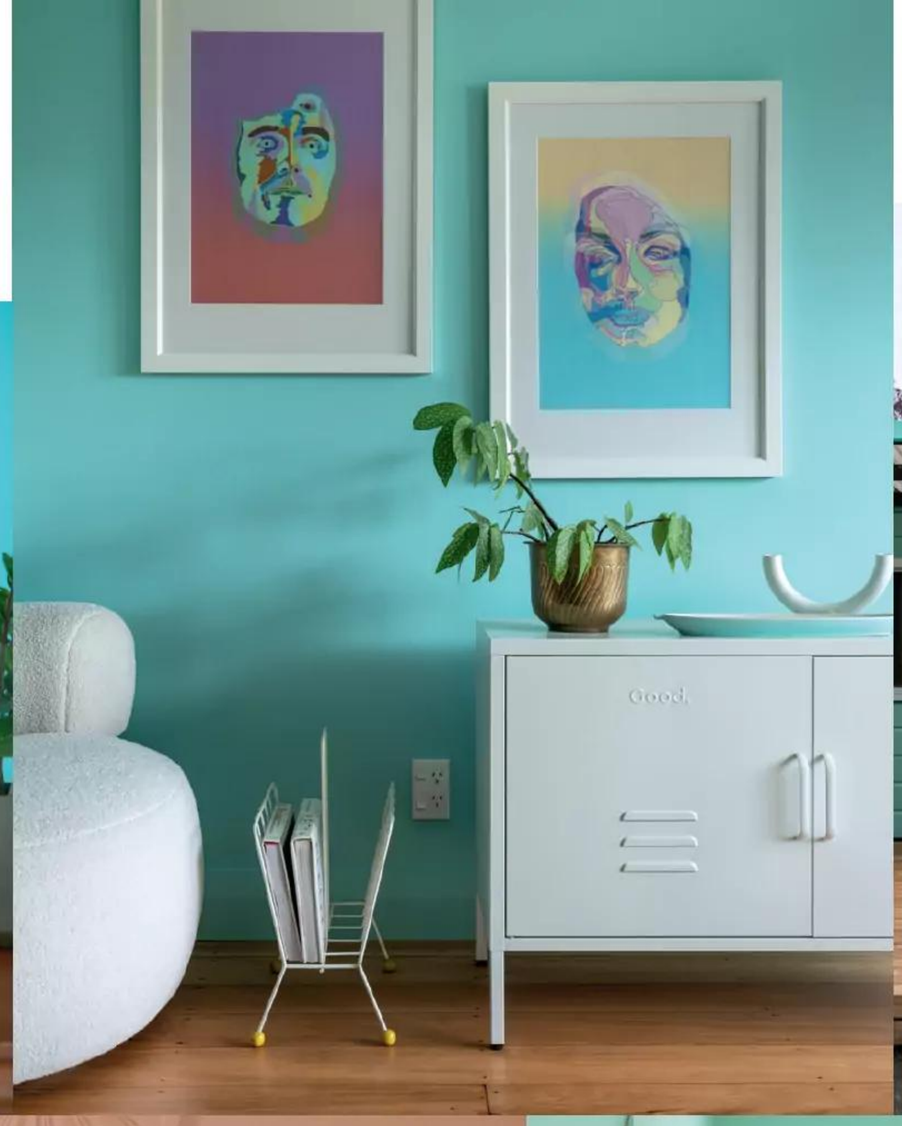
**COLOUR MATCH** If you have an item you’re taking inspiration from, such as a sentimental scrap of fabric, cushion cover, or cabinetry sample, but can’t find a suitable colour on the paint charts, Resene offers a colour match service where they will create a custom colour at their Colour Lab. It can even be named after you.





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**HOT STUFF**

The Pyro Mini wood burner is painted Dulux Yellow Gold. The hearth is made of recycled bricks that came from a building in town and are stamped with Napier Brick Co. Shay collected nearly all the pendant lights in the house from homeowners who were throwing them out.



Naturale cabinetry. Classic Aoraki stone benchtops add contrast and polish.

"No one had ever ordered yellow cabinets before, so they were quite a spectacle surrounded by numerous white cabinets in the Sunshine Joinery workshop," Ingrid says.

Despite the diversity of colours, the home feels cohesive thanks to the white Roman blinds and window trims.

"To make this many colours work, it was imperative to consider the view from one room to the next. I chose to paint the bedroom and bathroom doors white to allow the eyes to rest between those areas."

She also uses accent colours of canary yellow and cyan blue throughout the house to subtly create cohesion.

"It tells a story. Take the yellow, for example – from the street, there's a bright yellow steel gate and letterbox. Then you continue inside to see the Dulux Yellow Gold-painted Pyro Mini wood burner. There's also an energising pop of yellow in the primary bedroom closet, the glossy tiles behind the oven, and the laundry's sunny cabinetry. The story ends with the back garden planted with yellow flowers and lemons on the tree."

Visitors often comment on the positive vibes of the house and find themselves drawn from one room to the next, to see what the next colour will be.



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**BOLD SPLASH** *Feng Shui* by Hawke's Bay artist Stems & Paper adorns the wall and the mirror is from a Carlyle Street op-shop. Resene Crusoe was paired with the yellow Melteca cabinetry.

**SAINT AND SAVIOUR** The kauri church pew is from an old Anglican church in Hamilton and was found on Trade Me. "Shay kindly drove to Hamilton to pick it up," says Ingrid. Resene Possessed was used on the walls. Ingrid chose that paint because "true black can look flat. I find that using a very dark grey paint looks significantly deeper." The ribbed pendant light was found in a Whangārei antiques store.



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**SWEETEST SHADES**
Soothing Resene Gum Leaf was used to paint the bathroom wall, which allows the tile pattern to shine. In Imogen's bedroom (left), which used to be the original sunroom, Resene Wax Flower was chosen for the walls. The tiled back hallway (inset) was painted in vibrant Resene Vista Blue.

In the kitchen (still all original, including its stainless steel benchtop), Ingrid mixed up the colours on the cabinetry to amp up the retro feeling. When the original cabinetry handles couldn't be salvaged, she sourced vintage ones from Etsy and had them chrome-plated by a local car parts workshop.

While Ingrid led the design, Shay rolled up his sleeves for the heavy lifting. He rewired, insulated, relined and painted much of the house himself. He even jackhammered through a concrete laundry floor to patch in salvaged timber from a local yard.

"There's nothing he can't do," Ingrid says. "But he also works full-time, so we called in trades as needed. We've had 30 different tradies working with us during this renovation, everything from a bricklayer to a floor sander to a stump grinder. It seems as though there has been someone working on the property every week for the past two and a half years."

There was inside help, too.

"Our daughter Imogen was so enthusiastic about learning about different trades. She has donned a tool belt and been a great assistant, measuring wood, painting fences and passing tools to tradies – always keen to help."

Function hasn't been forgotten amid all the colour. The original bathroom layout was improved with the addition of a toilet and Hardie Groove walls are practical in the wet space, as well as adding to the vintage aesthetic.

The flooring throughout is native rimu, sanded and sealed with a water-based product that won't yellow over time.

In the back hallway, Ingrid chose orange-and-white hex tiles, inspired by the original paint colour of the step (now reimagined as Resene Mai Tai).

"It's sloped and stepped, so three tilers turned down the job before we found one willing to give it a go."

The garden, once a wilderness, is now a productive and colourful space.

"We planted 12 fruit trees and a raspberry patch, all organic," says Ingrid. Shrubs bloom in shades that echo the interior's palette, tying the outdoors to the inside.

The renovation faced a major challenge early on: Cyclone Gabrielle. With power out and their possessions trapped in a storage unit, Shay built an outdoor stove from a stainless steel bucket.

"We cooked everything from the freezer, shared kale with neighbours, and even had a candlelit dinner," Ingrid says. "It was tough, but it pulled the community together."

Though the family has recently moved to be closer to Imogen's school, the Russells have found tenants who love the house as much as they do. And while there's still exterior painting to finish, the interior is a joyful testament to colour, craft, and the power of a well-told design story.

"It's not the kind of place that lets go of you easily," Ingrid says simply.

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## TAKE NOTE

The tiles used in the Russells' bathroom look like small tiles but they're not. "The tiles look and feel like individual geometric shapes but are 316mm squares, which were considerably less labour-intensive to install," says Ingrid.

DESIGN CLASSIC

# SHOP THEIR STYLE

Bright and brilliant are the keywords for this colour extravaganza

**1** Cementina **tiles**, $199.90 (sqm), from Tile Depot. **2** Marimekko Pieni Unikko **cushion cover**, $59, from Bolt of Cloth. **3** Celia **chair**, $515, from Cintesi. **4** Marco Tuscan **urn**, $245, from Notting Hill Interiors. **5** Bellagio **sofa**, $6519, from BoConcept. **6** Wooden squiggle **mirror** II, $270, from Little & Fox. **7** *Garden Party* by Inaluxe **art print**, $59 (A4), from Endemicworld. **8** Nyla **rug**, $349, from Miss Amara. **9** Bonnie and Neil chamomile **tablecloth**, $299, from Allium Interiors. **10** Resene Twice as Nice **paint**, $5.70 (testpot), from ColorShops. **11** Resene Tradewind **paint**, $5.70 (testpot), from ColorShops. **12** Betti bobbin **tallboy**, $469.99, from Mocka. **13** Stellar Haus 360 **table lamp**, $99, from Ballantynes. **14** Baccarat Spice Market carrara **mortar and pestle**, $49.99, from Farmers.



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## floor plan

**KEY**

**1** Living
**2** Dining
**3** Kitchen
**4** Laundry
**5** Hallway
**6** Hobby room
**7** Toilet
**8** Outdoors
**9** Bathroom
**10** Bedroom
**11** Closet

## home truths

### ARE THERE ANY DESIGN RULES YOU WILLINGLY BREAK?

That bedrooms should only be painted in restful, muted shades. It can be just as important to start the day with energy. For people who fall asleep easily, yet still feel tired in the morning, a muted wall colour could be doing them a disservice – it's important to take personality into account.

### WHAT'S A COLOUR PSYCHOLOGY HACK MOST PEOPLE WON'T KNOW?

Covert vs overt colour. I find colour therapy to be effective when used in hidden places, too – such as painting the insides of bedroom closets in contrasting tones.

### DO YOU COLLECT ANYTHING?

One piece is nice, adding something similar is fun, but beware the third item, because now you have a collection. My exception is vintage brass planter pots – I can never have enough of those.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM IN THE HOUSE?

The kitchen is usually the heart of a home, but here the heart is surely the dining room – it is in the centre of the house and is a natural gathering space. The healing heat of the fireplace makes it feel even more welcoming.

## INGRID'S DESIGN TRICKS TO STEAL

**DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF TO A FEATURE WALL** Paint all four walls of the room, but only on the bottom third of the walls (or only on two-thirds of the walls), or consider painting two opposite walls and continuing onto the ceiling to lengthen a room. Another option is to keep the walls neutral and add colour to the doors or the window frames.

**EVERY ROOM IS A CHANCE FOR A NEW EXPERIENCE** The same colour painted in all rooms will likely vary, depending on which way the windows face. Work with the light, or offset it if it's undesirable. I see the warm northern light as the purest, lending itself well to various colours; however, east light can be tricky and make yellows look sickly. West light starts cooler then becomes warm, so it depends what time of day you're using that space, and New Zealand's indirect southern light can be perceived as grey, blue, or purple.



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STYLE GUIDE

# By the SEASIDE

The enduring appeal of coastal interiors has much to do with its relaxed living ethos. Here's how to make it everything from Hamptons style to modern

Text **Shelley Tustin**

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**COASTAL GRANDMA**
Comfortable but refined, take a leaf from Nancy Meyers' style book and let an oversized marble kitchen island take centre stage.

Who doesn't love a day at the beach? Coastal-style interiors tap into a rich vein of seashore inspiration, from colours and materials that evoke the sea and sand dunes, to objects of nautical whimsy. But most of all, coastal style is about a mood, channelling the barefoot bliss of a day at the beach with interiors that make you instantly unwind.

Perhaps the ultimate anti-trend, coastal interiors have an evergreen – and even global – appeal. The serenity of a salt-spray vacay is always desirable, after all, and anyone can appreciate the allure of a home that's as soothing as a holiday – Kiwis included.

Here in New Zealand, where the natural world is such an intrinsic part of our national identity, where the coast is always a day trip away, and where the humble beach bach is the ubiquitous setting of romanticised childhood memories, it's no wonder coastal style holds such enduring charm. The connection to nature is key, says interior designer Margaux Word of Chroma Interiors. "In New Zealand, people love when their interiors feel like an extension of the outdoors."

## *Ahoy, mateys*

Coastal interiors come in various salty flavours, but when we think "coastal", we've usually got a particular and instantly identifiable look in mind. Classic coastal style takes all the most iconic elements of a beach escape, combining a calming colour palette and marine-inspired textures, then seasoning with a dash of maritime motifs. The key elements of a coastal look are:

**Sun** A coastal interior is as light as the sun glittering off the ocean and as airy as the limitless horizon. To capture the look, welcome in as much light as possible. Keep windows and doors clear and ready to be pushed wide open. Floaty sheers are better than heavy drapes – pair with discreet roller blinds or textured matchstick blinds for blocking light – or leave windows bare. To amplify the light, opt for lavish use of white on walls, furnishings and even whitewashed floors, if you're brave.

**Sand** Inspired by sandy beaches, classic coastal interiors usually start with a backdrop of white or beige, while furnishings double down on the sand tones. Timber furniture leans toward pale or limed wood, with a soft finish as though scoured smooth by sand, while rattan both ticks the box for sandy colour and is reminiscent of resort holidays. Bring softness to floors with seagrass or jute rugs.

**Ocean hues** If you've ever collected sea glass off the beach, that's the colour palette commonly associated with coastal style: muted and milky blues and greens. For a sophisticated look, keep the palette neutral (greige, white), but with accents in navy. Or for a moodier coastal interpretation – think fisherman's cottage next to storm-tossed seas, rather than pastel-pretty summer bach and drench the space in navy from head to toe.

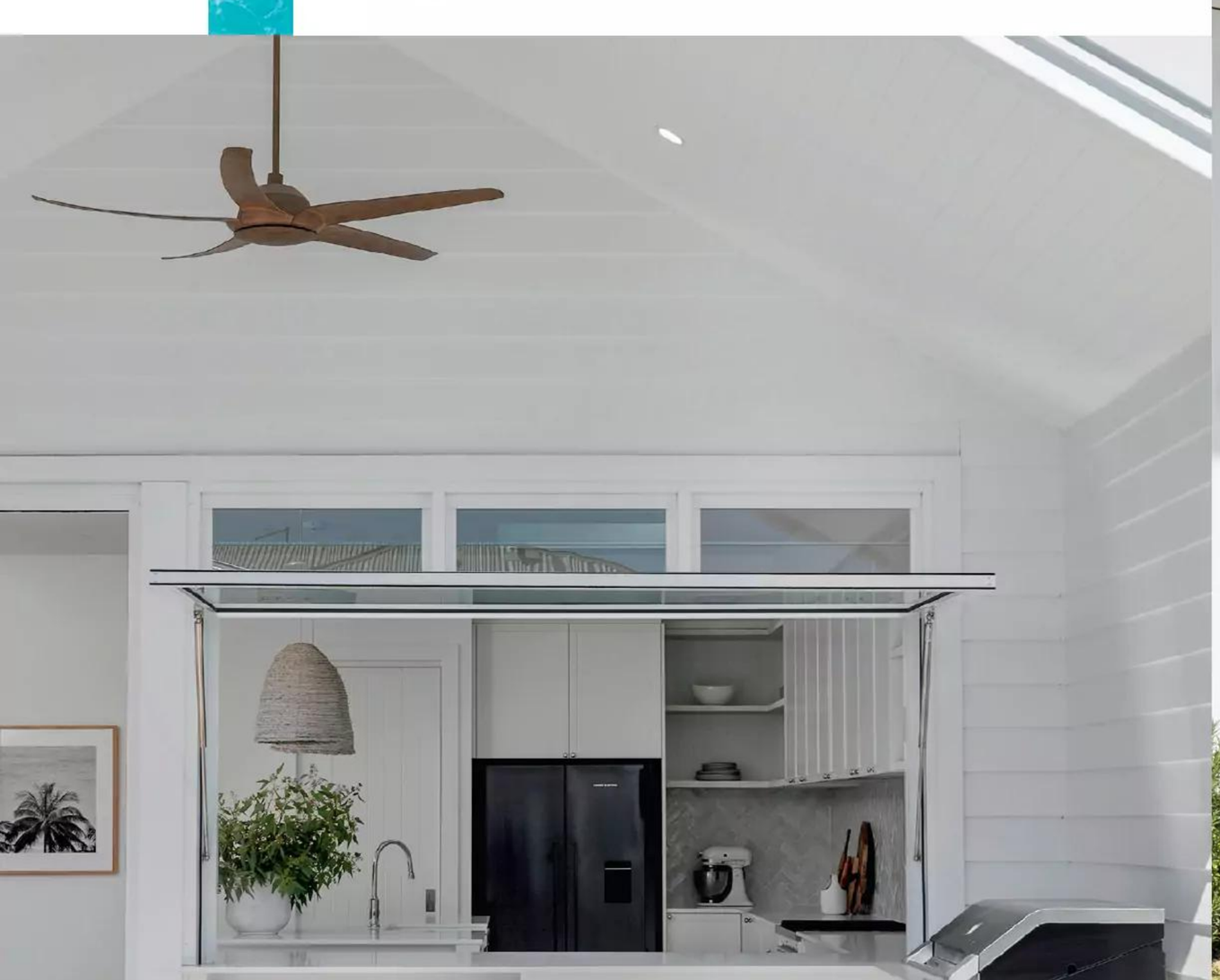
**Nautical elements** Drive home the coastal look with maritime elements. These can be subtle; shiplap walls are a coastal classic, while striped fabrics suggest the sea. Beachy souvenirs like seashells, driftwood, coral, or nautical motifs – anchors, oars, rope – are more obviously coastal; add a little here and there for a subtle look, or go all in and embrace the kitsch charm.



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# From coast to coast

From Piha's black-sand stretch to the turquoise lagoons of Rarotonga, beautiful beaches come in all shapes and sizes – and coastal interiors are equally diverse. To find which one floats your boat, take a metaphorical journey around the globe, exploring coastal looks from Mount Maunganui to the Med.



**WORK SMARTER**
A servery window between the kitchen and the barbecue area makes easy work of entertaining alfresco in summer.



## Hamptons

With inspiration sourced from the holiday homes of the seriously well-heeled on the US East Coast, Hamptons style gives classic coastal a sophisticated spin. More buttoned-up than your average bach – think Ralph Lauren goes to the beach – Hamptons homes combine formality and a distinct sense of luxury with the relaxed liveability of a beachside home. There are certain key elements that typify Hamptons: weatherboards and shingles, plantation shutters, Shaker-profile kitchen cabinets and strong architectural details. To capture the moneyed sophistication of Hamptons style in your interiors, think traditional or antique furniture, stately lighting (lantern pendants and oversized table lamps), wallpaper and patterned fabrics – always in a strict palette of blues and neutrals. Drama is brought in using accents of black, navy, or brass.





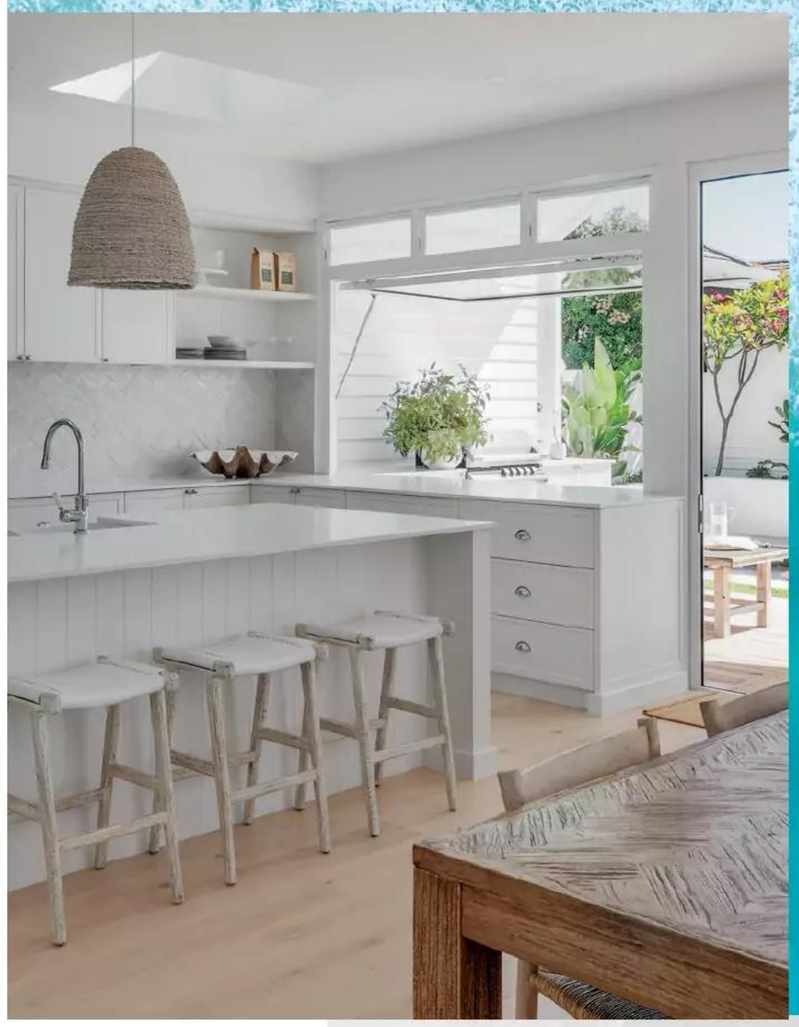
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## Tropical

An island holiday is always on the wishlist and a tropical interior scheme gives you a taste of warmer climes every day. Tropical decor can be light on colour – whites and soft neutrals are typical – but never feels bland, with an abundance of greenery turning the space into a lush indoor jungle. Opt for large and leafy plants, such as rubber trees, palms, *monstera*, fiddle-leaf fig and *syngonium*, and don't forget sightlines to the outdoors, filling gardens visible from inside with a mass of lush foliage.

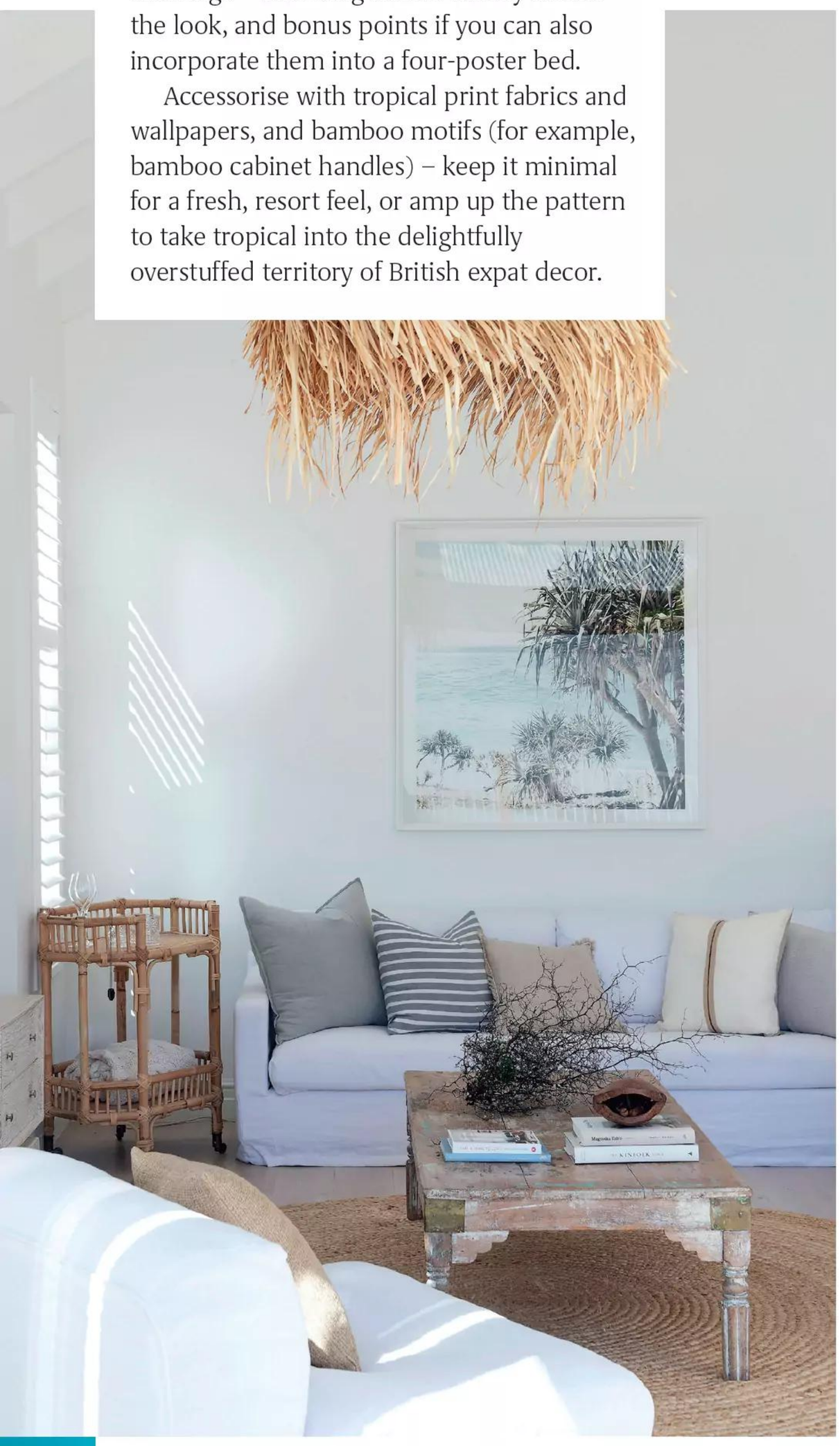
Evoke a resort vibe with natural materials – rattan furniture (afternoon mai tai optional) and rattan pendants that gently sway in a breeze; jute rugs underfoot; timber in solid statement furniture; grasscloth wallpaper; and acres of linen. Encourage a sense of light and movement with minimal window dressings – billowing sheers exactly match the look, and bonus points if you can also incorporate them into a four-poster bed.

Accessorise with tropical print fabrics and wallpapers, and bamboo motifs (for example, bamboo cabinet handles) – keep it minimal for a fresh, resort feel, or amp up the pattern to take tropical into the delightfully overstuffed territory of British expat decor.





**TROPICAL HEAT**
**Create an island resort vibe with billowing sheers, wooden furniture and potted palms.**



## Mediterranean

From Spain to Cyprus, the Mediterranean combines natural beauty with an evocative sense of the ancient. Centuries of design make it an architecture buff's playground, but the universally seductive element is the way the buildings blend the indoors and outdoors. "The temperate climate of the Mediterranean allows for an incredible indoor-outdoor flow to the home and my favourite elements are rooted in this design feature," says interior designer Nickola Horrocks of Horrockses Design. Capture this seamless flow by continuing materials, particularly flooring, from interior to exterior, and by paying equal attention to styling outdoor rooms – a long table for epic lunches, pots inspired by the terracotta roof tiles of the Med filled with lavender, rosemary and olive trees, plus a grapevine-fringed pergola for shade.

Bring a sense of living history, says Nickola. "Introduce elements that get better with age: natural linen, leather, wood and stone." Travertine tiles are a good example of a Med-influenced material that will never age or go out of style.

Against a base palette of white – think white-washed exteriors and soft, textured plaster indoors – use colours inspired by nature: the blues and greens of the sea, of course, but also golden shades of sun-yellow, mustard and clay.



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## New Zealand coastal

If Hamptons style is polo shirts and boat shoes, the New Zealand coastal home is jandals and sand between the toes – and that's what we love about it. "The Kiwi approach is relaxed and unpretentious, using a 'less is more' philosophy," says Margaux. The idea of the classic bach is at the root of New Zealand coastal interiors, which lean toward simplicity of materials and form – whether that's concrete floors and plywood walls. It's a nod to the slapped-together baches of old, or fibre cement batten cladding in a serene base of chalky white.

Our distinctive shoreline plays a part, with Kiwi coastal homes veering toward darker palettes that are more sympathetic to the surrounds (rather than standing out in bright white). "The colour palettes reflect the environment, drawing on bush, sea, sky and beach, to create calm and meditative spaces that are a true respite from our busy city lives," says Nickola.

There's a sense of humour to New Zealand coastal homes, too – a wry nod to the retro furniture, op shop art and Crown Lynn mugs of the classic bach. This can be expressed through delightfully kitsch accessories, or by use of colour – letting go of the white reins to embrace playful hues.



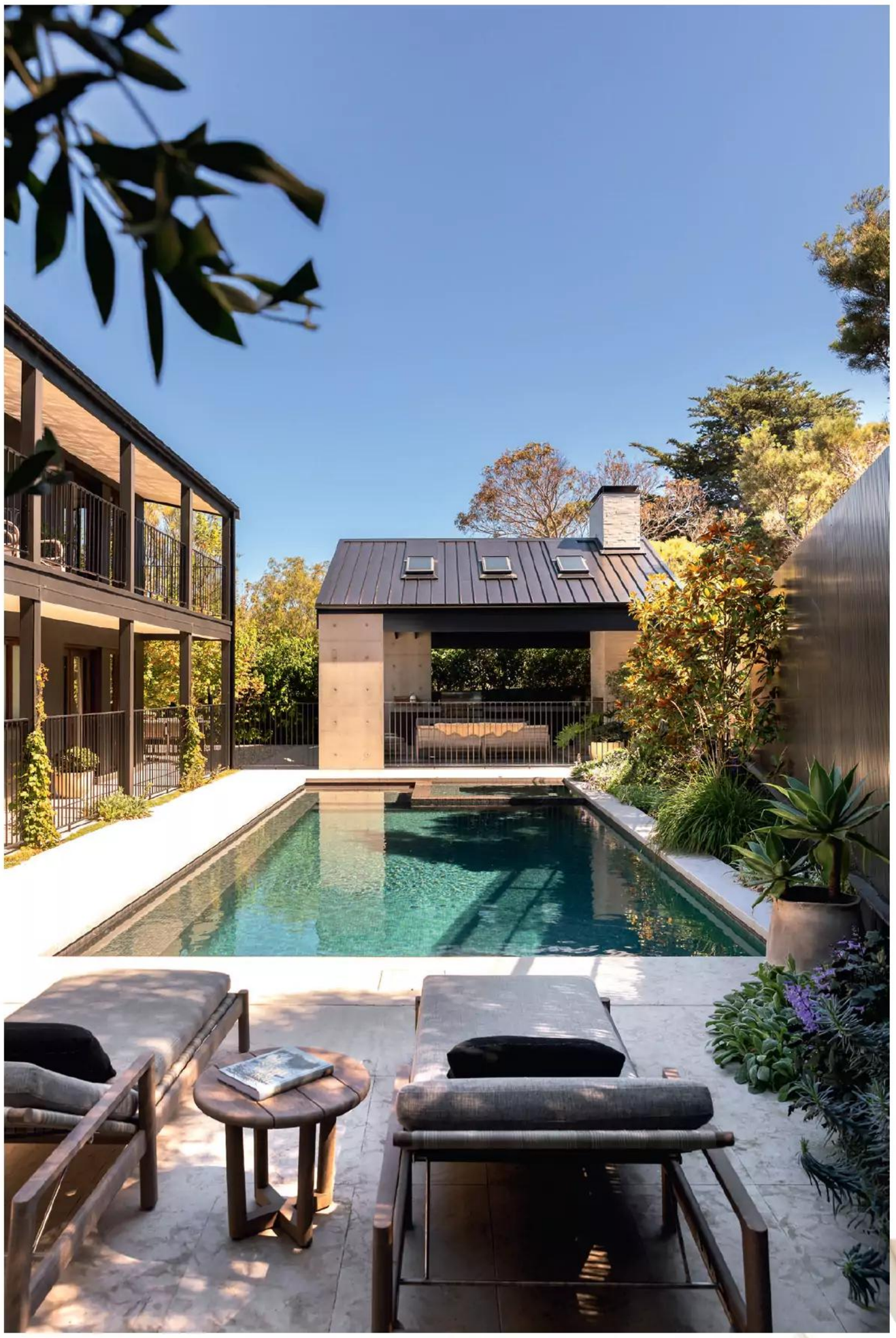





**HELLO, SAILOR**
Lean into that beach feeling and anchor the decor with maritime motifs, coastal plants, driftwood and old surfboards.



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**BEACH STYLE**
**Evoke a sense of laidback luxury and warm modernity by using natural materials and tones.**

## Modern coastal

While classic coastal is enduringly charming, contemporary coastal interiors are all grown up, swapping overt marine motifs for more oblique coastal references, using a curated palette of materials to subtly evoke the natural beauty of the shore.

"I think of modern coastal design as a home that feels like an extension of its environment, not just a house on the beach. The themed 'beach house' look is gone and has been replaced by homes that use natural materials and tones. It's a style that feels effortless yet considered," says Margaux.

The modern coastal home is characterised by a sort of soft minimalism, combining clean lines with the welcoming warmth of sun-heated sand. Nickola believes that subtle coastal vibe is created with materials like limestone floors (with visible shells and fossil casts), aged timber and petrified wood. But most of all, she says, the essence of a modern coastal home is still that feeling of liveability and barefoot luxury. "Natural fibres or performance fabrics that look natural but will stand up to wet swimmers, sandy feet and dogs straight from the beach; slipcovers that can be washed and put back on slightly wrinkled; scrubbed tables that withstand spills and the children's arts and crafts; washed linen curtains that flow in the sea breeze – all these things that just get better with age and the collection of memories."



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# Spring spruce-up

Text **Debbie Harrison**

Sunny days are on the horizon and after months of neglect, it's time to give your outdoor spaces some love and attention



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There's something about spring that makes you want to fling open the doors, breathe in the fresh air and give your home a good old reset. After months of rain, mud and hunkering down indoors, a little effort now can set you up for an enjoyable spring and summer. Here are the tasks worth tackling – a mix of practical jobs and small upgrades you can do yourself, which will make a big difference. Where possible, rope someone else in to help – with good company, music blasting and the sun on your back, it can almost be classed as fun.



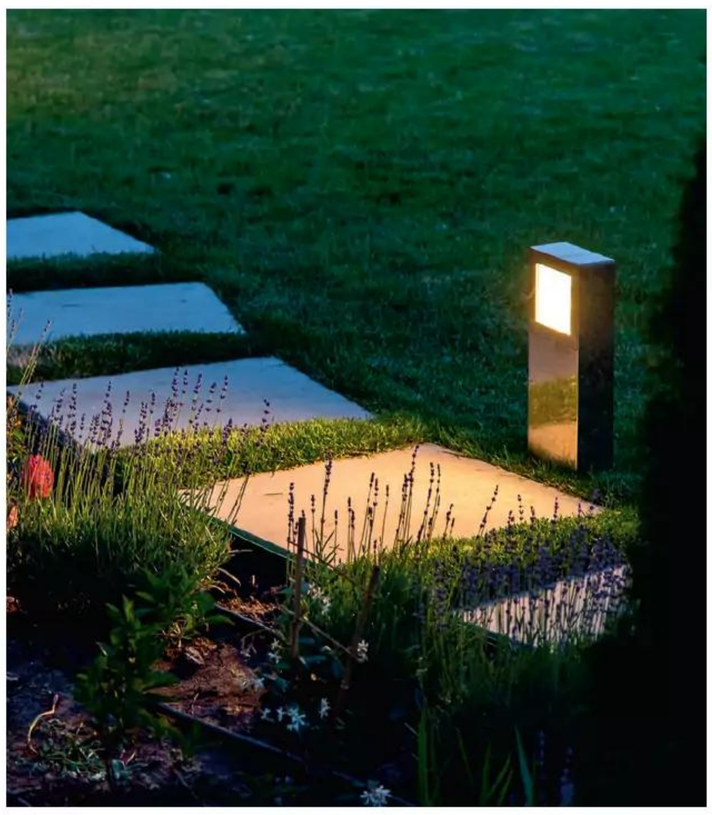
## 1 CLEAR THE GUTTERS AND DOWNPIPES

It might not be glamorous, but this one is non-negotiable. Over autumn and winter, gutters fill with leaves, twigs and the occasional tennis ball that, before long, can block up completely. That means water spilling where it shouldn't, with possible flooding and even damage to your roofline or foundations. Clearing your gutters now saves costly problems later and it only takes an hour or two. While you're up the ladder, check downpipes are flowing freely, too – a quick spray with the hose will do the trick.

## 2 DEEP CLEAN WITH WATER

Decks, patios, paths and outdoor furniture take a beating through the wet months. A water blaster is your best friend for stripping away moss, mould, bird poop and grime – not only does it make things look better, but it stops walkways from becoming slippery and dangerous (especially on those late nights). If you've got quite a bit of green showing, it might pay to start with a spray to knock everything back.

If you've still got energy and are feeling trigger-happy, continue on with fences and clearlite roofs that need a wash, then turn down the pressure and give your home a gentle exterior wash to clear away dust, cobwebs and mildew. Follow it up with a spider spray if they're a problem where you live. While you've got the hose and brush out, give windows and screens a good scrub and let that summer light pour in.



## 3 REVIEW, INSTALL, OR UPGRADE OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Nothing quite elevates an outdoor space like good lighting. The right lighting can have your home looking like a magical wonderland when the sun sets – and it's downright helpful when you're eating alfresco or showing guests to their car at the end of the night.

Take note of the areas where your property is very dark, where you need to turn your phone torch on to navigate, and which of your garden features could be highlighted, then make a plan. Festoon lights strung from fence to fence or under a veranda, fairy lights wrapped around tree trunks, spotlights shining up into established greenery, solar lights placed along a pathway, or task lights fixed to fencing for a practical glow – it's surprisingly easy to give your place a literal glow-up. Get an electrician in for the bigger stuff, or head to your local big-box store for simple plug-and-play options.



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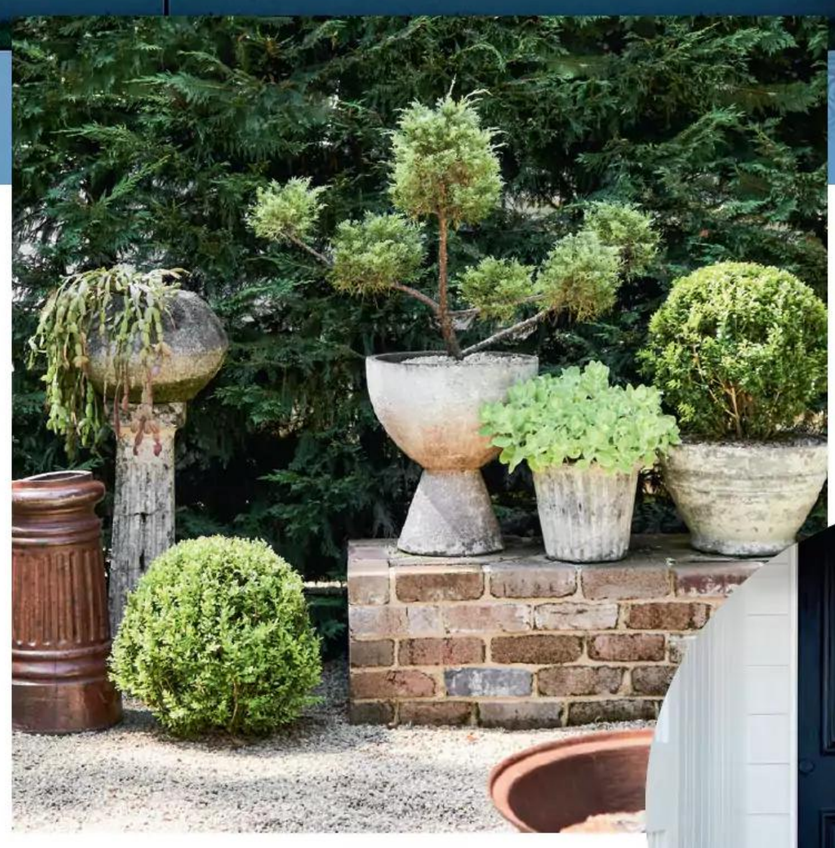
## 4 GET READY FOR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

This is the season when your outdoor space comes into its own – give it a quick makeover now and you'll thank yourself later. Start with the basics: scrub down your barbecue, check the gas bottle and clean or replace worn tools so you're ready to host at a moment's notice. Take it up a level with a dedicated barbecue caddy – add paper towels, oil, tongs, a platter for cooked meat and your barbecue chef is good to go.

Refresh timber decks, fences, outdoor furniture and the exterior of spas with a coat of stain or paint to protect them for the hot months ahead – never underestimate the impact of a freshly painted black fence or a newly oiled table.

Next, check your shade: clean down your umbrella, replace the canopy if it's looking tired, or consider investing in a new one. The bigger the better, for umbrellas. And if you want to make evenings stretch out longer, add a firepit or outdoor heater – it's the kind of upgrade that makes your place the go-to spot for friends once the sun dips. A few small jobs now mean you can switch into host mode easily, without scrambling when guests are on their way.







## 5 CREATE A WARM WELCOME

Spring cleaning doesn't have to be all hard graft – it's also the perfect time to add small touches that make it a pleasure to return home. Replace that tired front-door mat, paint or stain your front door for a fresh look, add a cool piece of outdoor art if it suits your home's aesthetic and even consider a keyless door lock for a sleek finish and no more issues with lost keys.

Potted plants are another easy win. They soften an entrance and are perfect for hiding ugly drainpipes. Pop substantial-sized pots either side of your door and plant with spring bulbs or hydrangeas for colour, or opt for standard bay trees or iceberg roses for a more formal look. If you prefer lush greenery, go bold with bird of paradise, banana palm, or the Philodendron xanadu. Sticking to the design rule of three – a cluster of different-sized pots, in the same colour – always looks chic. If you already have pots, treat them to new soil and check their root health while you're at it.

Spring is about shaking off the cobwebs – literally and figuratively. By tackling these five key tasks, you're not only protecting your home but also creating spaces you can enjoy once summer arrives. Do the hard mahi now and the reward is all those long, easy, barefoot evenings to come.



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# *Common mini-makeover mistakes (and how to avoid them)*

Hands up if your enthusiasm has ever got the better of you and mistakes creep in that leave you feeling stressed, overspent, or halfway through a job you regret starting. Yep, been there. Here are some of the most common mistakes people make with mini-makeovers – and how to dodge them.

| PROBLEM | SOLUTION |
|---|---|
| **Spending too much** | It's easy to get caught up in thinking everyone lives in a show home and you need brand-new everything. Before you know it, your budget's ballooned and you're still not finished. The truth is, a little spruce-up doesn't have to cost the earth. Set a realistic budget and stick to it. Challenge yourself to get creative within those boundaries – sometimes, the best transformations come from the simplest updates. |
| **Buying new instead of showing some TLC** | Not everything needs replacing. A lot of existing pieces can be given a new lease of life with a little attention and elbow grease. Even a good clean and polish can surprise you with how much better something looks. New rule: Try painting something before you chuck it. |
| **Overestimating your skill set** | Some jobs are best left to the professionals. Attempting work that's beyond your abilities can end up costing more in the long run – not to mention being stressful or unsafe. So, if you're not good with heights or ladders, consider delegating the gutter cleaning to someone else and focus your efforts elsewhere. |
| **Biting off more than you can chew** | Many people fall into the trap of going the whole hog – starting out like a productive hurricane with a burst of energy and then feeling overwhelmed and regretting it halfway through. Instead, tackle one area or one job at a time. You'll get the satisfaction of completing a project and avoid living in and looking at chaos. |
| **Trying to do everything in one weekend** | Attempting to repaint the deck roof, build a deck, create a new firepit area and wash the house from top to bottom – all in three days is a classic Labour weekend mistake. Make it a marathon, not a sprint. Choose one job a week, pace yourself, and enjoy the process. |
| **Neglecting the prep work** | Our DIY specialist Nikki Kettle sings this from the rafters: "If you spend the time getting things clean, sanded, filled and take the time to set your area, tools and ladder up properly, then the job will go so much smoother and have a much more professional finish. Don't forgo proper prep." |









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## DIY SPRING SPRUCE-UP CHECKLIST

❑ Paint the front door

❑ Add a new front door mat

❑ Clear guttering and downpipes

Waterblast:

❑ paths

❑ patios

❑ outdoor furniture

❑ cobbles

❑ Gentle exterior house wash

❑ Clean windows, inside and out

❑ Spray for spiders

❑ Review, install or upgrade outdoor lighting

Re-stain or paint:

❑ decking

❑ wooden furniture

❑ fencing

❑ spa

❑ Brush down debris from outdoor umbrella and check for holes

❑ Inspect and clean the barbecue, the tools and refill the gas bottle

❑ Clean mailbox, including adding new numbers, if necessary

❑ Add or freshen up the pots by the front door

❑ Look at a keyless lock, if it suits your lifestyle and budget

# *Your basic spring tool kit*



You'll have your best chance of success if you have all the right tools and equipment – and if you have it ready to go from the start, rather than needing to make four exasperating trips to and from the local hardware store. Our resident DIY specialist Nikki Kettle shares her thoughts on the essential things you need for a successful spring spruce-up.

**1 A sturdy ladder** Non-negotiable for anything involving gutters, downpipes, or the top reaches of your house. Choose one that feels rock-solid underfoot and always follow safety rules – it's not worth rushing.




**2 Gloves** Protect your hands from muck, grime and splinters. A decent pair will also give you extra grip when hauling a bucket or handling cleaning gear. You can get really good thin ones that are cut-proof and feel more like a second skin. They're less cumbersome than the bulky leather versions.




**1** Werner ladder, $185, from Mitre 10.
**2** Waterproof & cut-resistant gloves, $32.95, from KameLo.



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**3** K4 premium power control home water blaster, $699.99, from Karcher.

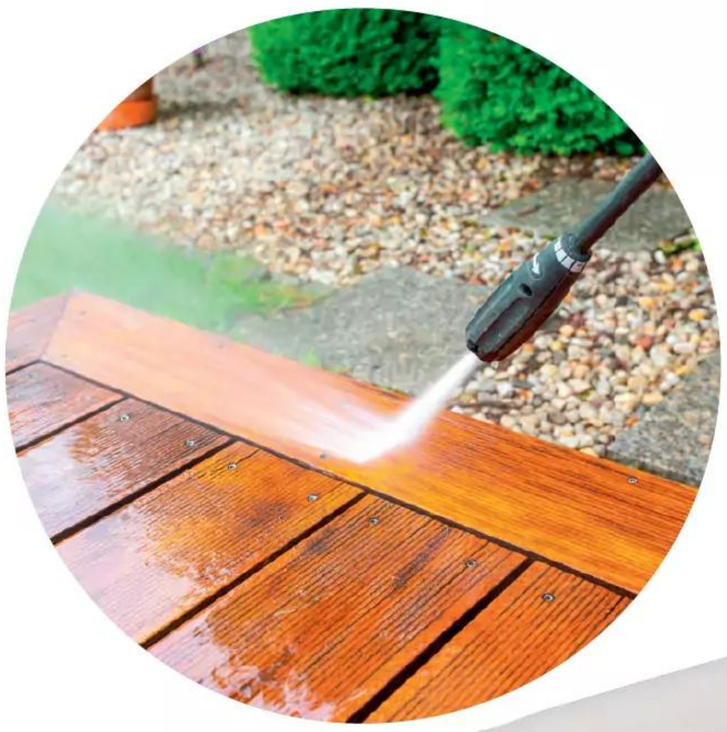



**3**

**A water blaster – or a stiff brush and hose** The ultimate grime-buster for decks, driveways, fences and furniture. If you don't own one, you can hire or borrow – or go old-school with elbow grease, a hose and a stiff brush.

**Gutter scoop or trowel** Sometimes leaves, pine needles and twigs can rot down into mulch. A gutter scoop makes it easy to swoop in and collect, for a less messy job.

**Outdoor cleaning solution or moss/mould killer** Spray first to kill off algae, moss and mould, then wash it all away. It makes your cleaning last longer and helps stop slippery regrowth.



**An old sheet or drop cloth** Protect decks, paths or furniture from splatters when painting, staining or scrubbing. Old sheets do the job just as well as professional covers.

**Sandpaper for prep work** A quick sand before painting or staining makes all the difference. It smooths rough patches and helps the new finish stick properly.



**A long-handled scrubbing brush** Perfect for walls, fences and those spots just out of easy reach. Use with a bucket of warm soapy water for best results.

**Barbecue scrubber and degreaser** It's not fun opening up your barbecue after a long season of hibernation. A proper scrubber, plus a degreaser means no nasty surprises when you fire it up for the first time this summer.




**Exterior stain, paint, or timber oil with brushes/rollers** Finish strong and refresh fences, decks and furniture with a protective coat. Choose products designed for outdoors so your work lasts through summer sun and winter rain.

Nikki says, "I also advise every homeowner to have some basic tools in a little toolbox at their house, whether you are doing DIY or not. A box with a hammer, some hex keys, maybe a cheap drill set – it doesn't have to be flash, but it means when you are doing other projects like painting the fence and you come across a protruding nail, you can pull it out and make a nicer finish." ●

**4** Haydn brush, $9.40, from PlaceMakers. **5** Gutterwitch gutter scoop, $6.64, from Hammer Hardware. **6** Parker & Bailey BBQ grill cleaner, $26.99, from The Homestore. **7** Mossinator moss killer, $99.95, from Green Kiwi. **8** Oates deck scrubbing brush, $17.90, from Bunnings. **9** Accent drop cloth, $14.98, from Mitre 10. **10** Resene Woodsman Decking Oil Stain, $138.90 (4L), from ColorShops. **11** Resene sandpaper roll, $8.40 (1m), from ColorShops. **12** Grill cleaning brush, $21.99, from Ninja.

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# CABINET RESHUFFLE

Don’t like the colour of your kitchen cabinets and cupboards but they’re melamine? It’s a simple job to paint them

Photography **Anna Briggs**

**More Resene colours to try:**

**Resene** Athena

**Resene** Tic Tac Toe

**Resene** Wabi Sabi

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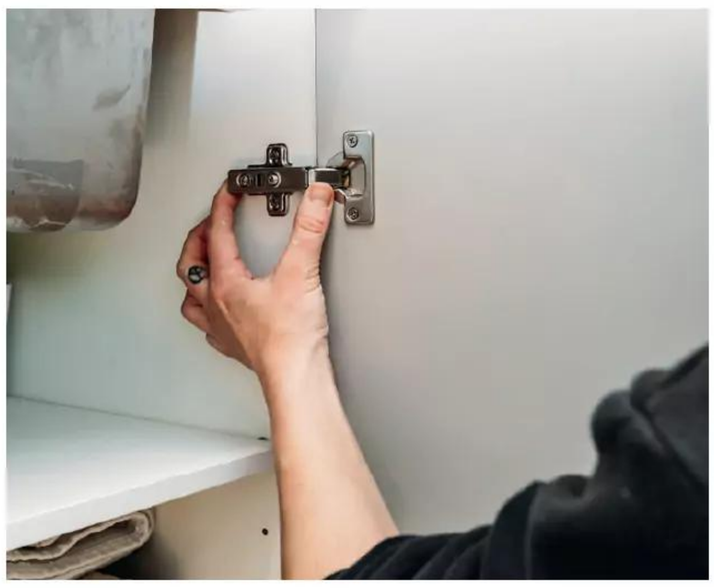
**NIKKI KETTLE**
*DIY expert*

Painting walls and timber is straightforward and much more commonplace. But, if you have melamine cupboards in the kitchen, you may not realise you can actually do the same. You will however need to use a special primer such as Resene Laminate and Melamine Primer before painting.

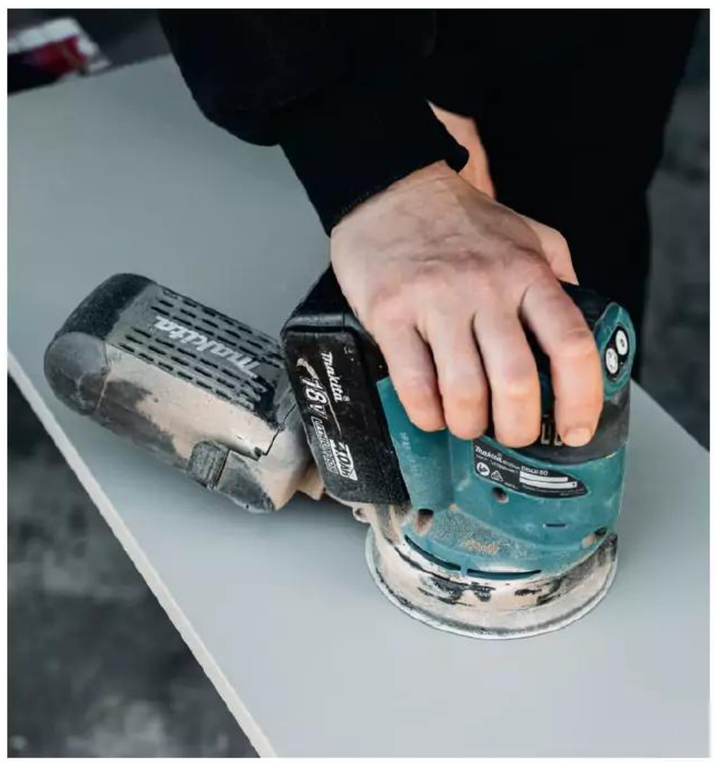
## You will need

- Paint tray, paint roller and brushes
- Sandpaper 220 grit
- Resene Laminate and Melamine Primer
- Resene Lustacryl Semi-gloss waterborne enamel paint in Resene Kelp
- Resene SpaceCote Flat Kitchen & Bathroom paint in Resene Spanish White for the walls and ceiling (to complement cabinetry)
- Optional: Resene Non-Skid Deck & Path in Resene Spanish White for the curved wall



1 If you can, it is easiest to remove all the doors and drawer fronts and set them up somewhere dry and free of dust. This is not completely necessary, but it makes it a lot easier. Most hinges can be removed without any tools; you may need a screwdriver to remove the drawer fronts. It is also best to remove all the hardware/handles using a screwdriver.




2 Once the cupboard and drawer fronts are removed, give them a good clean and sand using 220 grit sandpaper. This is only a light sand to take the shine off, we are not trying to take any layers or laminate off.



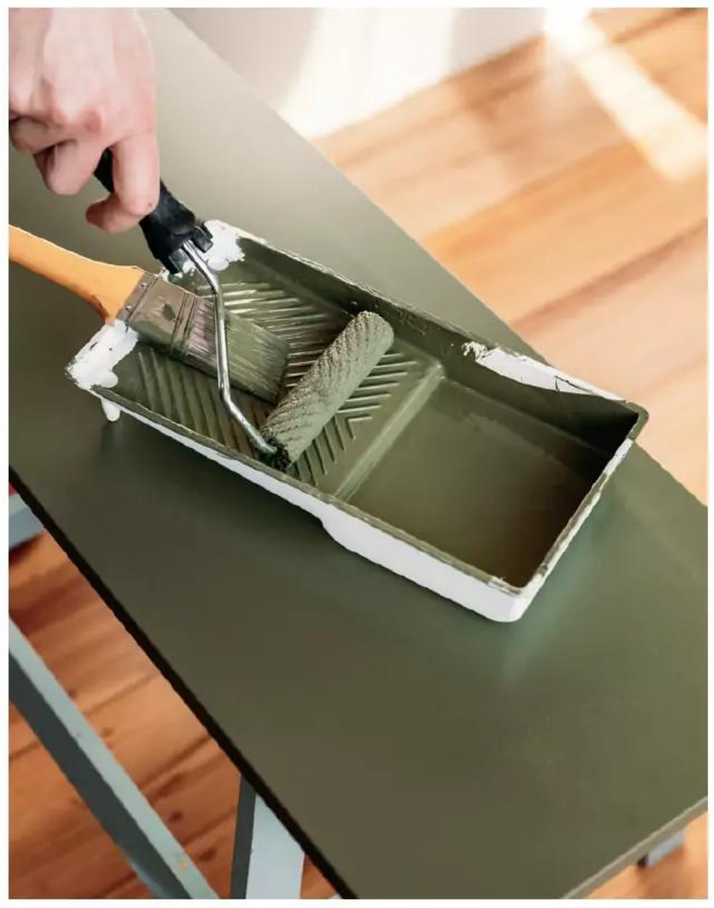

3 Wipe everything again to ensure it is completely dust-free.

4 Apply a thin coat of Resene Laminate and Melamine Primer. This is not to achieve full opacity; you are aiming for a thin layer of the primer.




5 Repeat on all the cabinet fronts, as well as any little areas of the kitchen that couldn't be removed, like around the oven or end panels. Allow the primer to dry for at least 12 hours.

6 Once the primer is dry, it is time for the colour. I used Resene Lustacryl Semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene Kelp. Apply two coats of the colour using a number 4 roller, allowing at least two hours between coats.





7 Use a fine brush to go over all the tricky areas in the kitchen that the paint roller can't reach. Allow to dry in between coats. ●

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**ALFRESCO CHIC** We are ready to start lounging outdoors at every opportunity. Brighten up your outdoor area with new furniture by following our guide on page 98.

# MAKEOVER


**88**
**Taking the plunge**
R&R centres around the pool at a holiday property shared by two young families.

**98**
**The outsiders**
Summer living is about being outdoors. Of course, you'll need the right decor.


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# TAKING THE *PLUNGE*

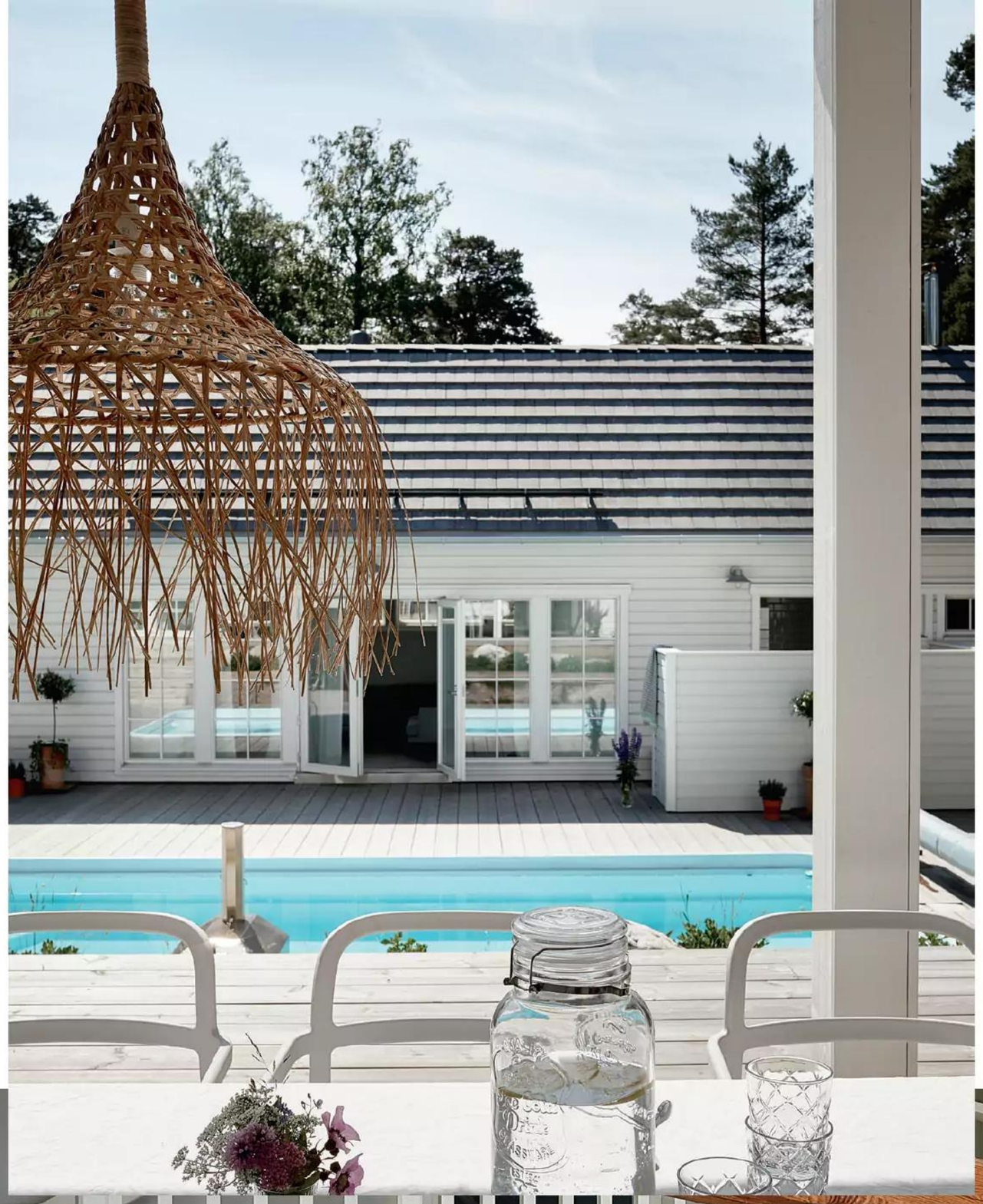


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Summer time is all about the swimming pool and easy living at a shared holiday property purpose-built for two young families



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**PERFECT DIVISION** The Teppo family's holiday home is a semi-detached house with an outdoor area that centres around a shared swimming pool between the main house and the guesthouse. The left side belongs to Pauliina and Tapio's family. A short walk leads to a family-friendly, golden sand beach.

**BIT OF ROUGH**
Exposed wooden beams were added to the living room ceiling for a rustic touch. The staircase leads to the children's rooms and the guest room.

**DINE WITH EASE** The hand-crafted plank table is matched with Ton dining chairs.

## home profile

**MEET & GREET**
Pauliina Teppo (HR manager), and Tapio Teppo (entrepreneur) and their children Sonja, 14, Oskar, 12, and Teo, eight.

**THE PROPERTY**
A self-designed, custom-built, semi-detached four-bedroom second home, plus a guesthouse with a sauna.

Pauliina and Tapio's family vacation home was built in Hanko, Finland, just a few minutes from the legendary Bellevue Beach. A private path from the garden leads directly to the shoreline. The family was inspired to build their summer home after seeing a house in an interior design magazine. Their dream became reality when the house was completed in the summer of 2018.

Pauliina and Tapio's holiday house is a semi-detached property, with two identical homes separated by a shared wall. The interiors of both houses are also similar, as the two families chose the kitchens, flooring and some of the furnishings together.

**Pauliina, you designed and built the house together with your husband's brother's family. How did the planning and design process go?**
A few years ago, while we were still building our detached house in Espoo, my husband's brother called to say he had found a plot in Hanko. Tapio and his brother had already been considering a shared vacation home, so when the perfect section appeared,

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**LIVING** The French doors lead directly to the terrace, pool and trampoline.



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we decided to go for it. Since we were still deep in construction at home, we agreed to take a one-year break before starting the Hanko project. We are very close to my husband's brother's family, so the idea of building together felt natural for all of us.

**Where did you find inspiration and what was most important in the design phase?** It's a bit of a crazy story. We saw a house featured in an interior design magazine and immediately knew this was it. A house in an H-shape, a swimming pool and a guesthouse with shared lounge areas. We kept going back to the pictures and made a list of what was important to us. An architect drew the plans based on our vision, incorporating the input of four adults, before it was built. The original house on the section was oriented completely differently, with its garden and main entrance facing the road. Since it was in poor condition, we were able to design everything from scratch, including reorienting the house to maximise the outdoor space. The pool and outdoor areas are now positioned between the two homes, creating a more private and cosy setting.

**What is it like spending summers in a semi-detached house with family? What do you do together, and what do you do separately?** It's absolutely wonderful. But I have to say, if you're considering a project like this, you need to know who you're getting into it with and be aware of the risks.

**KITCHEN**
A minimalist design was achieved by eschewing upper cabinets and using a white subway tile backsplash. The lights are by Artek.

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**LIGHT AND EASY**
The pitched high ceiling creates the illusion of more space. The Hakola sofa is complemented by the Ikea armchairs and the diamond tribal pattern area rug.



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We have a fantastic relationship and have always spent a lot of time together, so we knew in advance that this set-up would work. Our kids are all around the same age, and for them, summers here are magical – they get to play with their cousins from morning till night. Our everyday life has naturally settled into a rhythm that works for everyone. In summer, the terrace doors are always open, and the outdoor area becomes an extension of our home. We mostly eat in our own homes, but on weekends and special occasions, we push our dining tables together and gather around the extra-long table on the terrace.

**Where did the idea for the swimming pool come from, and how did you make it happen?** The pool was at the top of everyone's wishlist, both for the adults and the kids. We spent a long time researching how to source the right one. We found a manufacturer that could provide exactly what we wanted, but the pool's delivery took forever, finally arriving in Hanko in one piece. When we unwrapped it, we realised it wasn't the exact model we had ordered – it was supposed to be a simple, minimalist design. But in the end, we fell in love with the wide, stair-like steps, which have become a great spot to sit and relax.

**How is the pool in everyday use?** Even better than we could have imagined. The guesthouse has a sauna and shower facilities, so all water-related activities happen outside. Last summer, we noticed a problem – there was only one entrance to the sauna and showers through the guesthouse's double doors. The wooden floors were constantly wet, making them slippery for the



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kids. To fix this, we added a door from the shower area to the garden and built a changing-room-style extension for towels and bathrobes. Our days start with a morning swim, the kids spend the entire day around the pool, and in the evening, we heat the sauna and swim again. At our parties, the pool has become the highlight – it's almost a rule that at any gathering, there's swimming involved. ●



**OUTDOOR FUN**
The covered terrace was designed between the two houses and features a 12-person outdoor table. The terrace decking is made of pressure-treated pine and the pool wasn't the minimalist model ordered, but the wide steps have become a feature both families love.

TEXT JONNA KIVILAHTI/LIVING INSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY KRISTA KELTANEN LIVING INSIDE



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## TAKE NOTE

Make a holiday home as relaxing as possible. Your favourite colours, comfortable furniture, plenty of indoor-outdoor flow. The more laidback, the better (especially if days are to be spent lounging by the pool).

# SHOP THEIR STYLE

Low maintenance and glam? The perfect holiday home combo

**1** Frida's Garden **cushion cover**, $55, from Bolt of Cloth. **2** Neera **rug**, $349, from Miss Amara. **3** Piastrella mix **tiles**, $155 (sqm), from Tile Space. **4** Celadon tapestry **bowl**, $89, from Early Settler. **5** Hone **coffee table**, $1199, from Freedom. **6** Eliot **shelf**, $289, from Nood. **7** Rochelle **kitchen mixer**, $699, from Early Settler. **8** Design Republique Bradford **chair**, $1699.90, from Bed Bath & Beyond. **9** Frankie **wall light**, $239, from Mr Ralph. **10** Sophia **bath towel**, $59.99, from Adairs. **11** Iittala Alvar Aalto **vase**, $455, from Ballantynes.

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# THE OUTSIDERS

Make the most of spring and summer by decamping to the courtyard, backyard or patio for casual entertaining or just chilling. Of course, you'll need the right outdoor furniture



## BRING THE INSIDE OUT

One of the biggest changes to how we live now is treating the inside as an extension of the living room. It helps to have a seamless progression from inside to out with sliding doors that open fully to a deck, courtyard, or sprawling backyard in the warmer weather. To make this as natural as possible, repeat your interior furniture style and fabrics outside. So, if you tend towards minimalist Scandi style with clean linen sofas inside, repeat the vibe with an uncomplicated light wooden lounge suite in a neutral outdoor fabric on the deck.

Modular furniture also replicates the indoor set-up, as does a generous coffee table and a couple of side tables. Keep them within easy reach of the seating, so guests can put their drinks on them or easily grab finger food. Look for teak and aluminium frames as they'll last the test of time.

Earth tones such as taupe, terracotta and olive furniture are having a moment, so outdoor cushions in these colours will update the deck instantly.

Outdoor rugs are a fantastic way to demarcate the outdoor living and also imitate that living room feel. If the rug will be in a covered area, you could opt for a jute version, but if it's going to be exposed to the elements, solution-dyed nylon is your best bet.

If you want to lounge around with a good book and maybe an afternoon nap, sun loungers are a must – no pool needed.




**1** Fermob bebop offset **table**, $930, from Jardin. **2** Nouveau Montego outdoor **corner lounge setting**, $3299, from Mitre 10. **3** Ferrara 4-piece **outdoor lounge** suite, $4899, from Harvey Norman. **4** Aura outdoor swivel **lounge chair,** $2554, from King.



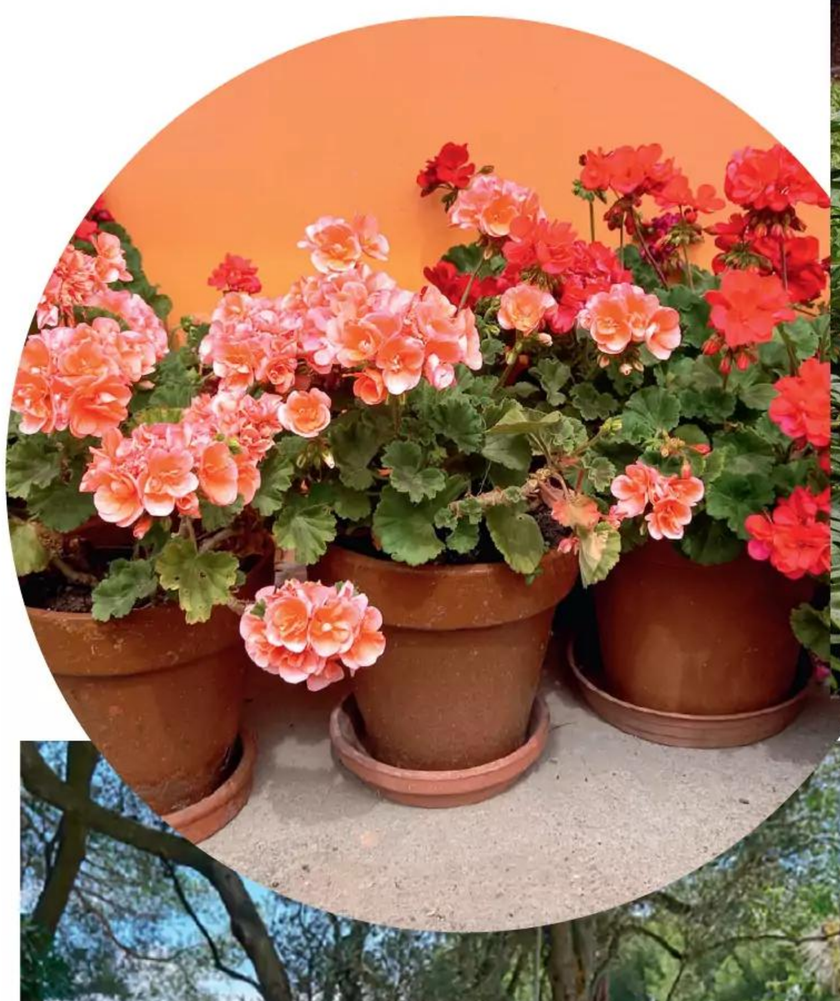
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## WHAT'S COOKING

Having a second kitchen outside is becoming de rigueur to make it easier than ever to cook and serve alfresco. It also means you're not stuck in the kitchen at parties and you can share the meal prep.



Crossray outdoor kitchen, $5199, from Andoo.





1

## EURO CHIC

If you want to channel the terrace of a luxury hotel on the Riviera, wire tables and chairs (no benches here as they get uncomfortable quickly) are just the ticket for a weekend brunch. You'll also need a smart sun umbrella, not only for the Italian good looks but also to offer shade from the sun. The great thing about wire sets is they're relatively portable, so you can move them under a large tree for a long, lazy lunch. To replicate the lazing by the pool in a luxury hotel feel, invest in a cabana or consider making one yourself. Don't forget to plant geraniums in terracotta pots to complete the scene.

**1** Fermob Louvre **armchair**, $765, Fermob Louvre **chair**, $615, and Fermob Romane **table**, $4535; all from Jardin.
**2** Bonnie **dining chair**, $249, and **dining table**, $899; both from Early Settler.





## GET WELL SOON

Don't want to fly halfway round the world to go to an ashram? Turn your outdoors into your very own wellness retreat. Install a yoga platform for sun salutes or a meditation nook. Consider also buying a spa pool.



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## SCENTED GARDEN

For a complete sensory experience, plant aromatics in pots and nearby garden beds to complete the vibe. Lavender, rosemary and jasmine not only smell amazing, they also have calming therapeutic properties – ideal for a quiet Sunday afternoon. If it's scintillating conversation you're after, plant mint, basil, lemongrass and citrus for its invigorating and uplifting qualities.





## KEEP YOUR COOL

In high summer, when you've had all the iced tea you can handle but you're still too hot on that sun lounger, press a misting fan into service. There are now rechargeable battery-operated fans you can take outside to give you a cool breeze, plus a light, cooling spray.




1




2

**1** FlexBreeze HydroGo misting portable **fan**, $249.99, from Shark. **2** 18V ONE+ misting **fan**, $99, from Ryobi.

## LIGHT WORK

Long, balmy days outside often turn into evenings, so you'll need light. Hurricane lights, solar lanterns, or festoon lights are the way to go. Plus, they'll give you atmosphere in bucket-loads. Consider also a firepit as a source of light and a natural gathering point. Even in warmer weather, nights can get chilly.



Overton **hurricane lantern**, $84.95, from Freedom.



## *Some must-have products*



1



3



4

5

**1** Outsidings Ezra **side table**, $299.90, from Bed Bath & Beyond. **2** Outsidings Hunter **patio chair and footstool**, $799.90, from Bed Bath & Beyond. **3** Boree **daybed**, $3699, from Freedom. **4** Troy Adirondack **chair**, $179, from Bunnings. **5** Zest **sun umbrella**, $799, from Danske Mobler.

Scan here for even more outdoor furniture inspiration.

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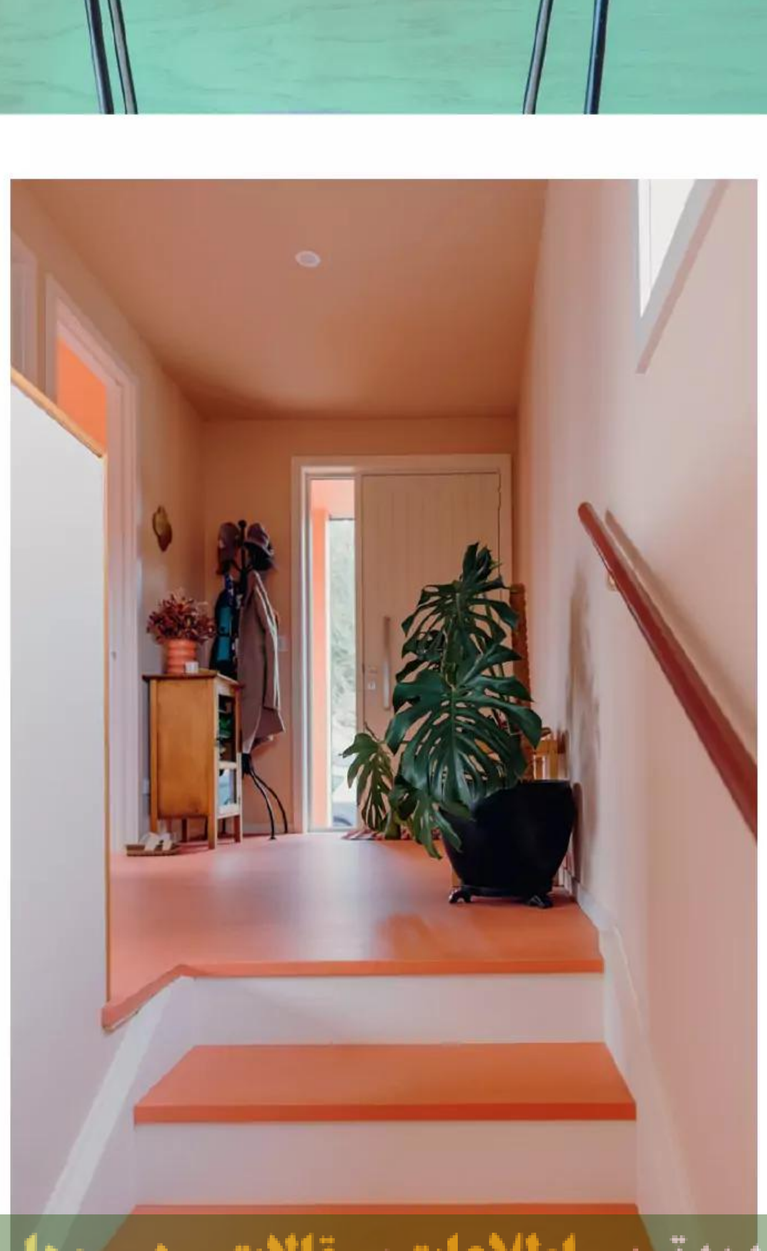
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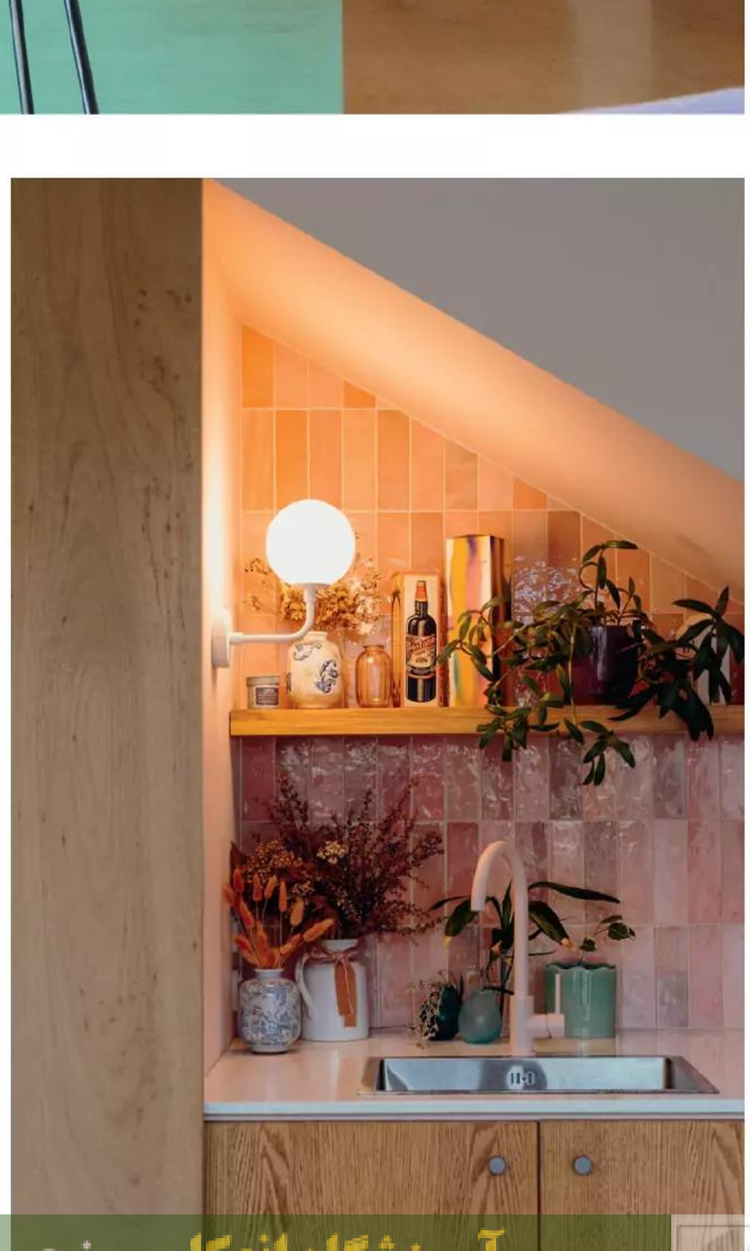
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FINALIST N° 3









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# Open door

## A playful pink porch stands out against this house's black exterior, hinting at the colourful world inside

Text **Bryony Ammonds-Smith** Photography **Emily Chalk**

It's a dream to build your own home. Wade Southgate and his partner Stefanie Brett got to experience that to the full extent when building their central Auckland home, doing everything from the painting to the plastering, tiling and cabinet-making themselves.

"The house itself is a relatively simple form, essentially a black box exterior, so we wanted the interior to be the antithesis – bright, warm and colourful," says Wade, a Licensed Design LBP. It starts from the front entrance, with the porch and soffitt painted in Resene Lumbersider Low Sheen in Resene New York Pink and the stairs in Resene Red Oxide.

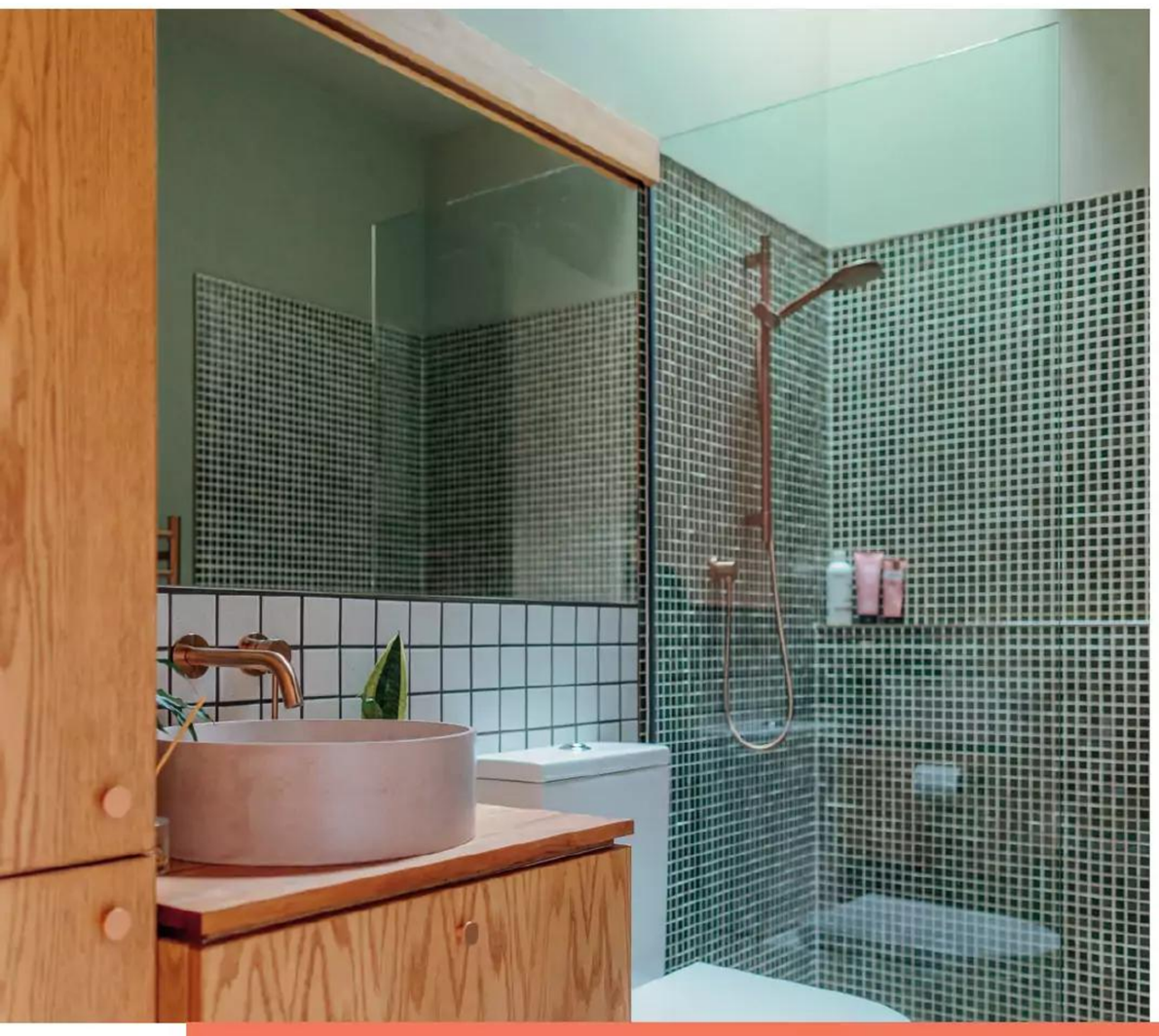
These colours flow perfectly into the interior palette: some of the floorboards are painted in the mid-soft red of Resene Walk-On in Resene Apple Blossom, the study was painted in Resene SpaceCote Flat in Resene Red Oxide and the laundry was painted in Resene SpaceCote Flat in Resene Sakura. Throughout the general living areas and one of the bedrooms, there is the delicate beige meets pink of Resene SpaceCote Flat in Resene Despacito.

"The psychology of colour is very compelling – the brighter colours we've chosen are, for us, associated with joy and playfulness and those are wonderful sentiments to come home to every day," says Wade.

In a stark contrast to the soft pinks and reds, the kitchen island is painted in Resene SpaceCote Flat Kitchen & Bathroom in Resene Tom Thumb, a smoky grey-green. This isn't the only room where green gets to shine – one bathroom is painted in the olive green of Resene SpaceCote Flat Kitchen & Bathroom in Resene Contour.

"The project was a wonderful opportunity to experiment, particularly with our minimal budget and I learnt an awful lot during the process," says Wade. "It has given me confidence to champion colour further in my professional work."





**More Resene colours to try:**




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COLOUR HOME AWARDS 2025/2026

your home and garden

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Clever interior colours
- Inventive paint projects
- Exciting exterior paint.

### HOW TO ENTER

Email photos and a 200-word or more description of your space to yhg@aremedia.co.nz with your last name and 'Resene Colour Home' in the subject line. Please include your name, home address, email address, daytime phone number, the names of the Resene colours used, and details of when your space was painted. Please credit anyone who assisted you in choosing your colours.

The finalists will each appear in *Your Home and Garden*. Every finalist will receive a $250 Resene voucher and a feature in the magazine, with the winner taking out the Resene Colour Home Awards and $5000 cash. An extended story on the winning home will feature in the May 2026 issue.

Resene
the paint the professionals use

**TERMS & CONDITIONS** Instructions on how to enter are part of the conditions of entry. This competition is open to New Zealand residents, except employees of Are Media, Resene and their immediate families and agencies. The finalists and overall winner will be notified by telephone and/or email. All entries are eligible for consideration for the Resene website. Any non-finalists selected for the Resene website will receive a free gift from Resene. Competition closes 8 December 2025.

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# GARDENS



**GO BANANAS** Kiwis eat around 18kg of this sweet yellow fruit per person each year and the majority of them are imported from Ecuador, the world's biggest banana exporter. But did you know, if you have a sheltered, frost-free sunny spot in your garden, you can grow your own? Look for the popular Misi Luki, or pineapple lady finger and plant it in fertile, well-drained soil. Feed and water regularly for optimal results.


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**Constant gardener**
Mary Lovell-Smith's tips for November.

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**The green evolution**
A South Auckland sub-tropical paradise was lovingly created over two decades.



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# The constant gardener

It's the last month of spring and the time to boost your garden in readiness for the long days of summer



**MARY LOVELL-SMITH**
*Garden editor*

**NOVEMBER**



## To do

November in the garden is busy – staking, weeding, deadheading, planting, sowing, feeding and picking. But what more lovely time to spend outside in the warmth among the new growth, so vibrant and vigorous, you can just about see it growing.

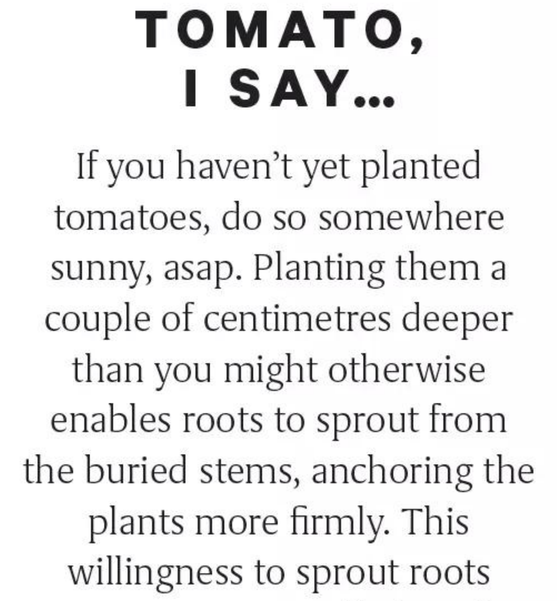


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## YOU SAY TOMATO, I SAY...

If you haven't yet planted tomatoes, do so somewhere sunny, asap. Planting them a couple of centimetres deeper than you might otherwise enables roots to sprout from the buried stems, anchoring the plants more firmly. This willingness to sprout roots means prunings will also take root if inserted 10cm or so deep into the soil.



## TROPICAL NOTES

In warmer climes, tropical blooms are easily grown outdoors. Consider these: hibiscus and gardenias need rich soil and regular feeding. While hibiscus loves the sun, gardenias prefer the morning, with filtered afternoon sunlight. Give bird of paradise light soil in a warm spot, sheltered from cool winds. The *mandevilla* vine likes rich, well-drained soil in full sun. *Amaryllis* is best planted from now until early autumn in well-drained soil with the bulb neck above the ground. Let it bake in summer and do not lift.



## Best mates

The scientific jury is out on much companion-planting lore, but it does accept that some basic biology explains why some plants do well together, like planting shallow-rooted species next to deeper-rooted ones – they won't interfere with each other or compete for nutrients. Likewise, by placing fast-growing plants such as radishes and lettuces next to slower-growing ones like tomatoes, eggplants and capsicums, the speedy crops will be harvested, allowing room for the sluggish ones to mature.

Growing sweet corn in blocks makes plants more able to withstand wind. But to be extra smart, employ the indigenous American technique and grow pumpkins at their base. Their large leaves shade the soil, reducing evaporation and inhibiting weeds. Now, sow beans, which use the corn to climb up and are themselves nitrogen fixers, feeding both the pumpkins and corn.

## STEAL THIS

Little call for flowers when there is paint nearly as beautiful in the vicinity. The fabled Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech was created by (no surprises here) a French painter, Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s. After his death in the early '60s, the gardens fell into disrepair until they were restored in the '80s by fashion designer Yves St Laurent. We can't all possess such a Moroccan jewel, but we can steal so much for our own oases. Throughout the 9000sqm garden, a stunning cobalt paint is used lavishly yet judiciously on walls, fountains, pools, pillars and assorted other architectural features. A yellow so acid it borders on acrid is the main accent and is employed sparsely. Actual blooms are flashy but few. Here's to a stormy crimson *bougainvillea* engulfing an outhouse; a flock of imperious orange birds of paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) peering over a low wall. As fingers on a piano keyboard, so the eye dances lightly back and forth from the bold bursts to the restful greens of the cacti, palms and other lush tropical plants.



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# How to kill slugs... without harming the soil

Apparently, the average garden is home to about 20,000 slugs – all waiting to devour your seedlings the moment you pop them in. Convinced there must be "something better than wasting good beer", a reader found on the internet this organic solution for killing slugs. She has had so much success with it, she even feared she might be attracting all the slugs in the neighbourhood. Mix together 2 cups water, 2 tsp flour, 2 tsp sugar and 1 tsp yeast. Place in shallow dishes, such as plastic takeaway containers, around seedlings. The slugs love it, but unfortunately for them, they also drown in it.



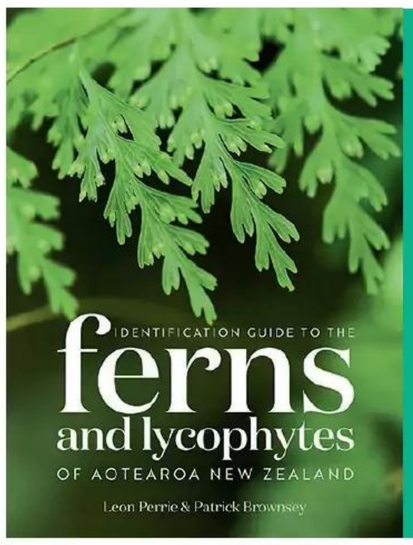
## LANDSCAPE 101

Creating a fernery and capturing some of the beauty, atmosphere and smells of our native forests is a fantastic way to transform a dank shady space, be it that grotty area on the south side of the house, or the narrow path down by the garage. Of course, the fernery need not have started life as an unattractive spot; many are formed because they are so beautiful. And when the baking summer sun gets just too hot, who isn't glad of somewhere cool to hang out? Here are a few pointers.

While a shady site is desirable, many ferns are quite happy with morning or late-afternoon sun. A death knell is the midday sun. Moisture is a must. Never let ferns dry out and water deeply during dry periods. On the other hand, they suffer if their roots sit in water or waterlogged soils, as it interrupts their much-needed oxygen intake. So, avoid clay soils. Rather, the soil should be free-draining and humus-rich. Incorporating plenty of rotted sawdust, rotted straw, compost or leaf mould never goes amiss. Some landscape suppliers stock "forest floor", which makes an excellent mulch. Or use bark or wood chips.

While the world might seem your oyster when it comes to choosing what to plant, to create a realistic, aesthetic and sustainable habitat, get a mix of tree and ground ferns and plant only native ferns to minimise risk to our native bush through garden escapees. Some of the easiest to grow are *aspleniums* and Blechnum penna-marina, a pretty little thing found naturally in all but the Far North. It makes huge sense to grow those ferns native to your particular area. Check with the local Department of Conservation nursery for advice.

Getting the fernery established is the hardest part; once that's done, ongoing maintenance is minimal – keeping them moist in drought and tidying up (solely on aesthetic grounds), while some gardeners recommend an annual feed of blood and bone.



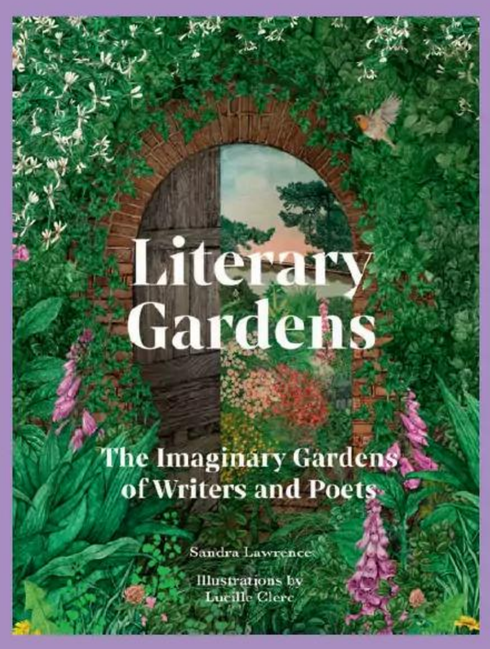

## CONSIDER THIS

If you don't know your ponga from your mamaku or your *hymenophyllums* from your *lycopodiellas* (and you want to), then this book is the one. Compiled by two senior botanists, the comprehensive tome is scholarly, yet agreeably readable for fern neophytes, dilettantes and serious enthusiasts alike. Two hundred and one of the most commonly encountered species of ferns and lycophytes in Aotearoa are covered, gloriously photographed in situ, up close up and often under the microscope. A useful identification guide and a fascinating entree into a part of the plant world all too commonly lumped together as "just ferns".

*Ferns and lycophytes* by Leon Perrie and Pat Brownsey ($50, Te Papa Press).



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## DREAM SCENES

The fictional places described by Lewis Carroll in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* have long inspired and enchanted us. Sandra Lawrence and Lucille Clerc's *Literary Gardens* ($45, Allen & Unwin) is an evocative tribute to 30 imaginary gardens that will pique the imagination of anyone who has ever dreamed of stepping through the pages of a book and into another world.



## CLIPPER CLASS

ESTABLISHED IN HYOGO, JAPAN, IN 1876, KAMAKI HEDGE SHEARS 550, $116, FROM GUBBA.CO.NZ, ARE THE ULTIMATE IN PRECISION AND PERFORMANCE HEDGE CLIPPING. THE STAINLESS-STEEL BLADES ENSURE A CLEAN CUT WITHOUT DAMAGING THE HEDGE, WHILE THE TRADITIONAL WOODEN HANDLES ARE STURDY AND REASONABLY LIGHTWEIGHT. A GO-TO TOOL FOR GARDENING PROFESSIONALS AROUND THE WORLD.



PICK OF THE CROP

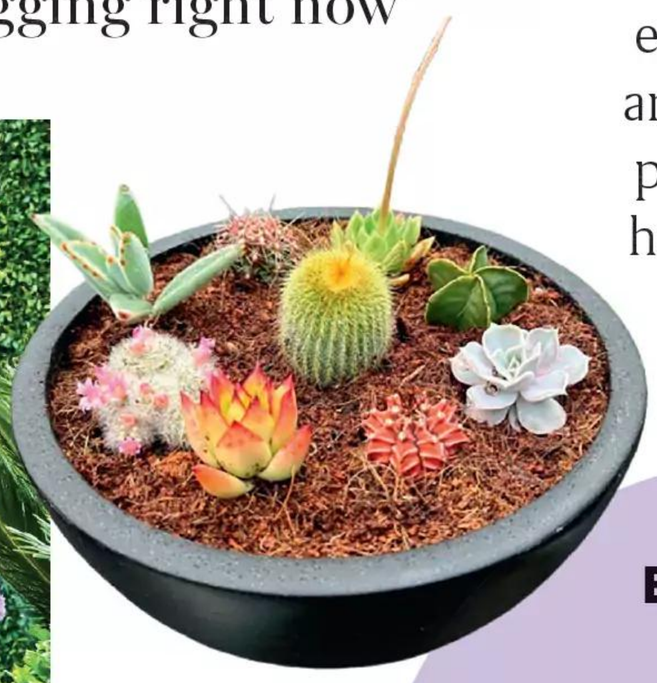
# Into the garden

The best outdoor ideas and designer creations we're digging right now



## READY TO RAMBLE?

Support Dove Hospice & Wellness, who provide specialist services for people living with serious, life-threatening illnesses, on their inaugural ramble in Auckland's Eastern Bays, $60, dovehospice.org.nz/gardenramble on November 15. This is your entrance ticket into some of the city's most inspiring outdoor spaces.



## BOWLED OVER

Did you know that all cacti are considered succulents, but not all succulents are considered cacti? Both come in all shapes, sizes and colours and are pretty low maintenance, making them perfect to use as a centrepiece for a patio table. Set this prickly and smooth cacti/succulent bowl, $90, from theplantbase.co.nz in a sunny spot and watch it grow.

## TWEET SUCCESS

Around half of New Zealand households feed birds in their gardens, predominantly with bread and seeds (with our native birds primarily nectar, fruit, foliage and insect eaters). Entice some feathered friends in with this Umbra bird cafe feeder, $80, from lainehome.co.nz. Sleek and architectural in design, it features a wrap-around tray that makes it easy for birds to perch and eat from and it will provide you and them hours of feathered fun.

TEXT MICHELLE JOE

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GROWING JOY

# The green evolution

A sub-tropical paradise filled with exotic fruit and flora was created over two decades by an Olympian and his wife in South Auckland

Text **Rachel Clare** Photography **Jacob Leaf**



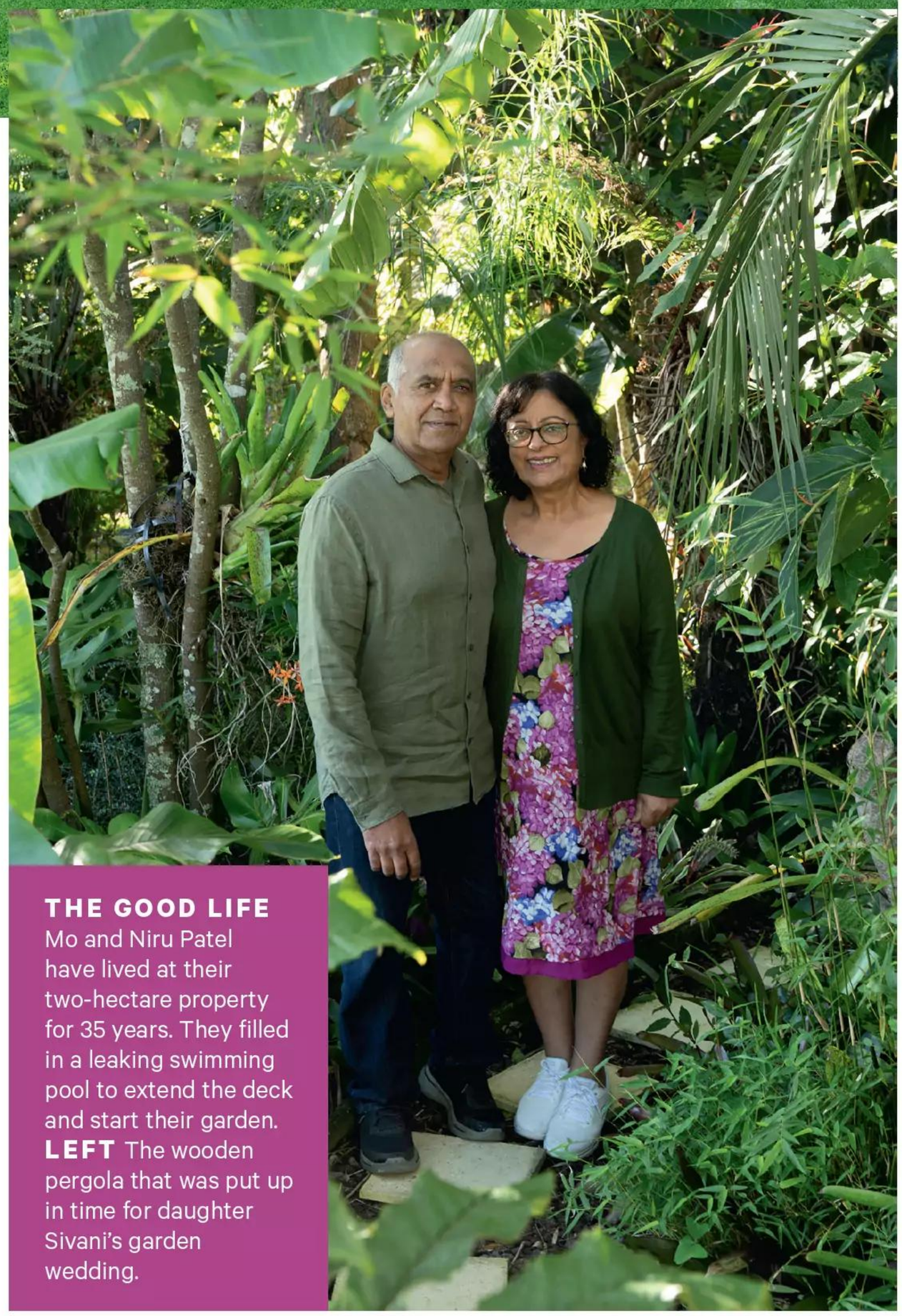
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There's nothing like an upcoming family event to spur on a DIY project. When Mohan (Mo) and Niru Patel's daughter Sivani decided to get married at her parents' home in Papakura, Auckland, in 2022, holding the wedding at her childhood home was a no-brainer. The Patels' thoughtfully curated subtropical garden is a tribute to their love of cultivation. There are lush green pathways to explore, brightly coloured blooms, an ancient tōtara forest backing onto a stream and an eclectic orchard with unusual delights like custard apples and ice-cream beans. It's a plant-lover's paradise and a joy to visit.

But to make it the ultimate venue for the celebration, Mo and Niru decided the garden needed one more feature – a wooden archway overlooking the tree-covered valley. It would be the perfect structure for the couple to stand under during the ceremony and would look wonderful in the wedding photos. Sivani had something simple and elegant in mind, but Mo, a gold medal-winning Olympian hockey player, had bigger aspirations. "I said to her, 'No, no, it's not going to be a little archway'."

Finally, Mo had the perfect reason to construct a large, ornate Victorian pergola he'd bought from an old house in Remuera and been storing for years. He completed it just weeks out from the big day and it's now a pivotal feature of the garden.



**THE GOOD LIFE**
Mo and Niru Patel have lived at their two-hectare property for 35 years. They filled in a leaking swimming pool to extend the deck and start their garden.
**LEFT** The wooden pergola that was put up in time for daughter Sivani's garden wedding.

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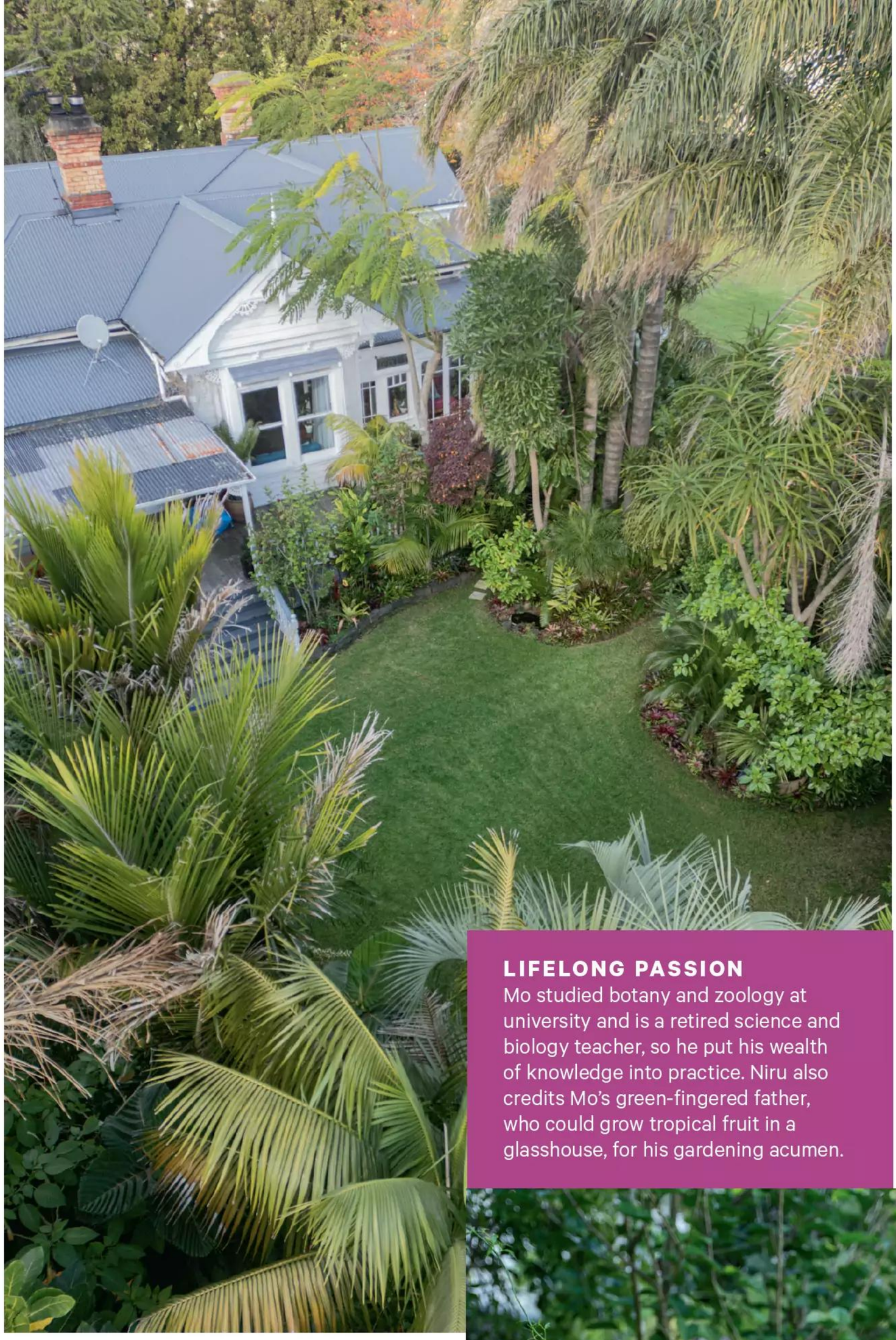
**THE RIGHT PATH**

The couple's two-year-old granddaughter Kaia is learning to garden thanks to her willing teachers. "She enjoys wandering through the garden, picking and eating a variety of fruits and berries, and she has her own set of garden tools," says Niru.



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## From the beginning

While this type of time-sensitive build could be a stressful nightmare for less competent DIYers, Mo has decades of experience, having renovated their bay villa over the past 35 years. The Patels moved to the property when their two daughters were small. They'd been living in Mo's childhood home in Grey Lynn, but Niru, who grew up on a farm in nearby Pukekohe, was keen to return to her roots and for the girls to have a rural upbringing. "I couldn't get used to the city. When I moved there, I'd never had neighbours before and Mo had this hankering for having a glasshouse and growing things."

The two-hectare property had formerly been used for breeding horses and there wasn't much garden, but there was a large swimming pool. "Everybody used to come and play in it," says Niru. "And then it got a leak and there were frogs in it and it became disgusting." The Patels decided to fill the pool in, meaning they now had room to extend the deck around the side of the villa and an enticing patch of land in which to start their longed-for garden.

Mo decided to plant heat-loving subtropicals, having fallen in love with their various leaf forms and various shades of green while holidaying overseas. He planted a wide range of palms, including Bangalows, wax palms, a rare blonde flame thrower, and nīkau, including the Kermadec and Great Barrier Island species.

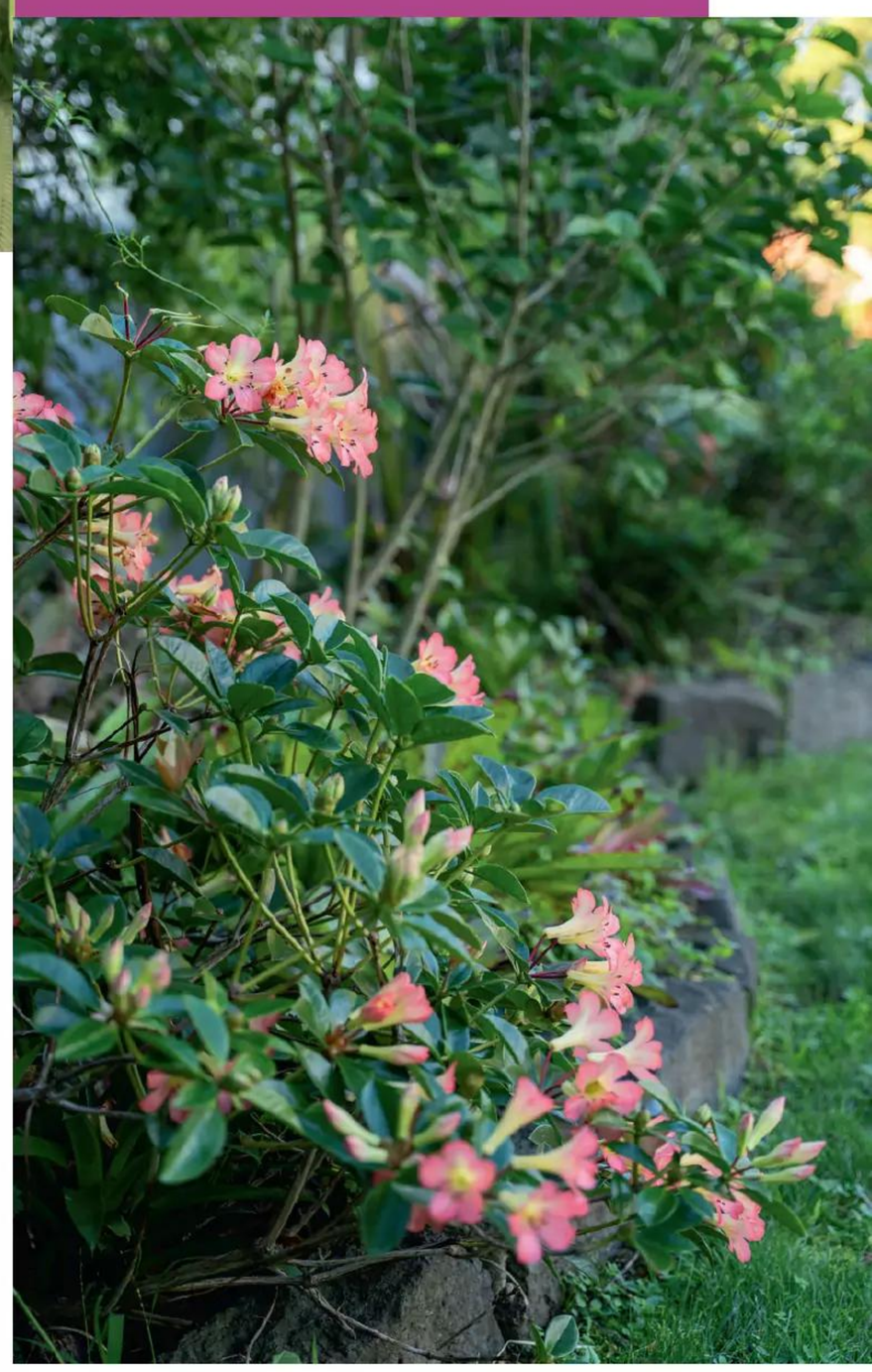
## Immersive experience

Rather than grouping similar species together, Mo favours a more natural look, and densely planted pathways with a wide variety of plants provide an immersive experience as you wander through. "Establishing the canopy and the sub-canopy was very important for creating a microclimate for delicate plants and the feeling that you're being enveloped by plants, not just around you, but also above you."

*Brugmansias* (angel's trumpet), with their intoxicating scent, dangle their upturned trumpet-shaped blooms, in

### LIFELONG PASSION

Mo studied botany and zoology at university and is a retired science and biology teacher, so he put his wealth of knowledge into practice. Niru also credits Mo's green-fingered father, who could grow tropical fruit in a glasshouse, for his gardening acumen.



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**ENJOY THE VIEW**
The large, ornate Victorian pergola was built to frame a valley vista and was the perfect backdrop for wedding pictures.

## look & learn

**MO'S TROPICAL GARDEN SUCCESS STEMS PARTLY FROM BEING READY TO TRIAL THINGS AND WATCH AND LEARN.**

+ Two glasshouses allow Mo to grow heat-loving plants, such as turmeric and ginger and to grow different types of Indian beans for an extended season.
+ Establishing a canopy and sub-canopy was very important for creating a microclimate for delicate plants and the feeling that you're being enveloped by plants, not just around you, but also above you.





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**TASTE OF THE TROPICS**
More than 45 different types of fruit and nut trees grow in the Patels' garden, including tamarillos, avocados, persimmons and cherimoyas. "There's always something different to see," says Mo.





shades of peach, pink, gold and cream, just out of reach, while brightly coloured hibiscus bloom at waist height. Lower down, the understorey is planted with hebes, orange, red and yellow clivias, and bromeliads, which Mo says are great for creating colour at ground level. "The good thing about subtropicals is that you can just about throw anything anywhere, and you don't really have to dwell too much on perfecting a palette."

Mo studied botany and zoology at university and spent 40 years as a high school science and biology teacher, which has equipped him with a large amount of growing know-how. But his success with plants, particularly ones that are tricky to propagate, stems from an innate curiosity to just "give things a go". Niru reckons that Mo inherited his green fingers from his dad, who grew tropical fruit, like pineapples, in his glasshouse, and once even successfully grew a mango. "The people from Turners & Growers came to look at it," says Mo.

## Exotic tastes

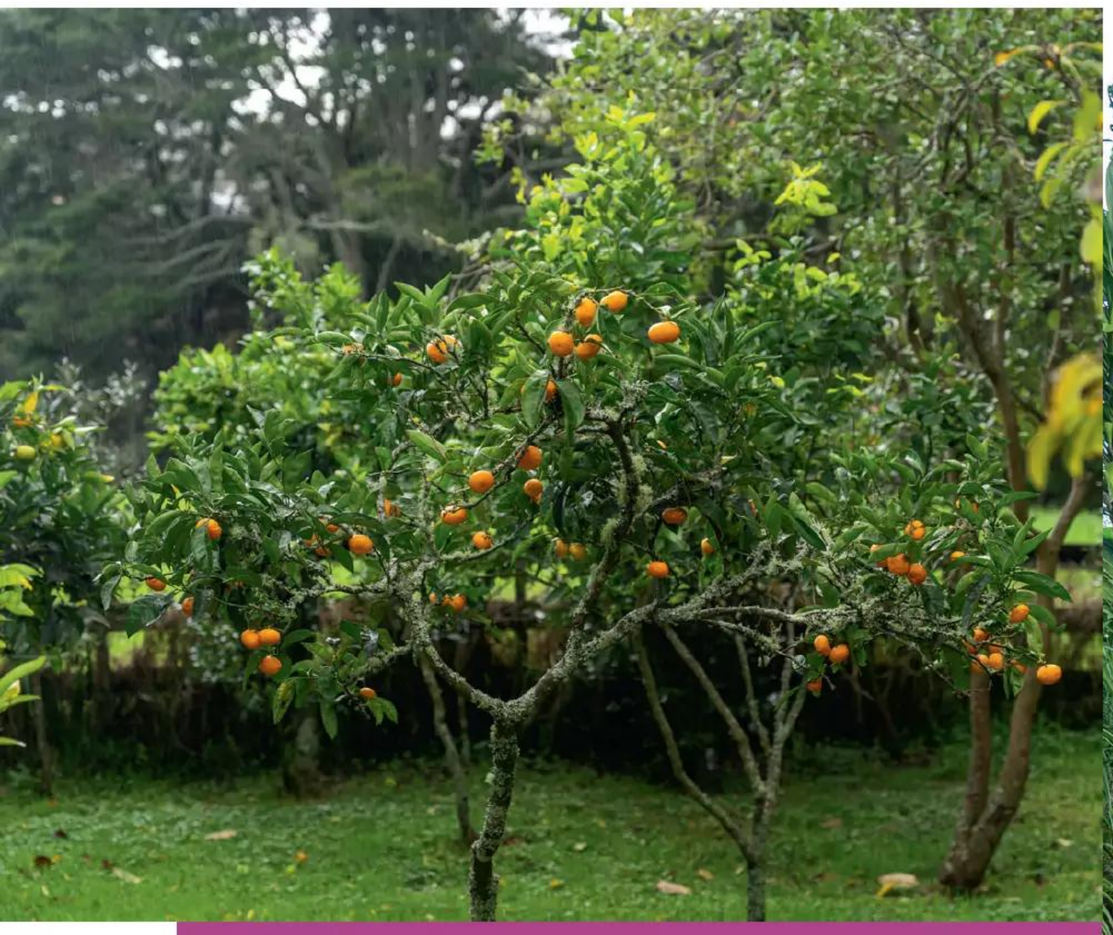
While you won't find mangos in the Patels' garden, you'll find more than 45 different types of fruit and nut trees. Tamarillos, persimmons, walnuts, citrus and avocados grow alongside more unusual varieties, including cherimoyas (aka custard apples because of their texture and flavour, the ice cream bean, which has vanilla-flavoured candy floss-like pulp inside its long pods) and rose apples (*Syzygium jambos*), a Southeast Asian fruit that has flesh like watermelon with a floral flavour. The couple enjoys experimenting with their produce, and Niru has made butter from their homegrown macadamias and key lime pie from their key limes.

Niru, who loves flowers and favours more of a cottage garden vibe, grows hydrangeas, dahlias and other flowers in two areas of the garden that she's designated as her own. Niru says that mostly the two gardeners work together harmoniously, "Although occasionally Mo will go and plonk a tree in my garden. One time, he planted a magnolia and I said, 'That's shading my dahlias' and made him take it out."

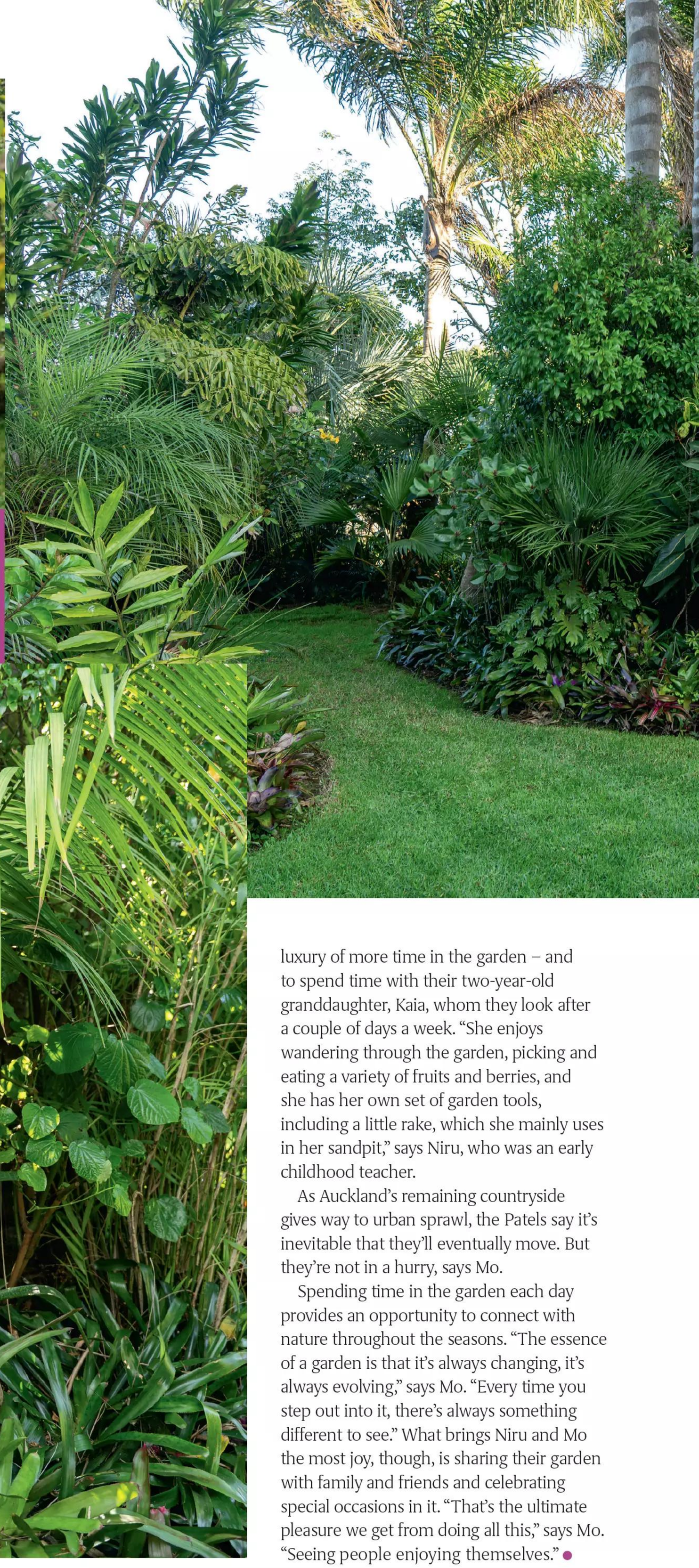
Retirement has given the couple the



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**GROWING THEME** Citrus trees line the orchard and Niru has made key lime pie from their limes. Mo has planted a range of palms, including bangalow, wax, a rare blonde flame thrower, nīkau, Kermadec and Great Barrier Island species.



luxury of more time in the garden – and to spend time with their two-year-old granddaughter, Kaia, whom they look after a couple of days a week. "She enjoys wandering through the garden, picking and eating a variety of fruits and berries, and she has her own set of garden tools, including a little rake, which she mainly uses in her sandpit," says Niru, who was an early childhood teacher.

As Auckland's remaining countryside gives way to urban sprawl, the Patels say it's inevitable that they'll eventually move. But they're not in a hurry, says Mo.

Spending time in the garden each day provides an opportunity to connect with nature throughout the seasons. "The essence of a garden is that it's always changing, it's always evolving," says Mo. "Every time you step out into it, there's always something different to see." What brings Niru and Mo the most joy, though, is sharing their garden with family and friends and celebrating special occasions in it. "That's the ultimate pleasure we get from doing all this," says Mo. "Seeing people enjoying themselves." ●



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**GREEN EXTENSION**
Plants and shrubs don't just thrive outdoors – they also grow prolifically indoors. In truth, Niru admits she favours cottage garden favourites, such as dahlias and hydrangeas.

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# Feeding *body and soul*

Leading wellness expert Dr Libby totally digs good nutrition – and her own garden shows just how much she values it

Text **Rachel Clare**
Photography **Ben Parry/Untitled Studio**



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When it comes to growing edibles, you'd expect a renowned nutritional biochemist to have specific ideas about which fruit and vegetables you should plant, but Dr Libby Weaver's message is simple: "Grow what you love to eat."

The keen gardener is a strong believer in "food first" when it comes to nutrition, and she packs as many of her favourite leafy greens and herbs as she can into her own 60sqm plot, where she grows crops in raised beds made from old railway sleepers and untreated timber.

For Libby, the key to growing healthy vegetables is starting with good soil, and she fills her raised beds with an organic mushroom compost. "It's excellent for helping the soil retain water, adds back a host of nutrients (so the food that grows in this will take up those nutrients), plus it helps break up otherwise dense soil so the roots can embed better."

Libby says that the flavour profile is also better when food is homegrown. "The potatoes I grew late last year were the most delicious I'd ever tasted – so naturally creamy – and the kale tastes much better than store-bought kale."

She harvests from her garden throughout the day, starting off with juice from her Meyer lemons ("my favourite flavour") before breakfast. For lunch, rocket is picked for an open sandwich for a bitter taste hit ("bitterness is good for bile production and liver health"); bok choy is steamed or stir-fried for dinner; and kale is briefly roasted so it has a slightly crunchy texture.



**GROW WHAT YOU EAT**
Libby's raised garden beds are in a 60sqm area. "The rocket gives and gives as it reseeds, same with the bok choy. Plus, I love to see the bees come for the flowers on the rocket and bok choy in between those crops," she says.

For Libby, who is based in Australia, one of the main benefits of homegrown is the freshness factor. "Some nutrients diminish the longer a food is from picking. So if you can't grow your own (although even the smallest apartment balcony can hold pots to grow herbs), buying what you can from local farmers' markets is a great way to go because the vegetables have usually been picked only the day before."

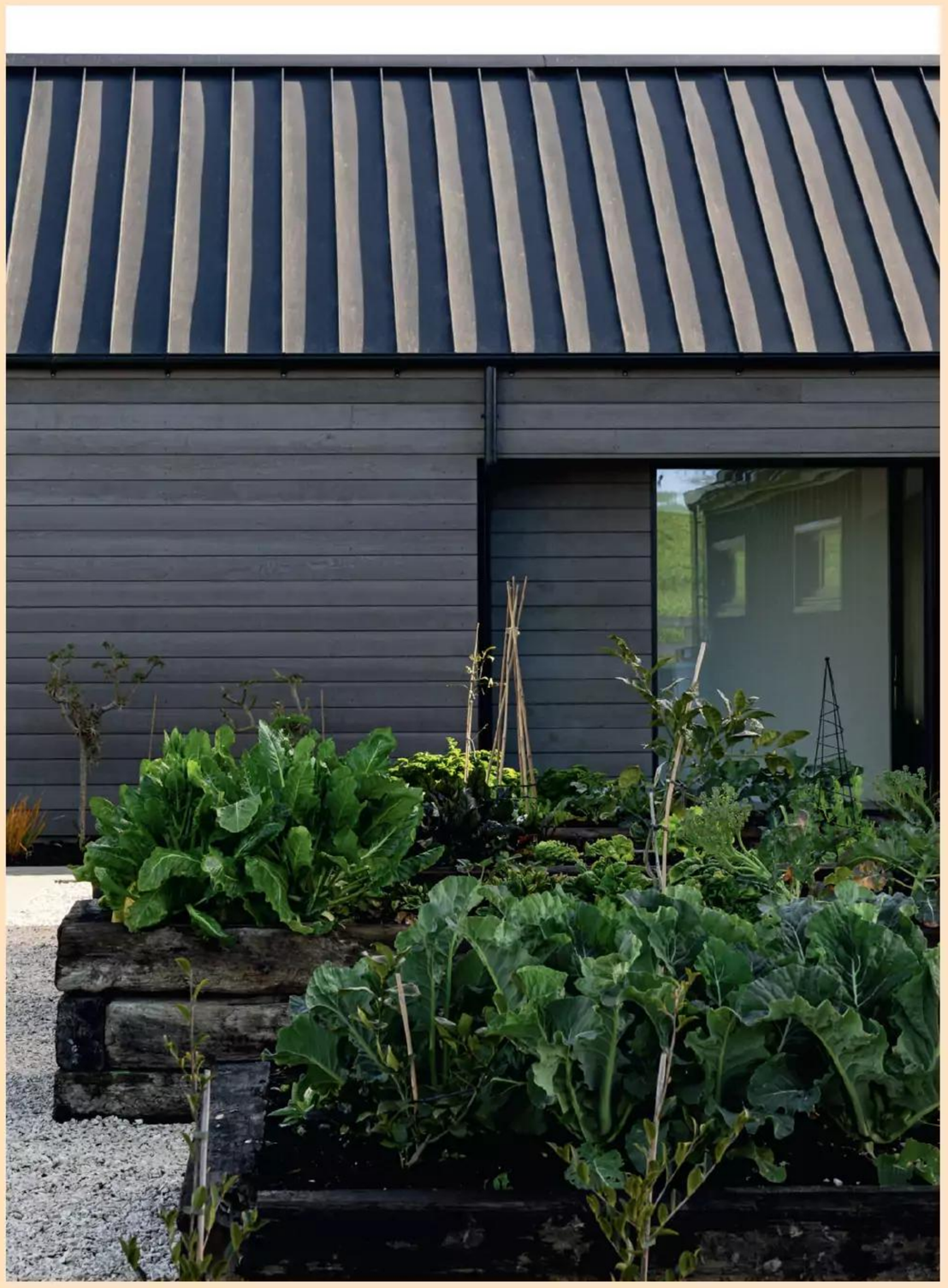
The best-selling author has explored the connection between food and health in many of her books. Her most recent offering, *Fix Iron First: The one thing that changes everything* examines iron deficiency. "It's the most common nutrient deficiency in the world and too many people live knowingly or unknowingly with it. It causes major health issues in children and adults, both today and long term."

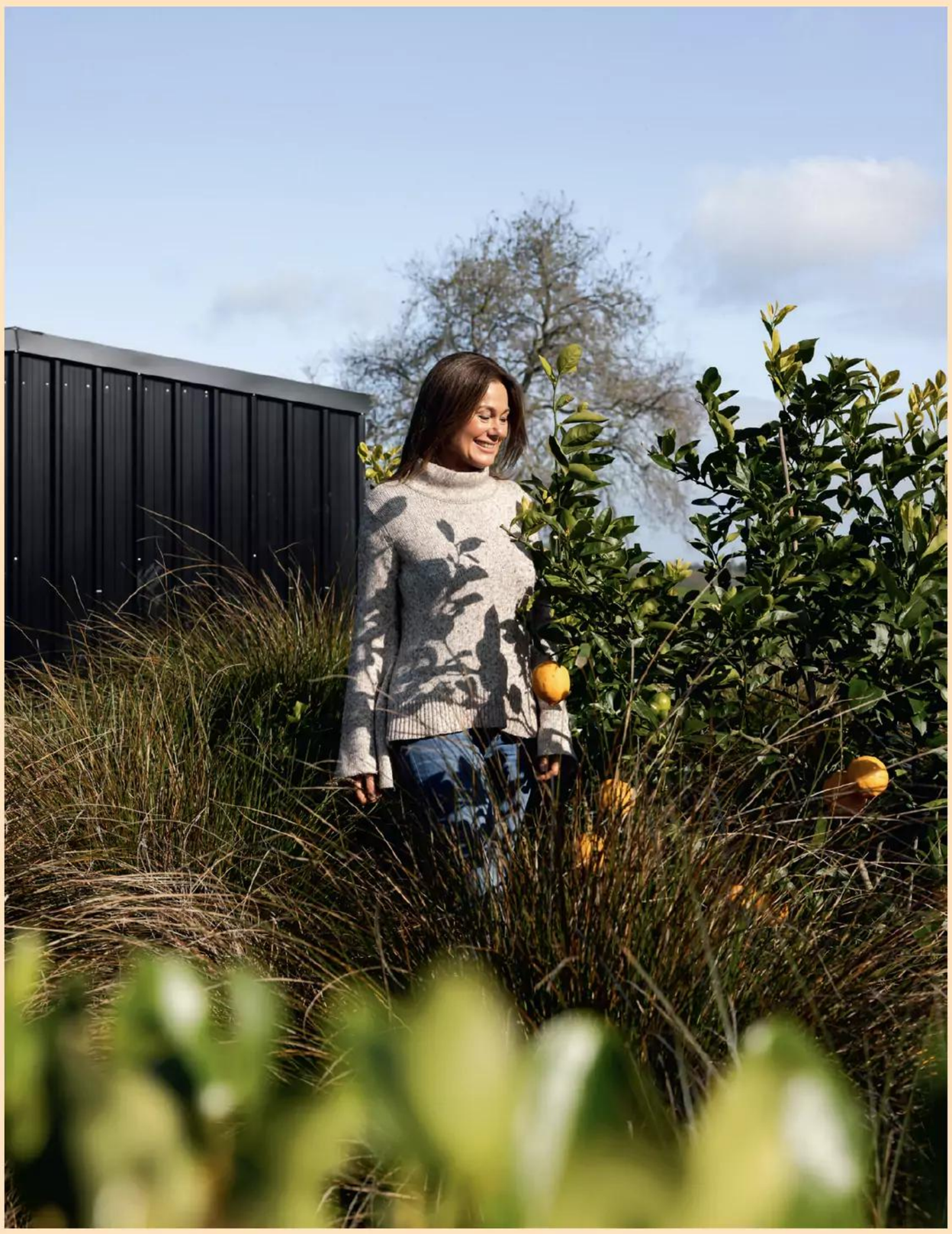
Rather than treating low iron with synthetic supplements, which frequently cause constipation, Libby launched Bio Blends in 2016, a range of natural supplements made from real food and herbal medicines. Her newest product,



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## HAPPY PLACE

Libby's garden is shared with a band of hens named after *Schitt's Creek* characters; organic mushroom compost is used in the raised garden beds; the keen gardener starts each day with juice from her Meyer lemons.





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Iconic Iron, uses iron sourced from organic peas. “It also contains nutrient co-factors needed for healthy iron metabolism (so iron can be well utilised once it is inside you), and these are also made from foods.”

Gardening also provides Libby with important downtime. “I often pop outside during the day for a brief break from working at my laptop and look at my garden – it makes me smile and a deeper calm sets in. I love to water it each evening as the light changes and the sun starts to set.”

She shares her garden with Moira, Alexis and Stevie, a happy band of hens, named after the three female characters in the TV show *Schitt’s Creek*, whose antics she enjoys observing. “I didn’t know where they were one day and found them all in one bed together, having a dirt bath in the sun – it looked hilarious, them all in there together.”

The girls also help out with pest control in the spray-free garden and are the happy recipients of any munching marauders, such as crickets, which Libby picks off by hand. “As an organic farmer I once knew liked to say, ‘It keeps them in the food chain’.”

Beyond nourishing ourselves with good kai, Libby is a huge advocate of the physical and mental benefits gardening brings. “You’re carrying 20kg bags of mulch or compost. A loaded wheelbarrow weighs a decent amount, too. I feel very satisfied at the end of a Saturday when I’ve shifted rocks myself. You feel like you’ve had a workout after a day in the garden – lifting, carrying, walking, squatting, stepping over things. While I do this, I’m observing what’s around. All sorts of birds come and hang out. I might solve something inside my head that I’ve been concerned about. Gardening heightens my gratitude.”



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# FLAVOUR BOMB

Smoky, silky barbecued eggplant adds the X factor to this Middle Eastern salad

## *Eggplant fattoush*

SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS**

2 small red onions, sliced thinly
2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
2 tsp caster sugar
2 tsp sumac, plus extra to serve
2 Tbsp pomegranate molasses
2 Tbsp lemon juice
⅓ cup extra virgin olive oil
6 Lebanese eggplants, halved lengthways
2 Lebanese pita breads, split
½ tsp ground cumin
200g haloumi, cut into 1cm slices
500g mixed heirloom tomatoes, sliced
1 bunch radishes, sliced thinly
½ bunch mint leaves

**1** Place the onion, vinegar, sugar and 1 teaspoon of the sumac in a shallow bowl, season; toss to combine. Stand for 10 minutes; drain.
**2** To make dressing, combine the pomegranate molasses, lemon juice and 2 tablespoons of the oil in a small bowl; season to taste.
**3** Place eggplant in a medium bowl. Pour over half the dressing and toss to coat. Stand for 15 minutes.
**4** Meanwhile, preheat a chargrill pan (or barbecue) over medium-high heat. Brush the bread with 1 tablespoon of the oil; cook on a grill pan for 1 minute each side, or until bread is dry and crisp. Transfer to a plate; sprinkle with combined cumin and remaining sumac. Break into pieces.
**5** Cook the eggplant, in batches, on grill pan for 4 minutes each side or until tender and grill marks appear. Transfer to a plate; cover to keep warm. Brush haloumi with remaining oil; cook haloumi slices on grill pan for 1 minute each side or until grill marks appear.
**6** Arrange the eggplant, pickled onion, bread pieces, tomatoes, radish, haloumi and mint leaves on a serving platter. Drizzle with remaining dressing and sprinkle with extra sumac.



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# FOOD


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**Mexican rave**
Get into summer fiesta mood with some Aztec treasures.

**130**

**Home range**
Nadia Lim makes entertaining easy with these recipes.


RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY ARE SYNDICATION


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# MEXICAN RAVE



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# From ceviche to soup and salsas, Daniella Guevara Munoz's recipes will get your summer fiesta started



## *Fish ceviche with mango & avocado*

SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS**

300g sashimi-grade, firm white fish fillets (such as snapper), cut into small 1cm cubes
120ml lime juice (about 4–5 limes)
1 tsp salt, plus extra to taste
1 small red onion, diced
1 bunch coriander, chopped
200g ripe but firm mango, peeled and diced
1½ hass avocados, diced
1 Tbsp olive oil
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
Corn chips or tostadas, to serve
Store-bought habanero hot sauce, to serve (optional)

**1** In a glass or ceramic bowl, combine the fish with half the lime juice and 1 teaspoon of salt. Let the fish "cook" for 15 minutes.
**2** Strain the juices from the fish. Add the onion, coriander, mango, avocado, olive oil and the remaining juice. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir gently to combine, ensuring all the ingredients are coated in the lime juice.
**3** Serve ceviche in a large bowl or in individual ramekins. You could also flip the ramekins onto small plates to serve. Serve with corn chips or tostadas for scooping. A couple of drops of habanero hot sauce will lift the dish.

## *Mexican prawn cocktail*

SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS**

½ onion, roughly chopped
3 garlic cloves
1 small thyme sprig
1 tsp salt
1 bay leaf
750g small/medium raw whole prawns, unpeeled
1 small onion, finely chopped
2 tomatoes, deseeded and finely diced
¼ bunch coriander, chopped, plus extra leaves to garnish
1 avocado, diced (optional)
8 large Salada (Original) crackers
2 limes, cut into wedges

**SAUCE**

1 cup tomato juice
½ cup tomato ketchup
½ cup freshly squeezed orange juice
¼ cup freshly squeezed lime juice
110ml prawn cooking broth (see below)
1 Tbsp olive oil
1 Tbsp Tabasco or 1 tsp habanero hot sauce, plus extra to garnish
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

**1** Fill a medium saucepan over medium–low heat with 6 cups of water. Add the ½ roughly chopped onion, garlic, thyme, salt and bay leaf and bring to the boil. Add the prawns and cook for 3 minutes.
**2** Take the prawns out of the saucepan with a mesh strainer, reserving the broth in the pan as you will need it later. Set aside. Let the prawns cool, then peel and devein, reserving the shells. Place the prawn shells into the reserved broth, bring to the boil again and cook for another 10 minutes before turning the heat off and letting it cool. Strain the broth and reserve it for the sauce.
**3** For the Sauce, in a bowl, whisk together the tomato juice, ketchup, orange juice, lime juice, reserved prawn broth, olive oil and hot sauce until well combined. Add salt and pepper to taste.
**4** Fill four cups or bowls with three layers of prawn, finely chopped onion, tomato and a little coriander. Pour the sauce over but don't fully cover the prawns. Garnish with diced avocado (if using) and extra coriander leaves. Add the hot sauce. Place the cups on small plates and serve each portion with two whole Salada crackers and lime wedges.

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## Grilled corn on the cob

SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS**

4 corn cobs with husks on
4 wooden skewers (see Tip)
150g whole-egg mayonnaise
200g grated queso cotija, crumbled ricotta salata or crumbled feta
Chilli powder, to sprinkle
2 limes, halved

**1** Place the corn cobs on a hot barbecue and grill for 30 minutes, turning regularly. The husk will protect the corn from burning. After 20 minutes, remove the burnt husks and fibres and char the cob until the kernels get some colour, about 10 more minutes. Remove from the fire and stick the wooden skewers into the cobs.

**2** Cover the warm cobs with mayonnaise and sprinkle with cheese until fully covered. Sprinkle with chilli powder. Squeeze a little lime over the corn and enjoy.

**Tip:** It is hard to find solid skewers that will hold the cob, so I use bamboo chopsticks from my takeaway sushi and sharpen them with a pencil sharpener.

## Tortilla soup

SERVES 6

**INGREDIENTS**

**SOUP BASE**

8 dried guajillo chillies, deseeded
2 litres chicken or vegetable stock
2 garlic cloves
1½ onions, cut into chunks
700g ripe tomatoes
½ bunch coriander, leaves picked
1 tsp dried Mexican oregano
1 tsp ground cumin
6 corn tortillas, cut into quarters
20g salt

**TO GARNISH**

1 dried guajillo chilli
6 stale corn tortillas
200ml vegetable oil
1 avocado
200g cheese (queso panela if you can get it, but mozzarella works, too)
100g chicharron or pork crackling (omit for vegetarian)
100ml cream

**1** For the soup base, soak the guajillo chillies in boiling water until soft, about 5 minutes. Once soft, drain them and put them in a blender or food processor with the rest of the soup base ingredients. Blend on high until you have a soft paste – it shouldn't have any grittiness. Pass the base through a fine-mesh strainer.

**2** For the soup, bring the stock to a slow boil in a stockpot, then add the soup base. Simmer until the soup thickens, about 30 minutes.

**3** Meanwhile, prepare the garnishes. Using scissors, carefully cut the guajillo chilli into thin rings and cut the stale tortillas into 5mm wide strips. Pour the vegetable oil into a small saucepan and heat to about 180°C. I use a thermometer to test the oil, but if a piece of bread dropped in the oil browns in about 15 seconds, the oil is at the correct temperature. Fry the chilli until crispy – don't let the chilli burn, this happens in about 5–10 seconds – then place on paper towel to drain. In the same oil, fry the tortilla strips until crispy, about 3 minutes – these won't burn as easily. Place the strips on paper towel. Halve the avocado, remove the seed and cut into slices. Put all the garnishes in separate bowls on the table.

**4** Serve the soup in a large bowl. Each person can add whichever garnishes they want. I recommend: a handful of tortilla strips, cheese, avocado, chicharron, a drizzle of cream, then the fried chilli. Keep adding more garnishes as you eat.



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# *Traditional Mexican meatballs*

SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS**

**MEATBALLS**

50g stale bread roll
½ cup full-cream milk
4 whole allspice
2 garlic cloves
8 large mint leaves
1 Tbsp salt
500g minced beef (not super lean)
1 large egg
2 hard-boiled eggs

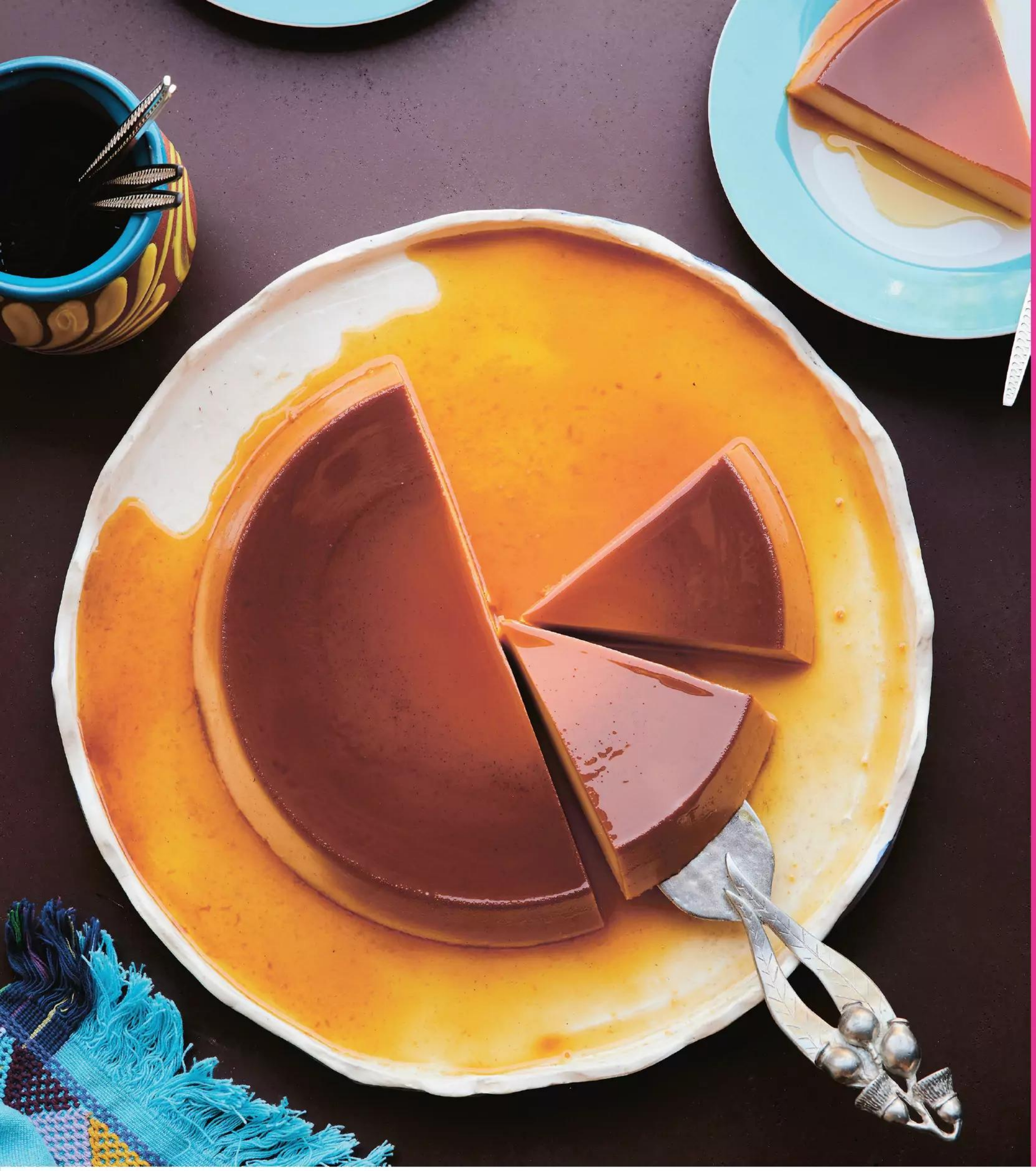
**SAUCE**

750g ripe tomatoes, cut into chunks
½ onion, cut into chunks
2 garlic cloves
100g tinned chipotle in adobo salt
1 Tbsp vegetable oil
1 cup vegetable, beef or chicken stock
White rice and corn tortillas, to serve

**1** Soak the stale bread for the meatballs in the milk in a bowl until soft.
**2** For the Sauce, add the tomato, onion, garlic, chillies and salt to a blender or food processor and process until smooth. Place a large cast-iron pot on the stovetop, add the oil and set the heat to medium. Add the sauce and stock and bring to a simmer, cook for 10 minutes. Make sure the sauce does not get too dry – add water if needed.
**3** For the Meatballs, place the allspice, garlic and mint in a mortar and pestle with the salt and pound to a paste. Place the beef in a large bowl and add the spice paste and soaked bread (do not include the milk). Lightly beat the egg in a cup and add to the mixture. Mix all the ingredients with your hands until even. Peel the boiled eggs and cut each one into eight cubes. Grab a portion of the meatball mixture and make a small patty. Place a piece of egg in the middle and form a meatball about the size of a golf ball. Three to four meatballs per person is the goal. Add the meatballs to the simmering sauce as you make them, then cook for about 30 minutes. Place the meatballs in a large serving dish.
**4** Serve the meatballs with cooked white rice and warm corn tortillas.



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Edited text and images from *Provecho: Real Mexican Food at Home* by Daniella Guevara Muñoz ($49.99, Murdoch Books). Photography by Simon Bajada.

## *Cheese flan*

SERVES 8-12

**INGREDIENTS**

150g caster sugar
250g cream cheese, at room temperature
340ml tinned evaporated milk
400ml tinned condensed milk
5 eggs, at room temperature
Seeds scraped from ½ vanilla bean, or ½ tsp vanilla bean paste
½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp salt

**1** I use a round Pyrex 24cm pie dish as a mould. You will also need a roasting tin that the mould fits inside, in order to create a bain-marie.

**2** Preheat the oven to 180°C. Place the sugar and 80ml of water in a heavy-based saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to the boil and cook the sugar until it starts to change colour. Reduce the heat to medium–low and keep cooking until the sugar is light brown to brown; this can take 10–15 minutes. Be careful – the sugar will be about 180°C and you can burn yourself. Take care not to burn the sugar, so stay vigilant. When the sugar starts smoking, it's ready. Have a couple of oven mitts ready and your mould on a flat and secure surface. When the sugar is ready, quickly pour it into the mould and, with oven mitts on, distribute the caramel over the bottom and two-thirds of the way up the side of the mould. The caramel will dissolve into syrup when the flan is ready and will make unmoulding easy. Set the mould aside.

**3** Boil 1.5 litres water in a kettle. Add all the remaining ingredients to a blender. Blend on the lowest speed for 1 minute, until the mixture is smooth but not too frothy. Pour it into the mould and cover with foil. Place the mould in the roasting tin. Place the tin with the mould inside on a middle shelf in the oven, then pour the hot water into the tray until it reaches two-thirds of the way up the outside of the mould. Cook for 1 hour.

**4** When ready, take the tin filled with water and the mould out of the oven and check if the flan is cooked. Jiggle the mould softly – it should be wobbly. If the middle is still runny, return to the oven for another 10 minutes. Take the mould out of the tin and place on a wire rack to cool (the flan will be very fragile).

**5** When cool, run a paring knife around the edge of the flan, then place in the fridge. To unmould the flan, you need a raised-edge plate that is larger than the mould. Place the plate upside down on top of the mould. Holding both the plate and mould securely, flip them both upside down so the flan lands on the plate. Collect the syrup from the mould and place it in a little jug. With a long, thin knife, cut the flan into slices. Clean the knife between cuts so it keeps the flan pretty. Serve the slices on dessert plates and finish with a drizzle of syrup.

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BOOK EXTRACT

# HOME RANGE

Make summer entertaining easy with these globally inspired dishes from Nadia Lim's new *Farm Kitchen Cookbook*





NADIA LIM

## *Haloumi with warm honey & grapes*

SERVES 2–3 (AS A STARTER)

This salty-sweet dish is quick to make and has a touch of flair. The golden haloumi, blistered grapes and sticky, herby, hot honey make a beautiful combination.

**INGREDIENTS**

**250g haloumi**
**Small bunch of whole grapes**
**Few sprigs of fresh thyme or oregano**
**2 Tbsp honey**
**Juice of ½ lemon**

**1** Pat the haloumi dry with paper towels and slice into 1cm-thick pieces. Heat a drizzle of olive oil in a cast-iron or non-stick fry pan over medium heat. Once hot, add the haloumi and cook for 2–3 minutes on each side until golden. Don't overcrowd the pan; you may need to cook it in batches. Once the haloumi is cooked, remove it from the pan and transfer to a plate.

**2** In the same pan, add the grapes and herb sprigs. Cook for a few minutes, until the grapes have softened and blistered slightly. Add the honey and cook for another minute, letting it bubble and thicken slightly.

**3** Return the haloumi to the pan and spoon the hot honey, grapes and herbs over the top. Squeeze over the lemon juice and serve as is, or with crusty bread or leafy green salad on the side.

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# *Charred meatballs with peanut chilli crack*

SERVES 4–6

These Vietnamese-inspired meatballs are packed with flavour. Ideally cooked on the barbecue for that smoky char, they're lifted to new heights by the addictive Peanut Chilli Crack — a spicy, salty, crunchy topping that brings heat and texture to every bite. Serve with noodles and lettuce cups, or straight from the pan with a cold beer. A true crowd-pleaser.

**PEANUT CHILLI CRACK**

½ cup roasted peanuts
1 clove garlic, thinly sliced
1 tsp finely grated ginger
1 Tbsp chilli flakes
1 Tbsp soy sauce
1 tsp brown sugar

**MEATBALLS**

2 shallots, finely diced
1 stalk lemongrass, finely chopped (optional)
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 Tbsp finely grated ginger
800g lamb, pork, or chicken mince (or a combination)
1 Tbsp soy sauce
½ Tbsp fish sauce
1½ tsp brown sugar

**NOODLES**

250g vermicelli noodles
1 tsp sesame oil

**CHILLI LIME DRESSING**

1 red chilli, finely chopped
Juice of 2 limes
2 Tbsp sweet chilli sauce
2 Tbsp fish sauce
2 Tbsp water

**APPLE CARROT SLAW**

1 apple, cut into fine matchsticks
2 carrots, coarsely grated
100g mung bean sprouts
1 bunch fresh mint, chopped

**TO SERVE** (optional)

Leaves of 1 large cos lettuce
Lime wedges
Fresh coriander
Crispy fried shallots



**1** Finely chop or pulse the peanuts in a food processor until coarsely crushed. Heat a generous drizzle of oil in a small pan over low heat. Add the garlic and ginger, and sizzle gently for 1 minute. Stir in the crushed peanuts and chilli flakes and cook for another 30 seconds. Add soy sauce and sugar, mix well, and remove from heat. Set aside to cool and crisp up.

**2** Finely dice the shallots and lemongrass (if using), and add the garlic and ginger. Alternatively, blitz everything in a food processor to form a rough paste.

**3** In a large bowl, combine shallot mixture with the mince, soy sauce, fish sauce, and brown sugar. Mix well. Use a tablespoon measure to portion and roll into balls, then flatten slightly. Cook on a hot barbecue, or in a large cast-iron or a non-stick frypan over medium-high heat until nicely charred and cooked through, about 2–3 minutes per side.

**4** Place vermicelli in a heatproof bowl or pot. Pour over boiling water to cover and let sit for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft. Drain noodles, rinse under cold water, and snip in a few places with kitchen scissors to shorten the strands. Toss with sesame oil to prevent sticking.

**5** To make the Chilli Lime Dressing, in a small bowl, mix together chilli, lime juice, sweet chilli sauce, fish sauce and water.

**6** Toss apple, carrot, bean sprouts and mint together in a bowl. Drizzle with half the Chilli Lime Dressing and toss to combine.

**7** Serve the meatballs alongside bowls/plates of vermicelli noodles, lettuce leaves, Apple Carrot Slaw, remaining dressing, and the Peanut Chilli Crack. Serve with lime wedges, fresh coriander and a sprinkle of crispy fried shallots if desired. Let everyone serve themselves.

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## *Roasted chorizo, cherry tomato & asparagus tray bake with pesto*

SERVES 3–4

This quick and flavour-packed tray bake is perfect for summer weeknights — minimal prep for maximum flavour. Juicy cherry tomatoes, tender asparagus and spiced chorizo come together in just minutes, finished with fresh pesto and rocket. Serve with warm, crusty bread to mop up the tomato juices, or make it more substantial with pasta, couscous, roast potatoes or kūmara.

**INGREDIENTS**

**250–300g raw chorizo sausages**
**2 punnets cherry tomatoes**
**1 bunch asparagus spears, trimmed and cut into 3cm lengths**
**1 sprig thyme, leaves only**
**1–2 Tbsp olive oil**
**2–3 Tbsp pesto (store-bought or Garden herb & weed pesto)**
**2 large handfuls rocket**

1 Preheat oven to 220°C. Squeeze small blobs of chorizo meat directly from the sausage casing into a large roasting tray, spacing them out slightly. Add cherry tomatoes, asparagus and thyme leaves. Drizzle with olive oil and toss gently to combine.
2 Roast for 12–15 minutes, or until the chorizo is cooked through, the tomatoes are blistered and juicy, and the asparagus is tender with some bite.
3 Remove tray from the oven and dot spoonfuls of pesto over the top. Return to the oven for 2–3 more minutes, just to warm the pesto through.
4 Take the tray out of the oven and immediately add the rocket, tossing gently until it's just wilted from the residual heat. Serve hot, straight from the tray.

### *Garden herb & weed pesto*

Pesto is one of the most versatile and flexible recipes — a fresh, vibrant, punchy blend of whatever herbs (and even edible weeds) you have on hand. It's perfect for adding piquancy to any number of dishes. I've made pesto more than a hundred times, and I reckon no two batches have ever been the same — the combinations of herbs, greens and nuts are endless. Some of


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my favourite pairings include mint and pistachio, parsley and walnut or pine nuts, coriander and cashew with chickweed, rocket, sorrel, carrot tops, fathen or purslane thrown in. I make it in bulk when the herbs are abundant and freeze it, so we have a stash that lasts all year. Once you start experimenting, you'll never be without a jar in the fridge.

MAKES 2 CUPS

**INGREDIENTS**

4 cups fresh soft mixed herbs and/or weeds (suitable herbs and weeds below)
1 clove garlic, roughly chopped
Juice of ½ lemon, to taste
½ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
½ cup grated parmesan
¾ cup nuts or seeds (pine nuts, almonds, walnuts, sunflower seeds or a mix)

**SUITABLE BASE HERBS**

Parsley, basil, coriander, mint

**SUITABLE SECONDARY HERBS**

Dill, tarragon, fennel fronds, sorrel, carrot tops

**SUITABLE BASE WEEDS**

Chickweed — mild and slightly sweet, with a delicate texture
Nettle — rich in nutrients, with a deep, green flavour. Blanch in boiling water to remove the sting before using
Fathen — a mild-flavoured green similar to spinach

**SUITABLE SECONDARY WEEDS**

Wild fennel fronds — feathery leaves with a sweet, aniseed flavour
Nasturtium leaves — peppery and bold, like watercress. Use sparingly
Purslane — succulent leaves with a lemony, peppery crunch

1 Rinse the herb and weed selection and dry well. Remove any tough stems, then roughly chop.
2 In a food processor or blender, combine the herbs (and weeds, if using), garlic, and lemon juice. Pulse until finely chopped.
3 Blend in the olive oil with the motor running until smooth. Add a little more oil if needed to loosen.
4 Pulse in the nuts and/or seeds and parmesan and pulse to your desired consistency. (Personally, I like a bit of texture.) Add a good pinch of salt and pepper, then taste and adjust seasoning.
5 Store in a sealed jar in the fridge for up to 1 week, or freeze in half-cup portions in resealable bags.



## *Grilled greens with Greek yoghurt & burnt lemon butter*

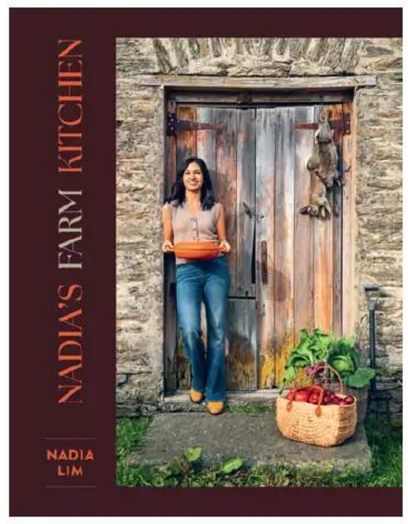
SERVES 4–6

Charred greens, creamy yoghurt and buttery lemon sauce — what's not to love? The veggies get smoky and sweet on the grill, the yoghurt adds a lovely tang and the burnt lemon butter is totally addictive. This is the kind of dish that makes you want to eat all your greens — and then some. It's perfect for making the most of spring and summer vegetables, when everything's fresh, green and just begging to be grilled. You could also grill green beans, kale and even thin wedges of cabbage.

**INGREDIENTS**

350g broccolini
1-2 cos lettuce hearts, cut in half lengthways
3-4 courgettes, quartered lengthways
1 bunch spring onions, trimmed
1-2 bunches asparagus spears, ends trimmed
50g butter
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
200g natural, unsweetened Greek yoghurt

1 Toss vegetables with a drizzle of oil and a pinch of salt. Preheat a barbecue grill or grill pan until hot. Grill vegetables until lightly charred and just tender. Set aside.
2 In a small saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Let it continue to cook, swirling occasionally, until the foam subsides and the milk solids turn a deep golden brown. You'll notice a nutty, toasty aroma, and this is your cue that the butter is ready. Watch it closely, as it can quickly go from golden to burnt. As soon as the butter is golden and fragrant, remove it from the heat and immediately stir in the lemon zest and juice. The mixture will bubble and sizzle.
3 Spread the yoghurt onto a serving platter and arrange the grilled vegetables on top of the yoghurt and spoon the burnt lemon butter over everything. Serve immediately.




This is an edited extract from *Nadia's Farm Kitchen* by Nadia Lim ($55, Nude Food Inc). Photography by Holly Wademan.

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## *FLASH PANS*

New Zealand's cast-iron cookware company Ironclad has a reputation for creating great pans. You're going to want to hand these down to future generations. Now, instead of plain old cast iron, these beauties come in three colours: salt stone (speckled white), olive leaf and antique black as part of the satin enamel collection, making them even more attractive on the dinner table. From $180, ironcladpan.com




## Water with features

Daeli Hydration's latest flavour Salted Mango joins Watermelon, Pineapple and Limeade in the quest to keep you quenched. Each sugar-free electrolytes sachet contains 800mg sodium, 200mg potassium and 100mg of magnesium to help maintain fluid balance, fend off fatigue and keep muscles and nerves firing correctly. $64.95, for 21 sachets. drinkdaeli.com

FOOD & DRINK NEWS

# sound bites

All the ingredients for kitchen and entertaining success

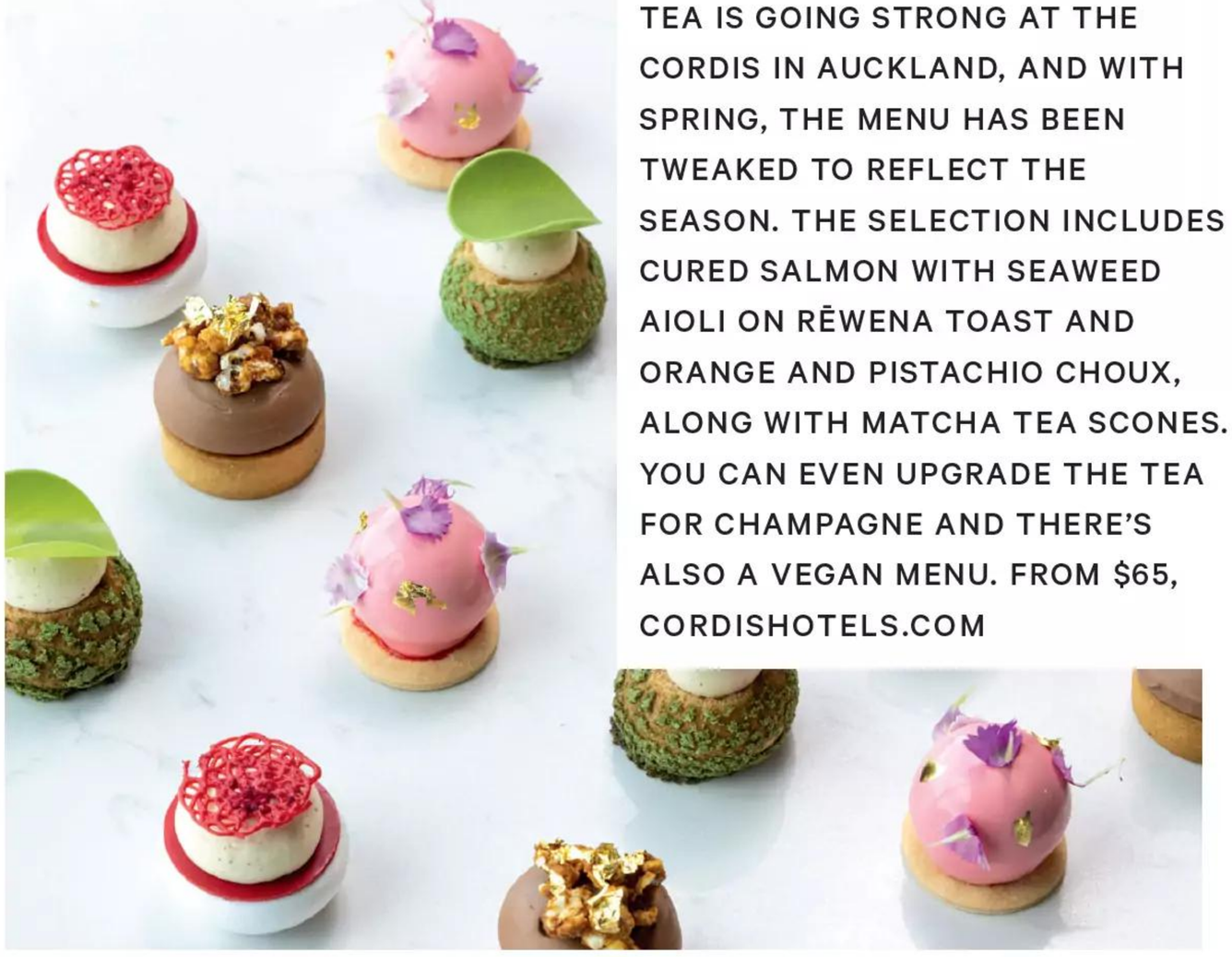
### A GREAT WHITE... AND RED

THIS YEAR'S NEW WORLD'S TOP 50 UNDER $30 WINES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AND THE CHAMPION WHITE IS HUNTING LODGE'S SEASONAL ALBARINO MARLBOROUGH 2025 (WE ACQUIESCE WITH THE FINENESS OF THIS DROP). THE CHAMPION RED IS CHURCH ROAD MCDONALD SERIES SYRAH 2021 AND THE CHAMPION SPARKLING IS LINDAUER SPECIAL RESERVE BRUT IV. NEWWORLD.CO.NZ




## TEA TOTAL

THE GRAND TRADITION OF HIGH TEA IS GOING STRONG AT THE CORDIS IN AUCKLAND, AND WITH SPRING, THE MENU HAS BEEN TWEAKED TO REFLECT THE SEASON. THE SELECTION INCLUDES CURED SALMON WITH SEAWEED AIOLI ON RĒWENA TOAST AND ORANGE AND PISTACHIO CHOUX, ALONG WITH MATCHA TEA SCONES. YOU CAN EVEN UPGRADE THE TEA FOR CHAMPAGNE AND THERE'S ALSO A VEGAN MENU. FROM $65, CORDISHOTELS.COM



## THE BLOCK NZ

Great news on the chocolate front: Lindt Lindor's milk, white and salted caramel truffles now come in blocks and are available from supermarkets. $8, lindt.com.au






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# 136

**Think pink**
Turn decor into a work of art with a can of spray paint.

# 138

**Women we love**
Country star Kaylee Bell talks about good things – a successful career and happy home life.


**OPEN HOME** The Wellington Heritage Festival is on now, with more than 160 events including plenty of walking excursions and open days, as well as a guided tour of Katherine Mansfield House & Garden (pictured). To find out more about the events, go to wellingtonheritagefesitval.co.nz

PHOTOGRAPHY ROB SUISTED

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# THINK *PINK*

With a can of spray paint and a dash of humour you can turn any piece of decor into a work of art. The hot pink shade favoured by ’70s rockers provided our colour inspiration

## TV BAR

Why not convert an old TV set into a cute minibar? Screw it open and remove the innards so that just the framework remains. Spray paint the framework in the colour of your choice and leave to dry properly before you fill it with your drinks.

**NOTE**

**Finish off your bar by fitting it with a coloured LED light on the inside. Everyone will notice this bar.**



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**TRY THIS**
Break the mould like a punk rocker and bump up the kitsch decor with something unexpected. How about a wibbly-wobbly jelly?

## GRAFFITI FIGURINES

Give plain porcelain figurines a fun graffiti effect. Wipe the figurines clean with a damp cloth and first apply a coat of white spray paint. Now add a bit of spray paint here and there in the colours of your choice so they look like graffiti on a wall. Leave to dry completely before you find a new display place for your punk artwork.

PHOTOGRAPHY BUREAUX

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# Southern belle

## Popular Kiwi country artist Kaylee Bell talks about balancing an international music career with home life and what the future holds

Photography **Babiche Martens**



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Kaylee Bell is one of New Zealand's finest music exports right now. The country singer, originally from Waimate, has leapt onto the world stage and made a serious impression. She's opened for Ed Sheeran, appeared on *The Voice Australia,* won Toyota Star Maker in 2013 and picked up the Global Country Artist Award at the CMA Awards in 2023. With her fourth album, *Cowboy Up,* hitting shelves, Kaylee chats to us about the careful balance between life and art.



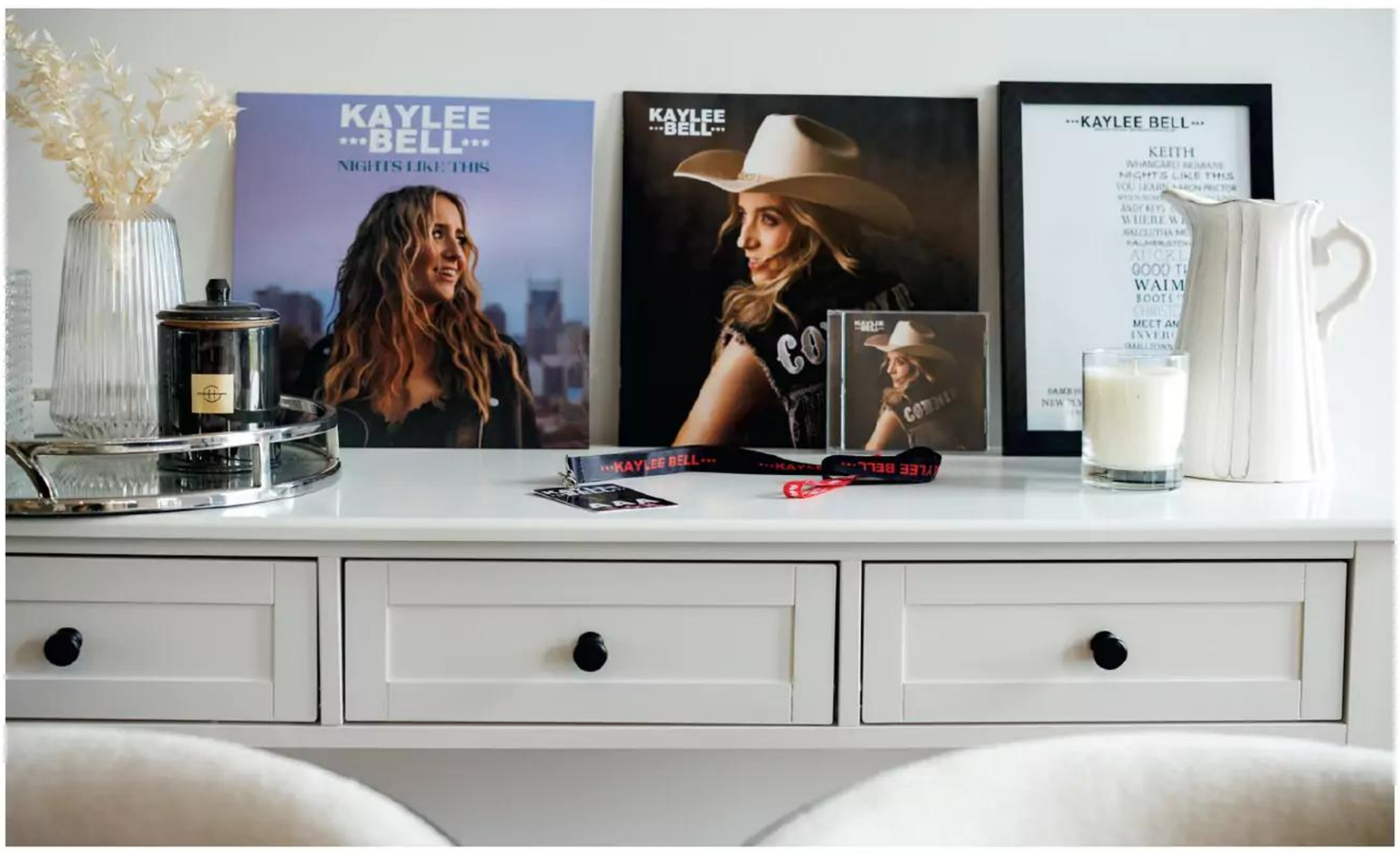
**Who lives in our house with you?**
My partner Nick, son James and our dog Thunder.

**Tell us about your home studio?** We set this up in 2017. I wanted to make it feel like a Nashville studio. There are lots of awards from both my career and my partner Nick's career; he was in Midnight Youth. We've acquired a number of guitars, both acoustic and electric, over the years. It has a little kitchenette too, so you can spend a whole day down there if you need to.

**How important is it to have a creative space in your house?** For me, this is really important and I really leaned into this on the new record *Cowboy Up*. It meant we could record the album at home, as opposed to my usual process of recording in Nashville. This time around, I was 34 weeks pregnant, so my producer Tom Jordan came out from Nashville and we holed up at home for a week of recording. I wouldn't have had that luxury if I didn't have a creative space at home.

**What's your favourite thing about it?**
The convenience. You can capture moments of inspiration as they hit – and they can hit at any time, day or night. I'm really lucky to have such a great setup at home.

**What about the rest of your home – best bits and why?** We have a bath. After weeks on the road, I love nothing more than coming home and having an Epsom salt bath to relax and ease back into routine. I also have a coffee machine and a record






### SONG AND DANCE

*Cowboy Up* is Kaylee's latest studio album. While she usually records her music from Nashville, Tennessee, being pregnant with her son meant that she got to make the most of her home studio. The musicians who played on the album recorded their parts in Nashville, while Kaylee's producer made his way from LA to her Auckland studio to work with her.

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**TOP TUNES**

Some of her favourite things in her home are reminders of her journey and her love for music. One of these include her extensive vinyl collection, which consists of albums that have shaped her as an artist.






player, which are two essentials for me each morning. I get up, make a coffee and put an album on. It's a great way to start the day.

**Do you manage to separate the studio from home life, or are they inextricably linked?** Because the studio is downstairs from our main living areas, it's easy to separate the two. Upstairs is for home life and downstairs is for work.

**How much of your album, *Cowboy Up*, happened in this studio?** Pretty much all of it, except for the song *Cowboy Up*, which was written at APRA Songhubs at Roundhead Studio. All of the musicians who played on the album recorded their parts in Nashville, but my vocals and the production were all done in this studio.

**What makes your house a home?** My family. I think you can have a house anywhere really, but it's the people who make a house a home.

**What are some of the treasures in your home?** My vinyl collection means a lot to me, these are albums that have shaped me as an artist. I am lucky enough to have some awards dotted around the place that are nice reminders of career milestones I have achieved. For me, it's good to have these reminders in place physically, as life can get frantic from time to time and you can sometimes forget that you've done some great things. Also, photos of cool moments from my career, either on stage with Keith Urban, backstage with Ed Sheeran, or my billboard in Times Square.

**Your upcoming Australia/New Zealand tour kicks off soon. What's the best part of touring?** The fans. The energy they bring to each show every night is unmatched. I do meet and greets after every show. It's so nice to be able to give people a hug and say thank you to the people whose support means I can continue to have a career in music.

**What does the rest of 2025 have in store for you?** We're doing a lot of festivals in Australia, my tour in New Zealand this November, I'll be getting back in the home studio to record some more music and we'll top it off with a New Year's Eve show in Twizel.

**How can readers find out more about your music?** My website kayleebellmusic.com has links to everything: my music, tour dates and merch.



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**AWARD WINNING**
Kaylee has achieved a range of accolades, including the inaugural Te Manu Mātārae award at the New Zealand Music Awards.

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# Eating in rhythm with summer

## Why seasonal produce simply tastes better





ELEANOR CRIPPS
*Home wellness expert*

Late spring/summer eating might possibly be my favourite of all the seasons. The first bite of a sun-ripened tomato, juice running down your wrist from a juicy nectarine picked warm straight from the tree, the fragrant scent of fresh herbs crushed between your fingers. My mouth is watering just writing about it. You see, eating seasonally doesn't just taste delicious – it's nature's way of telling us exactly what we need, right when we need it.

After months of indulging in hearty, winter food, something undeniably shifts when the warm season arrives. The days stretch long and golden, and suddenly, our bodies no longer crave comfort, but instead lighter, fresher fare: crisp cucumbers, plump raspberries, salads that sparkle with zingy dressings. It feels instinctive, as though our appetites are falling in step with the season.

And yet, when I pop to the supermarket in the middle of winter, I find strawberries and shiny cucumbers waiting on the shelf and I barely think twice about it. Most of us don't. We can get our hands on all kinds of produce year-round, whatever we want, whenever we want it. But if you pause for a moment, you might start to realise how confusing and unnatural this is. Have we lost the rhythm of eating seasonally, and with it, much of the joy? Because here's the



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truth: a hothouse tomato grown in July will never taste as extraordinary as one that's ripened in the height of summer, heavy and fragrant on the vine, grown just as nature intended it to be.

Convenience has its perks, sure, but it always comes at a cost. To our wallets, to the planet and, ultimately, the flavour on our plates. But the fantastic thing is that seasonal eating doesn't have to be a hassle. Start with the small switches and start to see how lovely it can be. Instead of going to the supermarket, visit your local farmers' market, seek out a local produce delivery company, or perhaps discover the art of growing your own. I don't have much of a green thumb, admittedly, but I do always grow tomatoes, herbs and lettuce in summertime as it's easy and satisfying.

Who wants to stand over a hot stove when the air outside is balmy and the evening beckons? Summer invites us to keep things simple: a platter of sliced tomatoes glimmering in olive oil with a scattering of torn basil, a melon salad with mint and pistachios, or a handful of beans quickly tossed with lemon, feta and toasted nuts. So, as summer unfurls in all its abundance, I invite you to celebrate the season by eating what grows beautifully now.

### WHAT'S IN SEASON IN NEW ZEALAND ABOUT NOW

**FRUIT**
Apples
Apricots
Blackberries
Blackcurrants
Boysenberries
Cherries
Figs
Kiwifruit
Honeydew melon
Nectarines
Peaches
Plums
Oranges
Raspberries
Redcurrants
Rock melon
Strawberries
Watermelon

**VEGETABLES**
Artichoke
Asparagus
Avocado
Beans
Beetroot
Butternut
Cabbage
Capsicum
Carrot
Celery
Courgette
Cucumber
Eggplant
Kūmara
Lettuce
Mushroom
Onion
Parsnip
Peas
Potatoes
Pumpkin
Radish
Silver beet
Snow peas
Spring onion
Sweet corn
Tomatoes

PHOTOGRAPHY ELEANOR CRIPPS

## *HOW TO MAKE A CREATIVE SALAD*

Get creative and experiment with fun combinations of colours, textures and flavours. The key to a fabulous salad is some key components that bring it all together. Once you understand the basics, you can riff endlessly with ingredients.

### 1. Begin with vegetables

Fresh greens are a natural starting point – baby spinach, peppery rocket, or crisp iceberg. But wander beyond the obvious. Add nasturtium leaves for a peppery kick, watercress for brightness, or even dandelion greens for a hint of bitterness. Kale or rainbow chard can be finely sliced and softened with a drizzle of olive oil. You might also let another vegetable take centre stage: ribbons of beetroot, shaved asparagus, roasted courgette, or paper-thin slices of carrot. Warm salads, too, are endlessly satisfying. There's magic in a tray of vegetables roasted until their edges caramelise and their sweetness deepens.

### 2 Add protein or grains

This is what transforms a salad from a side into a meal. Think tender grilled chicken, a just-set boiled egg, seared salmon, or roasted chickpeas. Alternatively, add a base of hearty grains: quinoa, burghul wheat, wild rice, or lentils. Leftover grains or pasta from yesterday's dinner work here, soaking up flavours and giving substance.

### 3. A touch of intrigue

Every salad deserves a little flourish – something unexpected that elevates it into the extraordinary. Perhaps a scattering of candied walnuts, jewels of pomegranate that burst on the tongue, a crumble of goats' feta, or garlicky sourdough breadcrumbs. Even a few slices of ripe fig can transform the dish into something that feels indulgent and special.

### 4. Don't forget the herbs

Fresh herbs are the soul of a good salad. They bring brightness, fragrance and depth. Parsley, basil, mint, dill, or chives are summer favourites, while thyme or rosemary lend themselves to roasted veggie salads. Use them generously – herbs are rarely just a garnish; they're a stunning ingredient in their own right.

### 5. Dress it well

A salad without dressing is like a story without an ending. My go-to formula is simple: two parts oil or something creamy (tahini, avocado, or yoghurt), one part acid (lemon juice or vinegar) and a little something to make it sing: garlic, mustard, chilli, or fresh herbs. Season generously, toss gently and taste as you go.

### 6. Colour and texture

Finally, let your eyes guide you. A truly inviting salad is one that bursts with contrast and looks visually enticing – soft against crisp, bright against earthy, green against jewel tones. A plate that looks beautiful will almost always taste that way, too. ●



## *Melon fruit salad with pistachios, mint & lemon*

SERVES 4 (AS A SIDE)

This simple dish is perfect for when you're imagining an elegant summer dessert, but can't bear the thought of turning on the oven. The subtle, sweet flavour of melon is accentuated with a hint of lime and fresh mint. Add crushed pistachios to lend a lovely crunch. It's also a fantastic accompaniment to a simple platter of cheese and oat crackers.

**INGREDIENTS**

½ rock melon, finely sliced into wedges
Handful of fresh mint, finely sliced
Juice of ½ lime
Pink sea salt
Cracked pepper

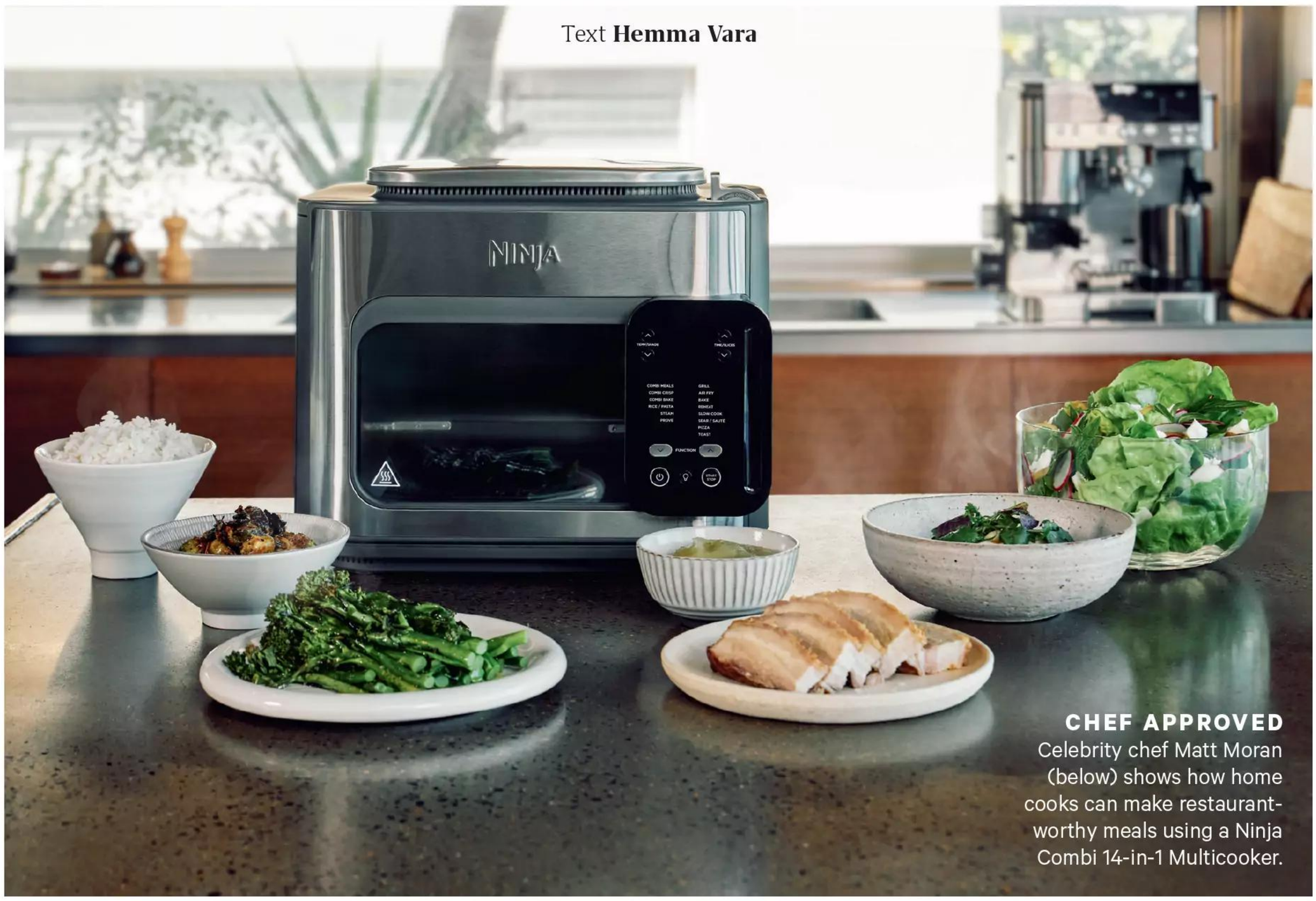
1 Arrange the melon wedges on a serving dish. Squeeze over the lime juice, scatter the mint and finish with a liberal sprinkling of sea salt and cracked pepper.

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# INSPECTOR GADGET

## Can one appliance really cook an entire meal all at once? We put Ninja's latest multicooker through its paces

Text **Hemma Vara**




**CHEF APPROVED** Celebrity chef Matt Moran (below) shows how home cooks can make restaurant-worthy meals using a Ninja Combi 14-in-1 Multicooker.

**What's under the microscope?** The Ninja Combi 14-in-1 Multicooker.

**What does it do?** This overachiever prepares meals in half the time of a traditional oven, whether you're crisping fish fillets, steaming veggies, or baking a cake.

**What sets the Combi apart from other multicookers?** It can cook multiple meal elements simultaneously using combi-cooking modes, ensuring perfectly cooked proteins, veggies and grains, all at the same time.

**Sounds cute. But what even is a multicooker?** It's your personal sous chef, but without the attitude. Think of it as a gadget that replaces multiple appliances and cooks food faster than your stovetop or oven (so retro, right?).

**Okay, so why do I need one?** I've called it: Multicookers are 2025's hottest kitchen gadget. They're designed for modern life because, in between juggling life, work and kids, who has time to spend hours in the kitchen? Not me. Multicookers save on cooking time and bench space; allow for low or no-oil cooking, which makes for healthier meals without compromising flavour.

**That sounds too good to be true.** Believe me, I've witnessed its magic with my own eyes. In a cooking masterclass with celebrity chef Matt Moran, we cooked rice and steamed greens, then used the air fryer grill setting to make miso & marmalade-glazed salmon. The result? A melt-in-your-mouth, restaurant-worthy meal.

**Do I even need to be in the kitchen while all this is happening?** Not a lot, but it's a chance to do your best Nara Smith impersonation, the TikTok influencer famous for wearing elaborate outfits while making wholesome meals from scratch.

**Okay, we're sold. Where do we buy this magical gadget?** I've got you. Scan the QR code alongside. $599.99, from ninjakitchen.co.nz



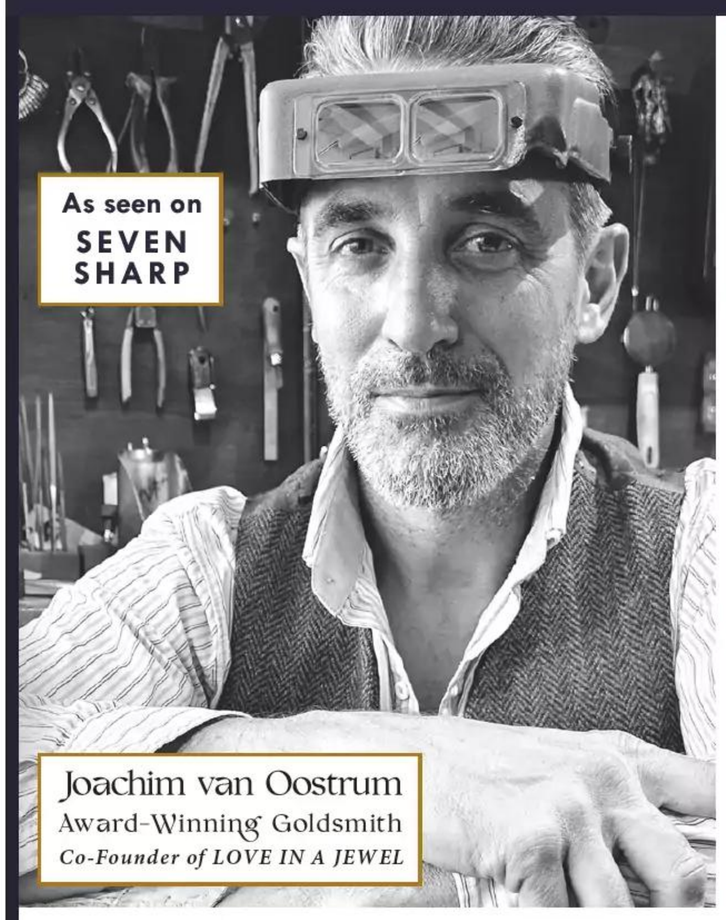

Scan the QR code to shop the Ninja Combi 14-in-1 multicooker.



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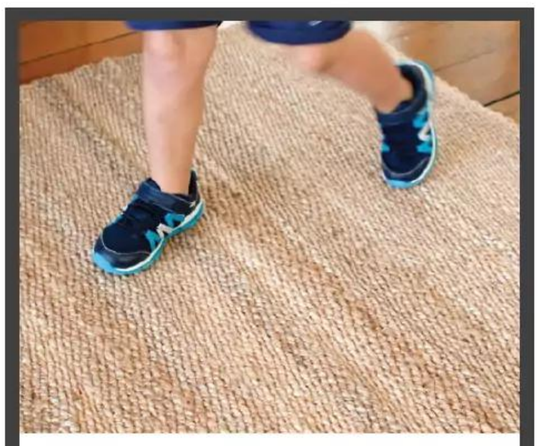



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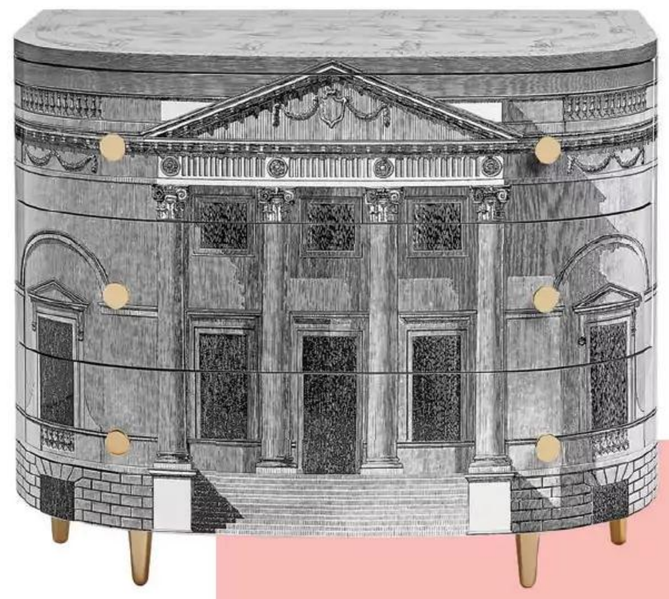
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**ART & FUNCTION**
Fornasetti was founded in Milan in 1940 by Piero Fornasetti (left), which is now managed by his son Barnaba. He created more than 13,000 products, including his Lina Cavalieri plates (left) and the Architettura Celeste cabinet (below)



DESIGN CLASSIC

# *A brief history of the...* Fornasetti plate

## They're black and white and hung on walls across the world

**Who created them?** Milanese artist and designer Piero Fornasetti, born in 1913. In his lifetime, he created more than 13,000 works – not all plates, either.

**Who's the woman on all the plates?** That would be Lina Cavalieri. She was a Roman-born opera singer during the Belle Epoque and was considered "the most beautiful woman in the world". In 1952, Fornasetti was flipping through an early 19th-century magazine and was taken with a photograph of her.

**So he just started drawing her all over plates, did he?** Well, yes, but by the time Lina came along, he'd already turned his back on the family's import business to pursue an artist's life and studied engraving and printing techniques. In fact, before Lina, he'd been successfully collaborating with architect and furniture designer Gio Ponti, illustrating Ponti's furniture with trompe l'oeil. It's the Architetettura series.

**Trompe what?** That's the term for creating three-dimensional space and objects on a two-dimensional surface. The illustrations were typically black and white neoclassical structures.

**So Lina came along and...** The rest is history. In the 1980s, his son Barnaba re-established the company, reissuing his father's designs as well as introducing new ones. That's why you've got Lina in balaclavas for starters (and around 350 more Lina plates) and why you can get wallpapers (some with monkeys and keys hidden in foliage), lamps, tea services, cushions, candles, wastepaper baskets, umbrella stands – you name it.

**Where can I get the Lina plates?** Design 55 in Wellington.



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