

WINTER DREAMING

PERFECTLY PLACED COLOUR, WARM TEXTURES AND SUN-LIT SPACES MAKE THIS BEAUTIFUL FAMILY HOME IN MELBOURNE'S SOUTH-EAST ONE FOR ALL SEASONS

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With the possibility of a pat or, better still, an outing to the park, Olive the black Labrador is up, tail wagging hopefully as she lopes to the front door ready to meet and greet family members filing in from school. Meanwhile, the clan's rescue cat The Smoke Dog – “She came with that name,” explains homeowner Wendy – is dozing in a cosy corner, unfussed by the comings and goings of the day. The sun may soon be setting on a chilly Melbourne afternoon, but within the walls of Wendy's home, the vibe is cheery, warm and welcoming. For Wendy, an interior designer seasoned in helping others transform houses into their dream abodes, the fact the home she shares with husband Simon and their three children, Emily, 16, Tom, 15, and Sienna, 13, is the liveliest of hubs is exactly how she likes it.

Just as pleasing to Wendy is that every corner of the Californian bungalow she has made over has been put to space-savvy use, while keeping the family connected. “It's definitely not a massive home and it's not on a huge block,” says Wendy, founder and director of Cranberry Design, “but it has everything we need and space for everyone. The environmental cost of a large home can be extensive – we use every room and that makes me happy.”

Originally hailing from Sydney, Wendy and her family made the move to Melbourne for Simon's work eight years ago. After renting nearby for 18 months, they took the plunge and bought their current home, which was in need of some love. “Actually, it was pretty

horrible,” recalls Wendy. “The front garden was completely overgrown, with a rickety wooden bridge to take you over a fishpond from the front gate to the front door. Inside, everything was apricot.”

Initially, they revamped the bedrooms at the front (now the children's rooms) and then worked on a more extensive reno two years ago. The core living zone at the rear was extended to house a stunning new kitchen, butler's pantry, and multipurpose laundry and mudroom, complete with wine store. And, cocooned by greenery and overlooking the sun-soaked courtyard, this is also where Wendy and Simon's tranquil new sleeping quarters reside. “We really wanted our bedroom to feel like a retreat,” says Wendy.

While inspiration came easily to Wendy, the decision-making process proved surprisingly more challenging. “Being the person to bounce ideas off is an important part of being an interior designer – listening to what a client wants and then helping them to make their own decisions,” she reflects. “But in my case, I was the one making the final decisions. Then there's the fact that I see so many beautiful things. You can almost have too much choice, but it was a great learning experience.”

The result is an undeniably joyful home awash with texture, contrast and, above all, colour. “An all-white house suits some people, but I like vibrancy,” says Wendy. “Colour makes me happy.” And it seems, the family may well be here to stay. “I always love a new project,” concedes Wendy, smiling, “but we have everything we want here, including a lovely sense of community. I don't think they'd ever be a reason to leave.”



LUXE LAYERS Snuggling up on a frosty Melbourne day is a delight in the home of interior designer Wendy, husband Simon and their three children, Emily, Tom and Sienna. In the cosy living room (below), layers of colour and texture draw the family together. Sitting atop a Hali rug is one of Wendy's favourite pieces she spotted at an auction house – a “really cool” vintage Italian coffee table with concealed storage compartments. “I had to have it when I saw it,” she says, pictured opposite in her chic kitchen. Taking its colour cues from the room's decor is the Spacecraft Australia backing cloth painting. “I love all the cool blue tones in this piece,” explains Wendy. “They're definitely my colours.” The white ‘Rainbow’ sculptures are by Kaz Morton Ceramics. >

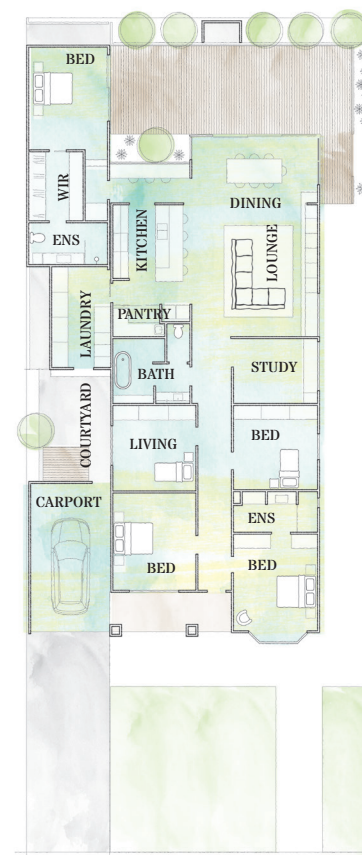




WE LOVE... *moody moments*

From the replica 'Gras N214' Industrial Wall Lamp from Lucretia Lighting to the 'Ercol' bar stools found at Temperature Design and the duo of Brightgreen 'D900 Can' lights, Wendy pays homage to her enduring love affair with inky hues in the home's sophisticated, yet family-friendly kitchen. Juxtaposed against the sleek black accents, an Icon pull-out mixer from Astra Walker in Iron Bronze provides a welcome pop of bling. Visit astrawalker.com.au.

FLOOR PLAN



KITCHEN The sea of Black Japan-stained American oak cabinetry makes a dramatic statement in the kitchen (opposite), while offering a plethora of concealed storage options. "People are afraid that darker colours close in a space, but I think the opposite is true," says Wendy. "To me, these tones make the walls recede and the room feel larger." For Wendy, there was no contest when it came to opting for natural stone benchtops - she selected a honed Carrara marble - over its reconstituted counterparts. "When we first put it in, my then 12-year-old decided to make lemonade using real lemons on the bench, but I now look at the marks and am reminded of her - and I love that," says Wendy. Solid oak chevron flooring from Hazelwood & Hill grounds the kitchen and the adjoining living spaces.

DINING ROOM Illuminated by a show-stopping replica Flos 'Aim 3' pendant from Lucretia Lighting, the river red gum timber dining table (top right) was custom-made by Wendy's very handy husband Simon. "It's a beautiful, very organic table," says Wendy. "I could never part with it." The Philippe Starck Louis XV-style 'Ghost' chairs are from Space Furniture, while the 'Taj' geometric bone inlay side table was sourced from Globe West. On the wall above, a framed image of a large rock at Bondi Beach by an unknown photographer lends a sense of drama.

WINDOW SEAT Now this nook (right) is what we call an inviting spot in which to take time out! Offering northern rays, a lush outlook and plenty of room to stretch the legs on a soft sheepskin, it's little wonder this window seat by the living space is Sienna, Olive the Lab and The Smoke Dog's happy place. In the foreground, a large floor lamp from Beacon Lighting provides illumination when the sun goes down. >

ILLUSTRATION KENZIEDSIGN.COM





DECK Capturing the afternoon sun, the revamped courtyard – decked out with a durable Globe West coffee table and sofas layered with Bonnie And Neil cushions from Turner And Lane – has done wonders in expanding the living space (below). A fireplace ensures the outdoor room is enjoyed year-round, while the crisp white stackable ‘Skarpo’ garden chairs from Ikea were budget-friendly finds and are “surprisingly comfy,” says Wendy.



“I LOVE NOT HAVING ANY OF THE
DOWNLIGHTS ON, JUST MOOD LIGHTING
THROUGH LAMPS AND PENDANTS”

~ WENDY

MAIN BEDROOM In Wendy and Simon’s bedroom, which looks out to the deck (opposite), pretty pastel shades abound, enlivened by a little leopard print double-sided throw from the Society Of Wanderers. “I really wanted our bedroom to feel like we’re on holidays,” explains Wendy, smiling. The Tolomeo wall lights from Artemide have been paired with custom shades by Cranberry Design. The distinctive tongue and groove wall panelling – try Easycraft for similar – is dressed in Dulux Brume. >



“NAVY IS A REALLY
PRACTICAL WALL
COLOUR, AS IT DOESN'T
SHOW MANY MARKS”

~ WENDY



BATHING BEAUTY

“We wanted to include both a powder room and a family bathroom in the one space to save room,” says Wendy. “This was the solution – a bathroom tucked away behind the powder room (below). It works really well.” Subway tiles from National Tiles form a gleaming splashback in the guest’s domain, where the Ross Didier brass ‘Acorn’ pendant from Tongue And Groove ties in a treat with the Astra Walker Icon+ mixer and wall spout in Eco Brass. Lining the walls of the bathing area are glazed white mosaic ‘Star’ tiles from Academy Tiles, teamed with navy grout to make a stylish yet playful statement. >

SIENNA'S BEDROOM What's not to love about Sienna's gorgeous room (above)? From the feature wall in Porter's Paints Priscilla to the Pantone chair, 'Sweet Cheeks' print by Madeleine Stamer, pendant in Unique Fabrics 'Saline' and Roman blind in Unique Fabrics 'Lata', this is a work, rest and play zone that pays homage to all things perfectly-pink. “Sienna chose the colour,” says Wendy. “It's such a bright and fun room.” The double-sided quilt is by Society Of Wanderers.

ENSUITE The couple's pamper zone (top right) is another high-on-style space in the home, this time showcasing rich navy colour punches. Wendy says the Arte Pura 'Trame Baltico' tiles from Refin encasing the walls and floor – tempered by feature Rombini tiles in Light Blue by Mutina Carre Tiles – appear to be “inspired by a pair of denim jeans”.

HALLWAY “Paint's the best thing, as it is so easy to update,” remarks Wendy, adding, “We've changed the colour of the hallway four times already.” Now a standout in Dulux Sharp Blue – acting as a striking foil to the crisp Dulux Lexicon Quarter of the ceilings, trims and bespoke barn doors – it is one of Wendy's favourite design elements. Hero pieces in the entryway are the oversized ceiling pendants from La Maison.





LAUNDRY

This is a space that works triple time – not only is it the laundry offering plentiful storage, thanks to a masterful mix of cabinets in Polytec Stone Grey and American oak joinery stained in Black Japan, it also acts as a mudroom and one fabulously expansive cellar. “We’re not the tidiest of people, so lots of storage with space for everything is fantastic,” says Wendy.

CONTACTS

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MODERN GLAMOUR



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INSIDE STORY WENDY & SIMON'S HOME

Who lives here?

Wendy, founder and director of Cranberry Design; her husband Simon, a project manager with an energy company; their children Emily, 16, Tom, 15, and Sienna, 13; plus Olive the black Labrador and cat The Smoke Dog.

What are your favourite colours in the home?

Wendy: “Blue and green – all the lovely cool colours.”

Best tip to bringing colour into a home?

“If you’re a little nervous, start with the walls or soft furnishings as they’re fairly easy to change.”

All-time best decorating tip?

“Live among what makes you feel good and what makes you happy, whatever that may be. If you like the colour apricot, make it work!”



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1. The sumptuous freestanding Kaldewei ‘Centro Duo’ oval bath in the family bathroom.
2. Interior designer Wendy in the light-filled living room.
3. The denim-look ‘Trame Baltico’ tiles in Wendy and Simon’s ensuite.
4. Form perfectly meets function in the new kitchen.
5. Storage heaven in the mudroom-laundry with American oak cabinetry stained in Black Japan.
6. The colour-drenched Spacecraft Australia artwork.
7. The iconic Philippe Starck Louis XV-style ‘Ghost’ chair.

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



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