

HOLIDAY INSPIRATIONS

As one third of **Three Birds Renovations** – the Sydney trio shaking up the renovation scene – Lana Taylor knows how to transform a house. Here, she shows us her own home makeover

KITCHEN

△ **Hub of the home** Lana, at right, and her fellow Birds Erin and Bonnie are thrilled to have completed another great renovation. To keep the look light and bright, Lana's kitchen features a huge island bench in Caesarstone Calacatta Nuvo and cabinetry in Dulux Lexicon Half by Carrera By Design. Lana and Erin wear dresses from We Are Kindred and Bonnie wears a dress from Lee Mathews.

OUTDOOR

▽ **Decked out** Outside, the HardieDeck terrace was finished in Dulux Casper White Quarter for a fresh Mediterranean vibe.

text sarah tarca | photography maree homer | styling kristin rawson

BEFORE

AT A GLANCE

Homeowners Lana Taylor, her husband Jason, their children Ruby, 9, Heath, 7, and Sunshine, their Eclectus parrot.
Style of house Mediterranean whitewash **Reno timeframe** Seven months
Design Three Birds Renovations. threebirdsrenovations.com
Builder Accord Construction Group. accordconstructions.com.au →

LIVING



I wanted to feel like we were living in a holiday home – like we were on holidays every day.



▽ **Floor work** Lana loves her sofa and rug from Bo Concept. “The rug looks like the ocean and has so many different colours depending on the angle. Bonnie chose it, because she wanted to bring colour to the space in a muted way, and I just trusted her completely,” she says.



ENTRANCE



MUDROOM



△ **Welcome home** “I love that the front-door frame was an original feature in the house. In fact, I asked our social media audience during the reno if I should keep it and everyone said ‘definitely!’,” Lana says. The beautiful Pearl White flooring by Woodcut features throughout the home. **In the mud room** “The timber doors were \$40 each on eBay. We got the painter to rub the timber with a rag of white paint so they had a weathered look, which I think adds a lovely warmth,” Lana says. The Luxaflex shutters add to the holiday vibe.

LANA TAYLOR IS NOT GREEK, nor has she ever visited Greece, but that didn’t stop her renovating her home in a Modern Mediterranean style – inspired by the Cyclades Islands of Santorini and Mykonos. “You don’t need to have been there to be inspired by a place or location,” she says. “there was enough inspiration on the internet from people that had been for me to know how it made me feel – and that I loved it.” **HONED STYLE** Lana and her husband Jason have been living in their Northbridge home on Sydney’s North Shore for 15 years and had been wanting to renovate well before she started Three Birds. The problem was, like many of us, she didn’t know what she wanted. “Before we started [Three Birds] I had no sense of personal style. Nothing around my house matched and everything looked ridiculous. My home didn’t reflect who I was.” But, multiple renovations later, and with the help of business partners Bonnie and Erin, things became a little clearer. “After our third house a light bulb went off. I looked at the style of house I was living in, realised it was Mediterranean, and more so that I absolutely loved the pink bougainvillea at the front. It dawned on me that it had to be a Mediterranean transformation to a modern form.” And so began the renovation of Lana’s forever home in a whirlwind transformation. →



DETAIL



KID'S
BEDROOM



MASTER
BEDROOM



Suite dreams

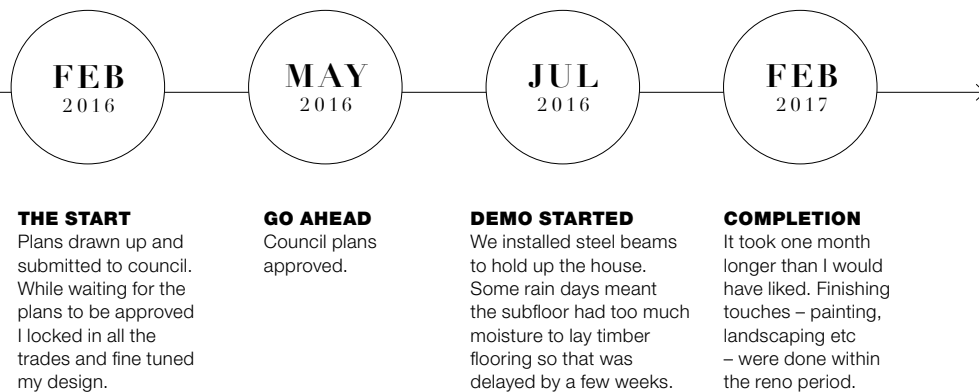
"The feeling we wanted in our room was very much the resort/relaxed vibe. I wanted to feel at the end of the day that we were going to bed in a resort. Our bed is from Gallery Homewares, and the print is from Oz Design." →



Floral detail "The image of the bougainvillea was a photo taken by a friend of mine," Lana says. "The console is from Oz Design, and the clam shell is from Freedom. I found the jug in my backyard and painted it!"

Muted magic Each of the bedrooms features a white base palette, accented with a subdued hue, like this pink. The bedside table, pendant, macramé cushion and Euro pillow covers are from Freedom. Throw and pink linen from I Love Linen.

TIMELINE LANA'S TIME PLAN



BATHROOM

“I just love hanging plants – I think they bring a beautiful energy and freshness to a room.”

Work hub Lana installed an office nook off the kitchen, which is great for doing paperwork. The chairs are from Oz Design Furniture and the shell wall hanging is from Lived In Coogee.

OFFICE NOOK

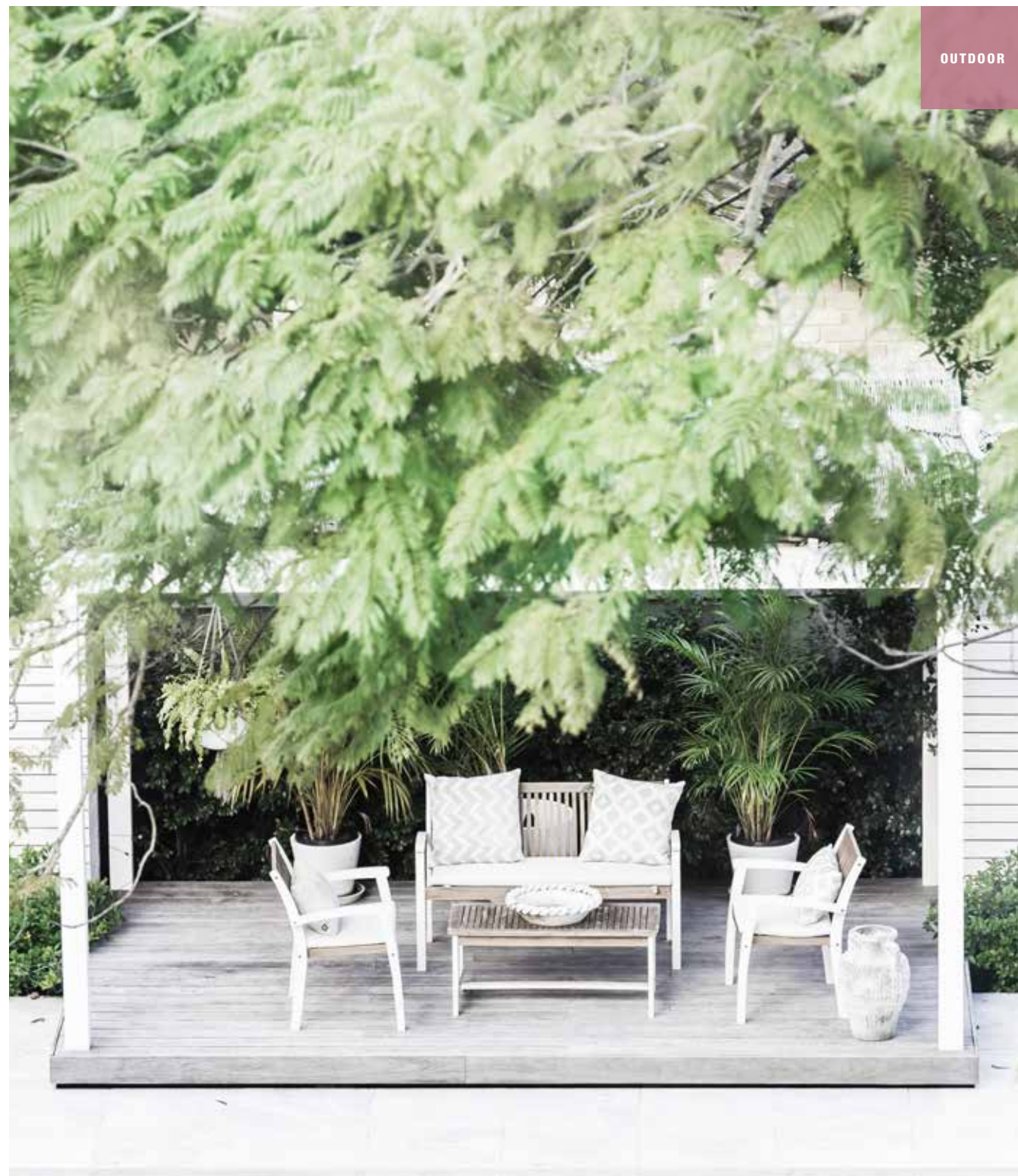
SAGE ADVICE Lana has learned from her previous renovations that tradespeople have seen thousands of houses, and witnessed what works and what doesn't – so, their feedback can be gold. “I didn't plan to extend the house, but when I got an air-conditioning quote, the tradesman asked if I was considering it,” Lana says. “He said I was crazy not to spend the extra money to extend in terms of the value it would add to my life, and the home. He could immediately see what I couldn't – that the living space needed to be larger,” she adds. “I may have done five houses, but he'd seen hundreds of houses in the area. After he put the idea in my head I realised he was right, so I actioned it.” It pays to listen to the experts.

FOREVER HOME While the living room was extended, the bedrooms were reduced. After all, this is Lana's forever home, so she wanted to customise it to suit her family, not what someone else might like. “We have two kids, we're not having any more and we don't love having house guests – so we didn't need a guest room collecting dust and taking up valuable floor space,” Lana says. “We made the conscious choice to only have three bedrooms, instead of the four we originally had. We used the other space for more practical elements in the house like my beautiful open-plan office.”

KEEPING IT REAL When it came to the finer details of the renovation, Lana turned to her friends for inspiration – and a reality check! “I had my heart set on floor-to-ceiling mirrors in my room, as I thought it would open up the space and bring the outdoors in. I was so set on it that Bonnie had to stage an intervention! She said it was too modern and flashy and didn't suit the Mediterranean look. I was so annoyed at the time, but I knew that it didn't suit what I was trying to achieve so I had to let it go. Now, I have a pure white wall with a beautiful piece of art on it and it's just perfection.”

BATHROOM

Grand scale “These tiles are all individual – they don't come on a mat or anything. We created a random pattern and got our tiler to replicate it,” Lana says. The shower tapware and bath (opposite) are all from Caroma. →



OUTDOOR



BEFORE



COLOURS & FINISHES
 FROM LEFT Turquoise Fishscale **tiles**, from, Amber Tiles.
 Dulux Wash&Wear **paint** in Lexicon Half, \$71.90 for 4L. Polished
benchtop in Calacatta Nuvo, \$1200 a sq m (installed), Caesarstone.



BREAKFAST
BAR

case study.



Go with the flow

"The indoor/outdoor feel was non negotiable – we've had it in all our houses. It's one of my favourite places in the house. I love to sit here and look into the kitchen, into the staircase, everywhere," Lana says.

For lazy days Lana sourced the table and chairs by the pool from eBay and decorated them with cushions from the Grace Garrett Modern Mediterranean collection.

BEFORE

