

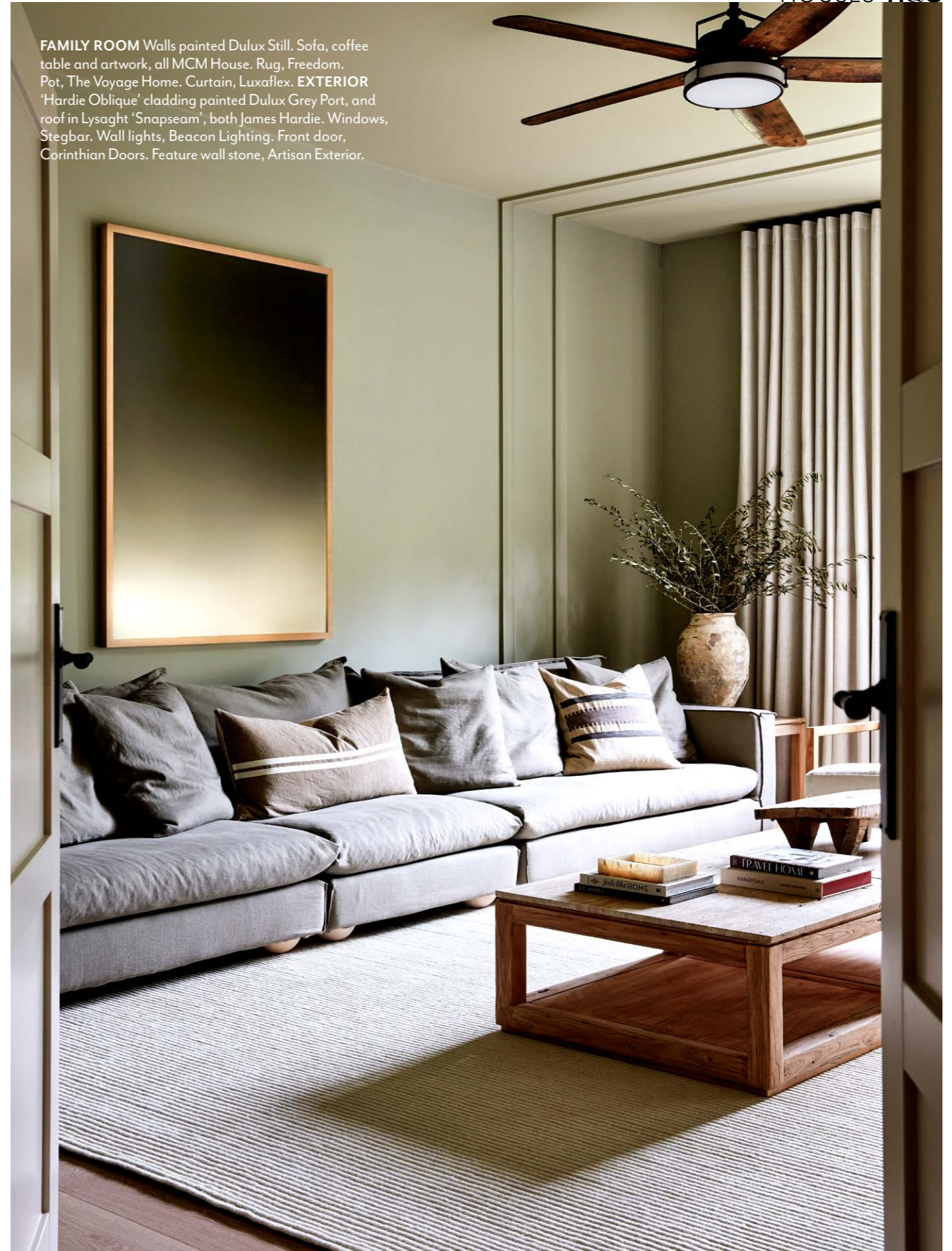


COUNTRY club

Rural charm meets city sophistication in this vast family home transformed into a dream urban farmhouse by Three Birds Renovations for one of their own.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Chris Warnes, Maree Homer & Kristian Beck*

Exterior photograph by Chris Warnes. Family room photograph by Maree Homer.



FAMILY ROOM Walls painted Dulux Still. Sofa, coffee table and artwork, all MCM House. Rug, Freedom. Pot, The Voyage Home. Curtain, Luxaflex. **EXTERIOR** 'Hardie Oblique' cladding painted Dulux Grey Port, and roof in Lysaght 'Snapseam', both James Hardie. Windows, Stegbar. Wall lights, Beacon Lighting. Front door, Corinthian Doors. Feature wall stone, Artisan Exterior.

STUDY Walls painted Dulux Still. 'Amore' pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Table and rug, both Freedom. Chair, tumbler and dish, all Black Salt Co. Stool, Clo Studios. Tray, MCM House. Basket, Alba Atelier. Bowl, stylist's own. Floors in Smokey Ash, Woodcut. **LIVING** 'Calcario' linear stone wall, Artisan Exterior. Arabescato Borghini shelf, Talostone. Sofa, chairs, side table and vase, all Freedom. Coffee table and vessel, both Clo Studios. Rug, Miss Amara. Lamp, MCM House. Bowl, The Foundry. Artwork by Louisa Shield. Fireplace, Lopi.



Study photograph by Chris Warnes. Living room photograph by Maree Homer.

Makeover maven Erin Cayless of Three Birds Renovations takes the trickiest projects in her stride. When she and husband Nathan first saw this home in Sydney's North West, she knew it was "the one" for their family before walking in the door. "We were confident from the photos that we'd be able to renovate it," says Erin. "The land drew us in and, when we saw the pool, cabana, mature gardens and tennis court, we knew it would be perfect for our family." That family includes children, Mia, now 18, Eddy, 16, Marli, 14, and schnoodle, Honey. Stepping inside seemed a mere formality. After taking in the open plan, vaulted ceilings, conservatory-style kitchen and the general "good bones", the couple signed on the dotted line in 48 hours. Erin knew those bones would provide the vertebrae for her vision of an "urban farmhouse". Forget any plaid or frills. "The look combines the classic charm of a farmhouse with a stylish, modern, urban edge," she says.

But the brick exterior with terracotta roof was a world away from that vision. First up, she and her friends/business partners Bonnie Hindmarsh and Lana Taylor transformed the outside, in their largest exterior makeover to date. Steel roofing gives a rural feel but its ribbed profile and deep grey hue lend an urban twist, neatly encapsulating the look Erin was after.

"One of the biggest transformations on the facade was the roof, of which this house has a lot. Because we're [positioned] lower than the road, you can see almost every inch," she says. "Changing the colour and textures of the facade using stone and timber-style cladding, as well as the new black-framed doors and windows also brought the facade to life."

Because Erin loves entertaining, generous indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces, with an effortless flow between the two, also topped her shopping list. "The existing porch was too small, so we extended it to create a huge 12m by 5.5m covered alfresco area with a barbecue and its own kitchen, one of the major design and structural elements," says Erin. Running along the northern side of the house, it provides a seamless connection to what drew her to the property - pool, cabana and tennis court. The huge open plan runs parallel to this, with a light and airy kitchen at the far end.

That enlarged patio freed up the opposite side of the ground floor, wasted as a second living area on a split level, for a much larger foyer, guest bedroom with ensuite (making five bedrooms all up) and that family must-have, a mudroom.

Meanwhile, on the first floor, Erin sacrificed a study to accommodate a second walk-in for her and Nathan, while a small bedroom became a family bathroom, shared by the two younger children, while Mia now has her own ensuite. ▶



THE PALETTE

Dulux Still (family room, atrium and study walls)

Dulux Grey Port (exterior cladding)

Dulux Buff It Half (interior walls and ceilings)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow. Portrait photograph by Maree Homer. Kitchen photography by Chris Warnes.



KITCHEN Three Birds Renovations team Bonnie Hindmarsh, Lana Taylor and Erin Cayless, who is also the owner of this home. Walls painted Dulux Buff It Half. Joinery in Polytec 'Woodmatt' veneer in Nordic Oak, Carrera By Design. Benchtops and splashback in Arabescato Borghini, Talostone. Pendant light, MCM House. Stools, Satara. Franke 'Olten' mixer, Reece. Rangehood and cooker, Ilve. Terracotta vase, chopping board, and mortar and pestle, all The Voyage Home. 'Manhattan Bhat' bifold doors, Corinthian Doors. Floorboards in Smokey Ash, Woodcut. **DINING** Dining chairs and table, all MCM House. Vases, The Foundry. Shelf and brackets, The Society Inc. Bench seat joinery by Carrera By Design, with bench seat cushions covered in The Society Inc 'Riviera' fabric, with inserts from The Foam Booth. White pedestal dish, Haveli & Co.

“After years of planning and dreaming, our family home has finally come to life. It is beyond what I thought it could be.”

ERIN CAYLESS, OWNER

For neat freaks, there’s no lack of storage. “The home has ample in every room, under all built-in bench seats [most of which sit below the windows], under the stairs, three linen closets and a lined attic that you can stand up in,” says Erin. “The laundry joinery [reaching] to the ceiling makes the most of every inch.”

In a dramatic departure from the Three Birds’ signature white, Erin used rich greens and blues to create classic charm for her home. Again, in keeping with the farmhouse vision, she introduced texture through engineered-timber flooring, boucle carpets, panelled joinery and a stacked-stone fireplace.

“We also added texture through the furniture, with the sofas a good example,” she says. In the open plan, a stunning curved boucle sofa gives the illusion of more space while defining the living area. “We needed a sofa comfy enough to lounge on while not dominating this space,” she says. In the family room, an over-sized modular, in a “most gorgeous green” washed linen, fits the whole family in one sitting.

Now, the rather prosaically named ‘House 16’ in the Three Birds’ portfolio has become a showpiece for their work. But, more than that, it’s a functional yet stylish family retreat.

“After many years of planning and dreaming, our family home has finally come to life,” says Erin, proudly surveying her handiwork. “It is beyond what I thought it could be.” ▶

Three Birds Renovations: threebirdsrenovations.com.

KITCHEN Joinery in Polytec ‘Woodmatt’ veneer in Nordic Oak, Carrera By Design. Benchtops and splashback in Arabescato Borghini, Talostone. Pendant light, MCM House. Stools, Satara. Franke ‘Olten’ mixer, Reece. Rangehood and cooker, Ilve. Terracotta vase, chopping board, and mortar and pestle, all The Voyage Home. *Vessels & Vases 3* artwork by Brigitte Grant, Merci Maison. White pedestal dish, Haveli & Co. **BUTLER’S PANTRY** Milli ‘Voir’ mixer, and Memo ‘Harper’ sink, both Reece. Hardware, Lo & Co. *Summer Sipper* by Vynka Hallam.

Photograph by Chris Warnes.

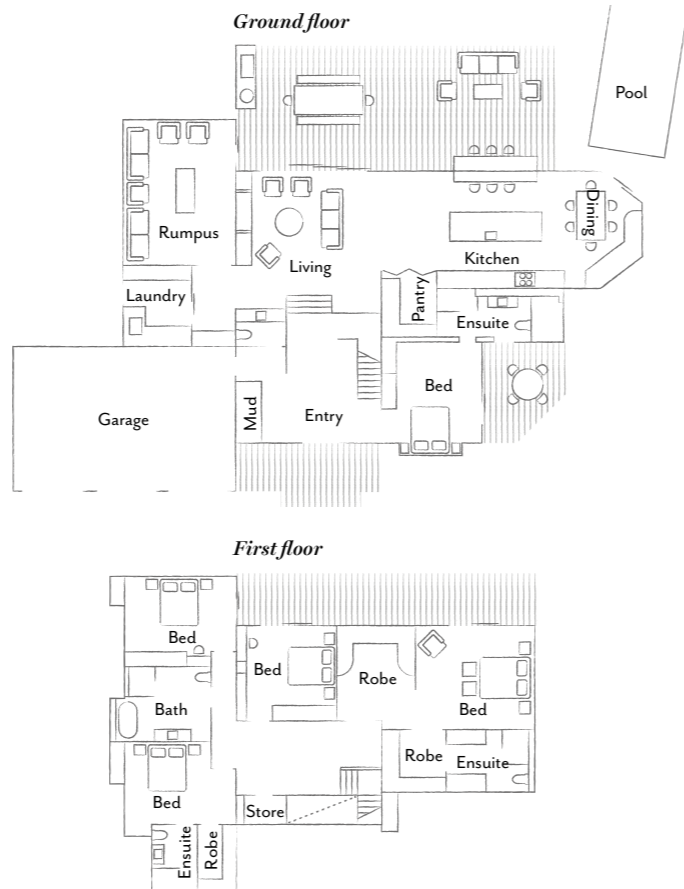


MAIN BATHROOM Issy 'Cloud' vanity in Limed Oak and benchtop in Glacier White, Kado 'Lussi' bath, and Sussex 'Scala' tapware, all Reece. 'Newport' wall tiles and 'Byron' floor tiles, TileCloud. 'Alumiere' window, Stegbar. 'Tonk' stool, MCM House. **COURTYARD** *Opposite, top left* 'Hardie Oblique' cladding painted Dulux Grey Port, and roof in Lysaght 'Snapseam' in Basalt, both James Hardie. Table, stools, planter, bowl and plates, all Freedom. 'Kahvi' limestone pavers, Artisan Exterior. **LAUNDRY** *Opposite, top right* Walls and Corinthian Doors 'Moda' barn door painted Dulux Buff It Half. Joinery painted Dulux Still, Carrera By Design. Benchtop in Arabescato Borghini, Talostone. Milli 'Voir' mixer, and Memo 'Harper' sink, both Reece. Hardware, Lo & Co. Floor in 'Dunmore' stone-look tiles in Charcoal and 'Arrawarra' calacatta-look tiles in Cream, both TileCloud. Pot, The Voyage Home. **Hendricks** artwork by Vynka Hallam. **STUDY** *Opposite, bottom left* Walls and joinery painted Dulux Still. Table and rug, both Freedom. Tumbler and dish, both Black Salt Co. Tray, MCM House. Basket, Alba Atelier. Floors in Smokey Ash, Woodcut. Hardware, Lo & Co. 'Contemporary Lever Assembly' door handles, Domino.



Photography by Chris Warnes.

THE LAYOUT



THIS IS THE LIFE

The family spends most of their time in the open-plan kitchen and the covered, all-weather patio beyond. "The open entertaining spaces are as functional for everyday family life as they are for entertaining many guests," says Erin. She and Nathan recently hosted Mia's 18th birthday in the new home, with 100 guests mingling in the alfresco area and spilling out onto the generous lawns.



MAIN BEDROOM Walls painted Dulux Buff It. Window, Stegbar. Bed, side table, lamp, linen and artwork, all MCM House. Occasional chairs, Clo Studios. **ROBE** Below Erin and Nathan have their own walk-in robes each side of the bedroom entry. Joinery in Polytec Soft Walnut and Laminex Clay Textile, Carrera By Design. Oval mirror, MCM House. 'Helios' wall mirror, Freedom. 'Mickey' chair, Alba Atelier. *On bench* Onyx mini bowl, Black Salt Co. Candleholder and, *on shelves* 'Anais' pot, both Haveli & Co. Candle, Ecoya. Small tray, Fleur Studios. **DAUGHTER'S ROOM** *Opposite* Joinery in Polytec Soft Walnut, Carrera By Design. Mirror and chair, Alba Atelier. Vessels and faux flowers, all Freedom. 'Bouclé' carpet in Ovie, EC Carpets.



Photography by Kristian Beek (this page) and Chris Warnes (opposite).



POOL AREA 'Athena' garden chair, Alba Atelier. 'Edwin' side table, Freedom. 'Stripey Goodness' outdoor cushions, Onyx & Smoke. 'Old Elm' tray, MCM House. 'Kahvi' limestone pavers, and 'Fragment' Spanish glass pool tiles, all Artisan Exterior.



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THE SOURCE

Create a memorable yet calming atmosphere blending sweet patterns with shades of cream, peach and green.



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Produced by Andrea Healy. Pool photograph by Chris Warnes (opposite).

1 'Santi' linen outdoor **cushion** in Off White/Nutmeg Stripe, \$109, Eadie Lifestyle. 2 'Monni' **floor lamp**, \$1040, MCM House. 3 'Mikaela' abstract cotton washable **rug** (230x160cm), \$399, Miss Amara. 4 'Fraser' collection of timber furniture in Australian Wormy Chestnut, Oz Design Furniture. 5 **Vessels & Vases 2 artwork** by Brigitte Grant, \$1030, Merci Maison. 6 'Everest' cone **pendant light** in White, \$249, Beacon Lighting. 7 'Academy' five-piece **flatware setting** in Gold, \$185, Ralph Lauren Home. 8 'Toby' **bar stool**, \$468, Satara. 9 Hay check **bath towel** in Cappuccino (100x50cm), \$57, Smallable. 10 'Ramba' **daybed chaise**, \$7499, Domayne. H&G