

As part of the Three Birds Renovations team, Lana Taylor is known for creating whitewashed, swoon-worthy houses. Her own forever home lives up to the hype

DREAM

WEAVER

Lana Taylor can see her whole life play out from the glass-encased stairwell that laces through her three-level home. "Or at least until we're too old to climb the steps," she says. The next few dozen Christmases and birthdays will be staged here, set against the haze of sunlight, crisp white and pops of green. Her kids, Ruby, 11, and Heath, nine, will spend their teens by the pool, and husband Jason will ease into retirement (from a celebrated rugby league career), floating between Greek Islands-inspired indoor and outdoor spaces. Up in the sunlit home office at the top of the stairwell, Lana will spend much of the foreseeable future growing the renovating business she runs with her two best friends into an empire.

The house is the sixth of 11 renovating projects that Lana, Erin Cayless and Bonnie Hindmarsh have

Minimalist and maximalist all at once, Lana Taylor has filled her all-white home with theatrics thanks to a glass-encased stairwell and void with a striking pendant light suspended from two storeys up.





The living space and resort-like deck channel Santorini vibes, thanks to the bi-fold doors and lashings of white paint. **BELOW** The outdoor area is the perfect place for the family to interact and entertain.



THE DESIGN PROCESS GAINED MOMENTUM WHEN THEY TUNED IN TO THE HOME'S EURO-VILLA VIBES AND HOT-PINK BOUGAINVILLEA

LEFT You'll be forgiven for thinking you're on a European holiday while relaxing in the Mediterranean-inspired outdoor area. **BELOW** Lana dedicated one of the best spots in the house to her home office.

quit their jobs to buy, renovate and sell houses, Three Birds Renovations has matured into a 360-degree design platform, including an online renovation school, YouTube channel and a new book. Lana, who previously worked in marketing, says they didn't start out planning to disrupt the renovating world, "but there was serious support for what we were doing and it grew from there".

By the time the Sydney real estate bubble had begun to deflate, Three Birds had moved on from flipping business to creating long-term homes for clients and themselves. "That was the aha moment," Lana says. The shift spoke to a legion of renovation fangirls, engaging more than 365,000 Instagram devotees.

So far, the ultimate compliment has come from the pizza delivery guy. "He rocked up, took one look and said the house looked like Greece," recalls Lana. "That's when I knew we nailed it – he knew exactly what was on my vision board from the very start."

tackled as Three Birds Renovations. Lana – their "most demanding client to date" – says finding a way forward was tricky. But the design process gained momentum when they tuned in to the home's Euro- villa vibes and hot-pink bougainvillea. The floor plan came together when they decided to dedicate each of the three levels to a key scenario: "kids' world" on the middle floor, "adult world" on top and a "together space" downstairs, where the kitchen spills out to a living area and outdoor entertaining zone.

On Sydney's lower North Shore, the home's transition from '80s terracotta-coloured Tuscan pastiche to white-on-white Mediterranean dream house took just six months of hard renovating – "plus two years of planning". Inside, major graphic moments, such as the zigzag staircase and pure, minimalist kitchen are offset with warm textures, pearl-white European oak floors and a grooved clad ceiling.

For Lana, it's not just a dream house, but a home in which to live the dream – mixing business with friendship and motherhood from the convenience of her glam study. Since 2014, when the three friends

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Images extracted from *Three Birds Renovations* (Murdoch Books, \$40), out now.