

HEAVEN *sent*

A classic Queenslander in Brisbane is transformed by a first-class design team into a serene family home where football-mad kids and their Labrador have plenty of space to stretch out.

STORY *Hanna Marton* | STYLING *Megan Morton* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Françoise Baudet*



GARDEN An under-utilised backyard was transformed into a party-ready paradise. Exteriors painted Dulux Natural White. SP01 'Eileen' dining table and 'Jeanette' chairs, all Space. BeefEater 'Signature ProLine' barbecue. Megan Morton 'Harvest' terracotta pieces, Artedomus. Pool, Performance Pool & Spa.

EXTERIOR “We try to be sympathetic to the Queensland vernacular and materiality but... in a more contemporary way,” says architect David Hansford. Minimal demolition, a focus on cross ventilation and solar panels made for a more sustainable build. Exteriors painted Dulux Natural White. Grazia & Co ‘Featherston’ chairs upholstered in Unique Fabrics ‘Duke’ velvet in Blush and powder-coated Oxytech Wineberry Gloss. Jordan ‘Lola’ sofa. Armadillo ‘Agra’ rug. **OUTDOOR KITCHEN** David and interior designer Kate Connors reflect on their work on the spotted-gum deck. BeefEater ‘Signature ProLine’ barbecue. **ENTRY** Front door painted Dulux Devoted To You.

Jane and Ben always intended to renovate their century-old Queensland. But it was the arrival of a lively Labrador puppy, who needed fencing in, that finally inspired them to take the plunge. “Poppy is the world’s most expensive dog!” says Jane. “We thought, ‘If we’re doing the earthwork for a fence, we may as well do a pool. And if we’re doing a pool, we should probably do the whole house.’ The project morphed into a full-scale renovation.”

Ben’s mum stumbled across the house in 2009. “We hadn’t started househunting, but it was a deceased estate on a big block,” Jane recalls. “We put in an offer and got it. Back then, buying a property wasn’t the competitive sport that it is now.”

The single-level, three-bedroom cottage on a sloping and under-utilised lot was crying out for a revamp – but life happened.

Ben started his own business and then sons Angus, now 10, and Sam, now eight, came along. The burgeoning family lived in the humble home for more than a decade before green-lighting the reno.

Jane’s requests were simple. “There was no outdoor entertaining space, the backyard wasn’t conducive to kids playing outside. We just wanted to have friends over.” An internal laundry was non-negotiable. “In the old house, I went down the exterior back stairs and into a semi-enclosed laundry to do the washing, often dodging cane toads.”

Known for his sensitive makeovers of Queenslanders, David Hansford of DAH Architecture was engaged in late 2020 to draw up plans – and to nix Jane’s cane-toad woes. His interior design team, including Georgia Cannon, finessed the finishes. Kate Connors of Connors & Co. curated the furniture and decor selection to ▶



make the house feel unequivocally like a home. Kate had styled Jane's parents' home previously. "Mum and I now joke that we can't make any decisions without Kate. 'Would Kate like this? Would Kate like that?'" quips Jane.

David's design for a sprawling family abode came to fruition when architectural builder Charlie Mylne broke ground in 2021. "We raised the original Queenslander and converted it into three kids' bedrooms, a rumpus room, an office, a bathroom and a sunroom," explains David. "Then we linked out to the rear and put the master suite on that upper level. Under the raised Queenslander on the ground level is the double garage, laundry, guest bedroom and storage space, which connects to a new kitchen, living-dining and outdoor living." Charlie completed the build within 15 months, despite significant wet weather.

The back deck offers seamless access to the pool and an expansive lawn. "The boys do a lot of soccer practice in the backyard," says Jane. "Angus also had 12 of his friends camp out there for his birthday recently." An internal courtyard, which abuts the glass link bridging the old and new buildings, offers a quieter spot for repose.

Many original materials and features were retained, and the architecture of the extension remains in keeping with the Queensland vernacular. "It's pretty clear what's old and what's new," says David, "but there's no alien blob on the back." The home now draws in north-easterly breezes, garden views and glimpses of sunlit skies.

Once its white, grey and timber interiors were finished, Kate layered subtle splashes of colour throughout the home. ▶



LIVING/DINING Joinery in Dulux Natural White, Konstruct Interior Solutions. Grazia & Co 'Featherston' blush chairs. Mast 'Arc' table. Jardan 'Murphy' chairs and 'Lola' sofa. Nick Rennie Studio 'Undara' fruit bowl, and Thomas Coward 'Hurlysi' side table, both Arterdomus. Ceramics, Jharoka. *Papier 182* artwork by Jean Paul Mangin, Studio Gallery. Fomu 'L'Art de Vivre' timber stool. *The Days Warmth 2* artwork by Leah Thiessen, Lethbridge Gallery. Armadillo 'Agra' rug. Oak floors, Awesome Timber Floors. Knoll 'Bertoia Diamond' outdoor chair, Dedec. **WINDOW SEAT** Warwick 'Noyack' seat cushion in Valencia; Inge Holst 'Bonny' cushions in Masala and Salmon, Thimble and Co.





KITCHEN/DINING 2-pac polyurethane joinery in Dulux Whisper White, Konstruct Interior Solutions. Franca Design Nuvato marble splashback and benchtop. Gareth Ashton tapware, Abey. Muuto 'Ambit Rail Lamp' pendant. Grazia & Co 'Diiva' bar stools. V-ZUG ovens, PITT 'Natural Gas Cooktop', and Husky outdoor fridge, all Winning Appliances. Mast 'Arc' table. Jordan 'Murphy' dining chairs. Marsha Golemac 'Spomenik I' vase, and Nick Rennie Studio 'Undara' fruit bowl, both Artedomus. **ENTRY** Door painted Dulux Devoted To You. *Black Gold* artwork by Terri Brooks, Studio Gallery. Fomu 'L'Art de Vivre' lounge chair. Chris Connell 'Skáfos' umbrella stand, Artedomus.



“Jane was quick to tell me about her love of colour (especially pink), pattern and prints.” KATE CONNORS, INTERIOR DESIGNER



MAIN BEDROOM Custom curtains in Gummerson 'Mondo Sheer Oyster', and Quercus & Co. 'Drawing 1' linen cushions in Dulcet Blue, all Thimble and Co. Bedhead upholstered in Quercus & Co. 'Starlit' Belgian bed linen in Moonstone, Bednest. 'Elara 2.0' wall light in White, Caribou. & Tradition 'Flowerpot VP8' bedside wall lamp in Matt White, Cult. Grazia & Co 'Orla' bedside tables. Ceramic vessel, Jharoka. Hycraft 'Carramar 4M' carpet in Dove Grey, Flooring Xtra.

THE PALETTE

Dulux Whisper White (interior)

Dulux Devoted To You (front door)

Dulux Natural White (exterior)

THE LAYOUT



“Jane loves pink, as well as patterns and prints,” she says. “But with two young boys and a puppy, all fabrics and finishes had to be durable.” Kate created a friendly, joyful atmosphere in the selection of furniture and decor while not detracting from the stellar architecture. “It’s a nuanced balancing act!”

Evoking the palette of Leah Thiessen’s vibrant artwork in the living space, Kate ordered custom Grazia & Co armchairs in rosy tones, delightfully complementing an Armadillo rug. Pink candy-striped KLS cushions adorn a boucle Jordan sofa, evoking the aesthetic of “a vanilla cupcake with sprinkles,” according to Kate. Upstairs, Kate erred toward the celestial – “Jane’s very big on stars” – upholstering the main bedhead

in Quercus & Co.’s ‘Starlit’ Belgian linen, which depicts a crane soaring across a starry night sky. “The dreamy and silvery tones inspired an ethereal scheme for the master retreat,” reflects Kate.

While the couple consider this divine Queensland their forever home, first-time renovators Jane and Ben would happily do it again. “We found the whole process fantastic.” But for this summer, at least, the family will be entertaining by the pool and kicking the footy... sans cane toads. ▶

Connors & Co., Brisbane, Qld; 0402 125 560 or connorsandco.co. DAH.Architecture, Ashgrove, Qld; 07 3311 5342 or daharchitecture.com.au. Mylne; Brisbane, Qld; mylne.build.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

THIS IS THE LIFE

This growing family of four can truly spread out in their reimagined Queenslander. "We often say there isn't any part of the house that we don't use," says Jane, who enjoys "the ability to totally open it up and have airflow downstairs. I love that the kids can be upstairs in their own space, but with the voids, I'm still aware of what they're doing. They can't get up to too much!"

UPSTAIRS An oak bridge leads to a parents' retreat. *Dream This Day Away* artwork by Louise Blyton, Studio Gallery. Fomu 'L'Art de Vivre' stool. **BATHROOM** 'Roden Perla' tiles, Earp Bros. Gareth Ashton basin, bath and tapware, Abey. Gioia marble benchtop, Franca Design. Cultiver towel.



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Festive Style

Soft, rosy hues paired with crisp white create a welcoming and fresh palette, elevated with metallic touches.



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Produced by Andrea Healy.

1 'Alfresco' cushion in Italian Clay, \$99.95, Country Road. 2 Studio Contemporary 'Chromatic' hand-knotted wool rug in Rose, POA, Halcyon Lake. 3 'Leo' outdoor dining chair, \$149, Harvey Norman. 4 'Amphora' kettle in Soft Peach, \$238, Royal Design. 5 'Capella' LED wreath, \$679, Papaya. 6 'Aino Aalto' tall tumblers in Linen, \$54.95/two, Iittala. 7 Ligne Roset 'Pukka' medium settee, from \$7325, Domo. 8 'Otis' dining table in Raw Oak Top with Oak Base, \$5869, Jordan. 9 Timber Christmas tree (130x60cm), \$69, Big W. 10 &Tradition 'Flowerpot VP8' wall lamp in Chrome-Plated, \$590, Cult. H&G