

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.



ane and Ben always intended to renovate their century-old Queenslander. 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 nonnegotiable. "In the old house, I went down the exterior back stairs and into a semienclosed 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.

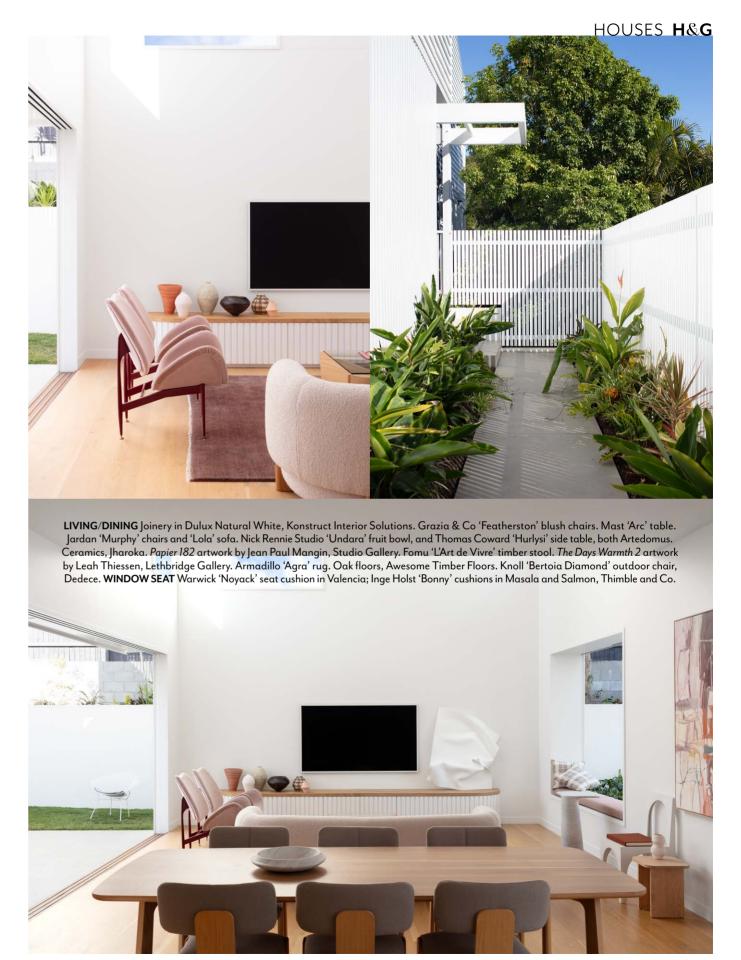
David's design for a sprawling family abode came to fruition when architectural builder Charlie Mylne broke ground in 2021. "We raised the original Queenslander and converted it into three kids' bedrooms, a rumpus room, an office, a bathroom and a sunroom," explains David. "Then we linked out to the 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 northeasterly 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.



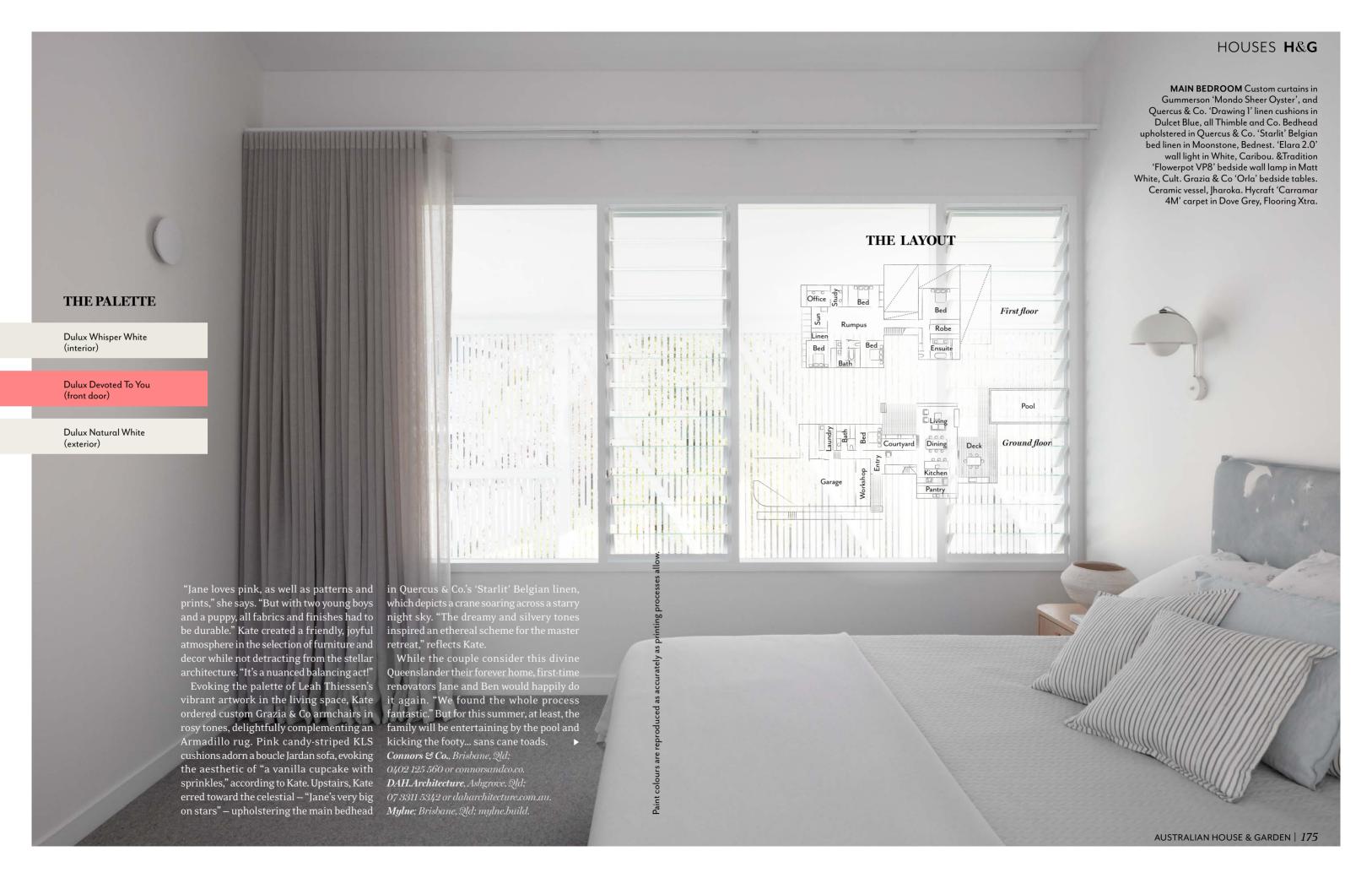


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"Jane was quick to tell me about her love of colour (especially pink), pattern and prints." KATE CONNORS, INTERIOR DESIGNER

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



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, littala. 7 Ligne Roset 'Pukka' medium settee, from \$7325, Domo. 8 'Otis' dining table in Raw Oak Top with Oak Base, \$5869, Jardan. 9 Timber Christmas tree (130x60cm), \$69, Big W. 10 &Tradition 'Flowerpot VP8' wall lamp in Chrome-Plated, \$590, Cult. H&G