

THE ART OF LIVING

Creativity runs in this family – and their renovated Melbourne home. With its breezy layout, soft palette and artistic details, it's a gallery in more ways than one.

PRODUCED BY JUDY OSTERGAARD PHOTOGRAPHY SHANIA SHEGEDYN

Homeowner Jasmin Pugh painted *The Divers*, which hangs over the Pierre & Charlotte Julien sofas in the living area. Bi-fold doors open this room out to an outdoor dining area. The table is set with dinnerware handmade by Jasmin's sister Shelley. For Where To Buy, see page 234.



To an artist, a blank canvas offers infinite possibilities. So when painter Jasmin Pugh first laid eyes on this bayside Melbourne house, she saw an opportunity to shape it into a home that would reflect both the easy-going lifestyle and the creative pursuits of her family.

"I grew up in a very artistic family," says Jasmin, "so I've never had to look too far for design inspiration." Indeed, the house has become something of a showcase for their wealth of talent. The Pugh family's works, from ceramics to paintings, are dotted through the house, complementing Jasmin's own pieces.

But that's not where the creativity ends. Jasmin's partner, Andrew Simon, designed the laser-cut, Arabic-inspired screen doors that feature throughout the two-bedroom, one-bathroom home – in fact, taking on the role of owner-builder allowed Andrew to hone his design skills. "I enjoyed the fact I could style everything to be exactly the way we wanted it," he says.

The renovation involved updating the 1920s brick home by adding an extension which now hosts a living and dining area that opens out via bi-fold doors to a leafy garden filled with tropical plants. A bathroom was added and the existing one replaced with a laundry and toilet.

Outside, a path leading from the front gate to a new door in the kitchen means guests no longer have to traipse through the front of the house to reach the living areas. ▶

DO THE WHITE THING

When Jasmin Pugh was a child, her mother worked as an interior designer. "Whenever a client asked her to advise them on which colour to use in their home she'd inevitably answer, 'white'. Back in the 1970s, that was pretty radical. The first reaction many people had was that white was too confronting and clinical." Today, though, white interiors are almost ubiquitous. "There are so many subtle tonal differences between the white paints on the market. There's a white for everyone," says Jasmin, who adds that white floorboards have proved very practical. "You can't spot the Dalmatian hairs!"

THIS PAGE The living area flows into the kitchen, which features a stainless-steel bench and mahogany-veneer cabinetry. **OPPOSITE** Pablo the Dalmatian stands in the living area, where the floorboards are painted with Porter's Paints Wood Wash. Andrew Simon made the fish vases on the bookshelf. For Where To Buy, see page 234.





THIS PAGE A wooden monkey carved by Maitrevi Ray adorns the kitchen. A Blanco cooktop sits beneath a Qasair rangehood. **OPPOSITE LEFT** The dining table is made with recycled merbau. Painting by Jasmin's mother, Janey Pugh. **OPPOSITE RIGHT** A Richard Dansey bamboo daybed nestles under the eaves. The blue pots were made by Jasmin's father, Michael, and are available from Simon Carpets. For Where To Buy, see page 234.



'There's a lovely sense of space to this house when the bi-fold doors are pushed open. We adore our back garden. The lush plantings make it feel a million miles from the city.' **JASMIN PUGH HOMEOWNER**

◀ "We were both quite definite about what we wanted," says Andrew, who collaborated on the project with Jane McDougall of Alsoan Architecture.

"Jasmin is a Queenslander, so she was keen for the house to have a breezy, almost beachy feel," he adds. "For me, it was about teaming white and wood for an adobe effect, and creating rooms that blend both the classic and the casual."

With the new structure in place, Jasmin and Andrew opted for tall window and door frames, all of which are stained cedar. The house was painted Watty! White throughout and all the floorboards were whitewashed to create a continuity between the old section and the new.

"The painted flooring is so easy to maintain, which is important when you share a house with two children and one Dalmatian," says Jasmin. "It gives a great feeling of lightness to the home and it's like a blank canvas."

Against this crisp white backdrop, the bold colours of Jasmin's paintings add vibrancy to the walls in the open-plan living area and complement the pottery pieces on display.

In cooler months, Jasmin rolls out a series of colourful rugs that Andrew, who owns Simon Carpets, designed for the house. Meanwhile, in summer, the bi-fold doors to the garden are

pushed right open and a table is set under the established quince tree, creating the perfect spot for outdoor dining.

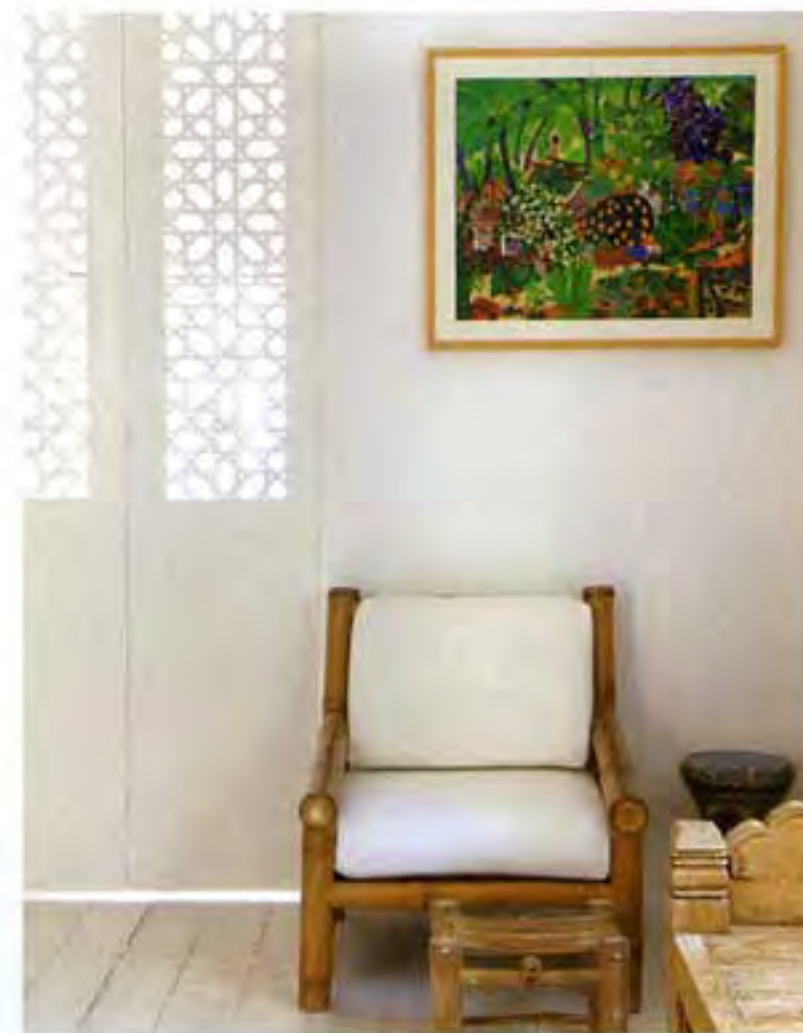
The kitchen was custom-designed by Andrew to have the commercial appeal of a restaurant kitchen. Stainless-steel benchtops and appliances were used to create this effect.

In the original part of the house, the couple created a second, more intimate living space. The walls of this room play host to a series of brightly coloured embroidered paintings which were bought on a holiday in Mexico, and Andrew's Arabic-inspired doors also feature. A large bamboo daybed dominates the room and is a favourite spot for their children, Indigo and Noa, to cuddle up with a book.

"Our daybed is just one of many bamboo pieces we've bought for the house," says Jasmin. "They were all designed by Richard Dansey, an Australian architect who lives in the Philippines. We love the resort feel they lend to the space."

In both the parents' and children's bedrooms, the beds are also made of bamboo and layered with linens in neutrals and whites to further the resort theme.

Adding a touch of the exotic in Jasmin and Andrew's room are Mexican dolls resting on the cushions and a carved antique Buddha sitting by the window. ▶



◀ The bathroom has an understated and simple look. Handmade ceramic tiles complement the generous bath, laboratory-style basin and a vanity that Andrew designed.

"Renovating our home proved to be a great experience for both of us," he says. "We have achieved the resort feel we were after – it has a wonderfully relaxed air. What's more, the house is filled with reminders of our travels."

To this, Jasmin adds: "People who visit our home comment on what a beautiful ambience it has. As an artist, it's fantastic to be soothed and inspired by my own surrounds."

AlsoCan Architecture, Richmond, Victoria; (03) 9421 3433, www.alsocan.com.au.

ABOVE The white quilt in the main bedroom was made by Jasmin's sister Saffron. The Buddha statue was bought in a Brisbane antique store.
OPPOSITE clockwise from top left The children's bedroom has a four-poster bamboo bed with mosquito net; the Arabic-inspired doors in the second living room; a bamboo screen doubles as a towel rail; distressed stone tiles from Aeria Country Floors. For Where To Buy, see page 234.

