

TRANSFORMED SPACES | City terrace house | Beach shack | New build | Warehouse conversion

INSIDE

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

WHAT WE
WANT NOW
A modern
mudroom

BATHROOM FOCUS

Major tile
trends for 2019

**GORGEOUS
DESIGN GALLERY**
Colourful concrete
basins

LAYERED LIVING

DESIGN DETAILS
FOR FAMILIES

TIM ROSS
MY SIXTIES
MOTEL FETISH

**Light-bulb
moment**
Shannon Vos
demystifies
task lighting

*The conversation
pit is back!*

KITCHEN INTELLIGENCE SMART APPLIANCES TO BLOW YOUR MIND



TO THE MAX

Sydney architect Jeremy Bull has gone all out, up and down with his home, a modernised terrace that now accommodates seven people and a dog with the greatest of ease

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cheat sheet

Who lives here Jeremy Bull, an architect; his wife Tess Glasson, a PR and marketing director; their sons, twins Jude and Archer, 9, Felix, 5, and Nash, 4; au pair Katie; and Indie the dog.

Style of home Renovated Victorian terrace house in Sydney's eastern suburbs. There have been three renovations over seven years.

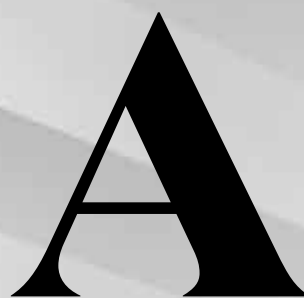
 The first renovation began in April 2012 and took 5 months; the second started in October 2014 and took 5 weeks; the third commenced in May 2018 and took 3 months.

ARTWORK IN FORMAL LIVING BY GEMMA AVERY CURATORIAL+CO

LIVING ROOMS Tess stands between the two traditional front rooms of the terrace. Pops of colour and playful shapes distinguish the casual space from its white-and-black counterpart. A Ligne Roset 'Togo' sofa from Domo, vintage cane chair from Conley and Co and a Spence & Lyda rug take pride of place in the former. **STAIRCASE** Looking down from the entry to the open kitchen/living/dining space and beyond to the child-friendly, level garden.

“
The whole house is designed
around the flow from mealtime
to surftime to homework
”

JEREMY BULL, HOMEOWNER



Architect Jeremy Bull has made a name for himself designing covetable hospitality, retail and residential spaces. The principal of Alexander & Co approaches all his schemes with a clear vision, including The Imperial hotel in Erskineville, Watsons Bay Boutique Hotel and an award-winning house in Palm Beach. “Each project needs


to tell a story which is valuable – each needs its own spirit,” says Jeremy. He took a slightly different tack with the Victorian terrace he shares with his partner Tess Glasson, however. “We have taken a very pragmatic approach to renovating here,” says the PR and marketing director of Alexander & Co and mother to sons Jude, Archer, Felix and Nash. “As we have had more children, we have added spaces.”

Their reasons for settling on this particular home were similarly practical. The couple had six-month-old twins when they were shopping around, so the process was not as exhaustive as it could have been. Freestanding on one side and conveniently located, this house was a standout. It was also very well priced, leaving them money to carry out substantial alterations. “The thing that keeps us in the house, besides the house, is the street, the community and the location,” says Tess.

The family lived in the home for 18 months before embarking on the first of three renovations. “Getting a feel for how we wanted to inhabit the space was really key to the success of that renovation, and we’ve done another two since then,” says Tess. The house was completely gutted, leaving only the two front living spaces and upstairs bedroom intact. “We call it the little house that could,” says Jeremy. “We’ve gone up, we’ve gone out and we’ve maxed the space as much as we can.”

Mirrored panels concealing a cloakroom bounce light into the new entrance that makes use of the side entry passage. To the right of this is the latest iteration of the airy combined kitchen, living and laundry space, with inbuilt sunken seating opening out onto the backyard. A contemporary staircase behind the entrance leads up to the three bedrooms and two bathrooms. The shiplap cladding-lined loft room above them (where two of the boys sleep) was completed in only four weeks. “The whole house is designed around the flow from mealtime to surftime to homework,” laughs Jeremy, who added an outdoor shower near the front door, behind which are cleverly concealed racks for the family’s bikes, surfboards and skateboards.

Like the layout, the material palette has evolved over time. “We have ended up with a lot of materials that were low cost but full of life. While we are okay with that, it was not a deliberate strategy,” says Jeremy of the limewashed pine and white paint he specified for the first renovation. More recently, Carrara marble has featured, particularly in spaces where the timber flooring was replaced by marble tiles and there is stone skirting and tidelines. Render brings texture to the vertical surfaces and undyed alpaca-wool carpet softens the rooms upstairs.

Now that the renovations are finished, the house is perfect for the busy family. “It’s a very compact house for seven people and a dog but it works,” says Tess. With the latest structural changes complete and a much-needed injection of furniture, she says the just-ordered blinds for the sunken lounge are the last thing on the agenda: “They will be the close of this most recent story.” 

Alexander & Co is in Redfern, NSW; alexanderand.co. The latest build was by Fairweather Constructions; @fairweather_constructions

KITCHEN/FAMILY Jude, Felix and Archer gather on the sunken lounge. In the kitchen, the material choices are both beautiful and practical: stainless steel (benchtops), white polyurethane (cupboard doors) and stained limewash oak (cabinetry). Kerrie Brown cushions, and De La Espada 'Elliot' and Gubi 'Beetle' chairs (at the dining table). **LANDING** The staircase stretches across three floors, with oak balustrades and Alpaca wool carpet on the treads.



bright idea

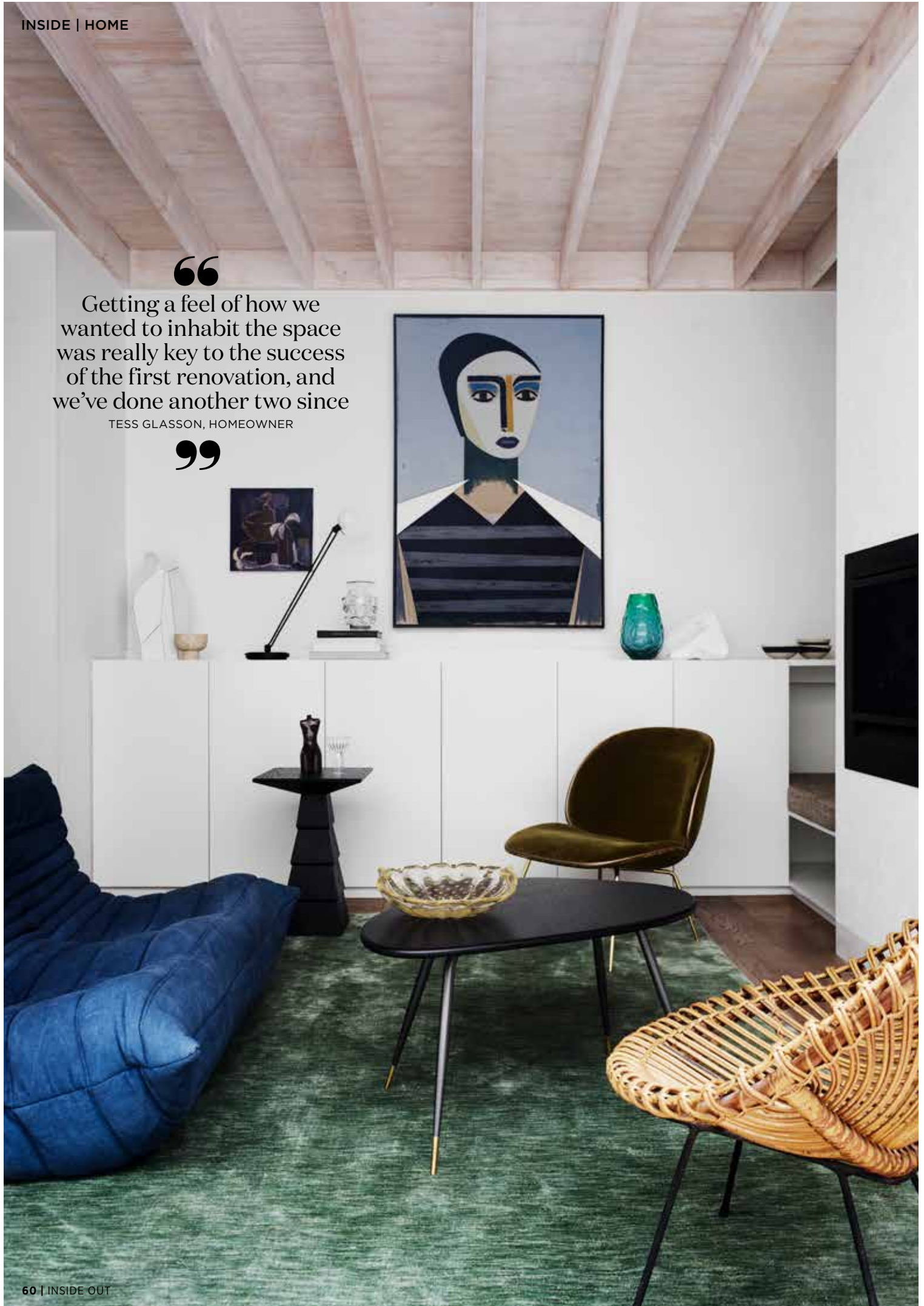
Having a sunken lounge with the grass at eye level makes it feel more connected to the outdoors. It's a natural spot to gather, especially in summer when the doors are slid back.

“

Getting a feel of how we wanted to inhabit the space was really key to the success of the first renovation, and we've done another two since

TESS GLASSON, HOMEOWNER

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FORMAL LIVING Now that the home's entrance is on the side, the outdoor area at the front is closed off from the street. Floor-to-ceiling curtains and a Frigerio sofa from Pure Interiors give it a sense of luxury. Hans J Wegner brown chairs (under window). Dallas white occasional chair, Becker Minty. Green marble-topped coffee table, Spence & Lyda. **INFORMAL LIVING (opposite)** The Jetmaster fire heats up in no time. The built-in cabinet is part of the latest renovation. On it are a Ligne Roset 'Polygon' white vase, Greg Natale travertine Oscar bowl and a ball-shaped lamp shade from Rudi Rocket.





NOOK Adding personality to a corner of the casual living space is a perspex sculpture by Anya Pesce from M Contemporary, Collar Bowls by Louise Hart from Planet and a vintage littala vase from Rudi Rocket. The *Pink and Lemon* artwork by Maria Kostareva from Curatorial+Co is perfect under the limewashed-pine ceiling. **BOYS' ROOM** Jude and Felix share a bedroom with a giraffe from Adrienne & The Misses Bonney, Zanotta side table, Wallace & Sewell rug, Spence & Lyda. Artwork by Gemma Avery, Curatorial+Co. **MAIN BEDROOM** The quietly colourful scheme is layered with Hale Mercantile Co pillowcases, Caravane linen sheets from Montmartre and a Kerrie Brown cushion and bedcover. Alabaster table lamp, Domo. Expormim 'Kiri' side table, Ke-zu. Artwork by James King from Becker Minty.



GREAT FINDS

designer fun

Eye-catching pieces that can withstand the love and attention of active children and dogs



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT Dear Human *Standing Figure 2018* object, \$700, Curatorial+Co. Zanotta 'Quaderna' **bench**, \$5060, and **console table**, \$6750, and Gubi 'Beetle' **chair**, \$1530, all Cult. Ligne Roset 'Togo' **settee**, \$5275, Domo. AYTM 'Solum' **side table**, \$699, Clickon Furniture. De La Espada 'Elliott' **dining chair**, \$1875, Spence & Lyda. Alabaster **table lamp**, \$530, Domo. Original BTC 'Hatton' dimmable bone-china **wall light**, \$968, Dunlin.





BOYS' BATHROOM Fitted out with 150mm Carrara marble squares from Bisanna Tiles, this is the template for all three bathrooms. The ceramic penny rounds are also from Bisanna. Caroma 'Cube' basin. Custom mirror. Venezia tray and Linge Particulier waffle bath towel, both Oliver Thom. **ENSUITE** This roomy shower could fit the whole family. Shades high soap dispenser and toothbrush holder, Oliver Thom. **REAR** When the Merbau doors are slid to one side, the back and side of the house are completely open. The ceiling height above the sunken lounge is 3.2m (on a slight angle) and it reaches 4.5m in the kitchen.

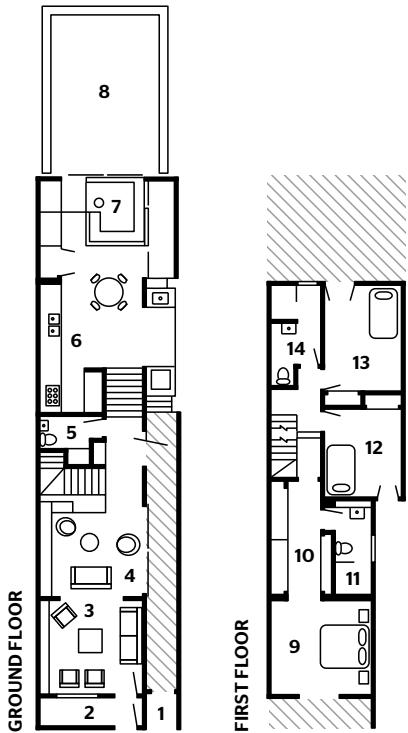


LESSONS LEARNT

“We underestimated the wear and tear on our wooden floor”

JEREMY BULL, ARCHITECT/OWNER

“We installed a floating timber floor in the living area during the first renovation. Within a few years, however, the timber got trashed by the sunlight streaming in and all the foot traffic, not to mention the impact of four small children. And when we moved the table off it, there were these shining relics all over the ground where the table feet had been. So when we got to the last renovation, we'd already decided to put in the Carrara. Marble is much more hard-wearing and practical. The stone tiling gives the room an elegant robustness – it's like a little cathedral.”



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|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Entry | 8 Garden |
| 2 Verandah | 9 Main bedroom |
| 3 Formal living | 10 Walk-in robe |
| 4 Informal living | 11 Ensuite |
| 5 Powder room | 12 Bedroom |
| 6 Kitchen | 13 Bedroom |
| 7 Sunken lounge | 14 Bathroom |

“

We call this the little house that could. We have gone up, we've gone out and we've maxed the space as much as we can JEREMY

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