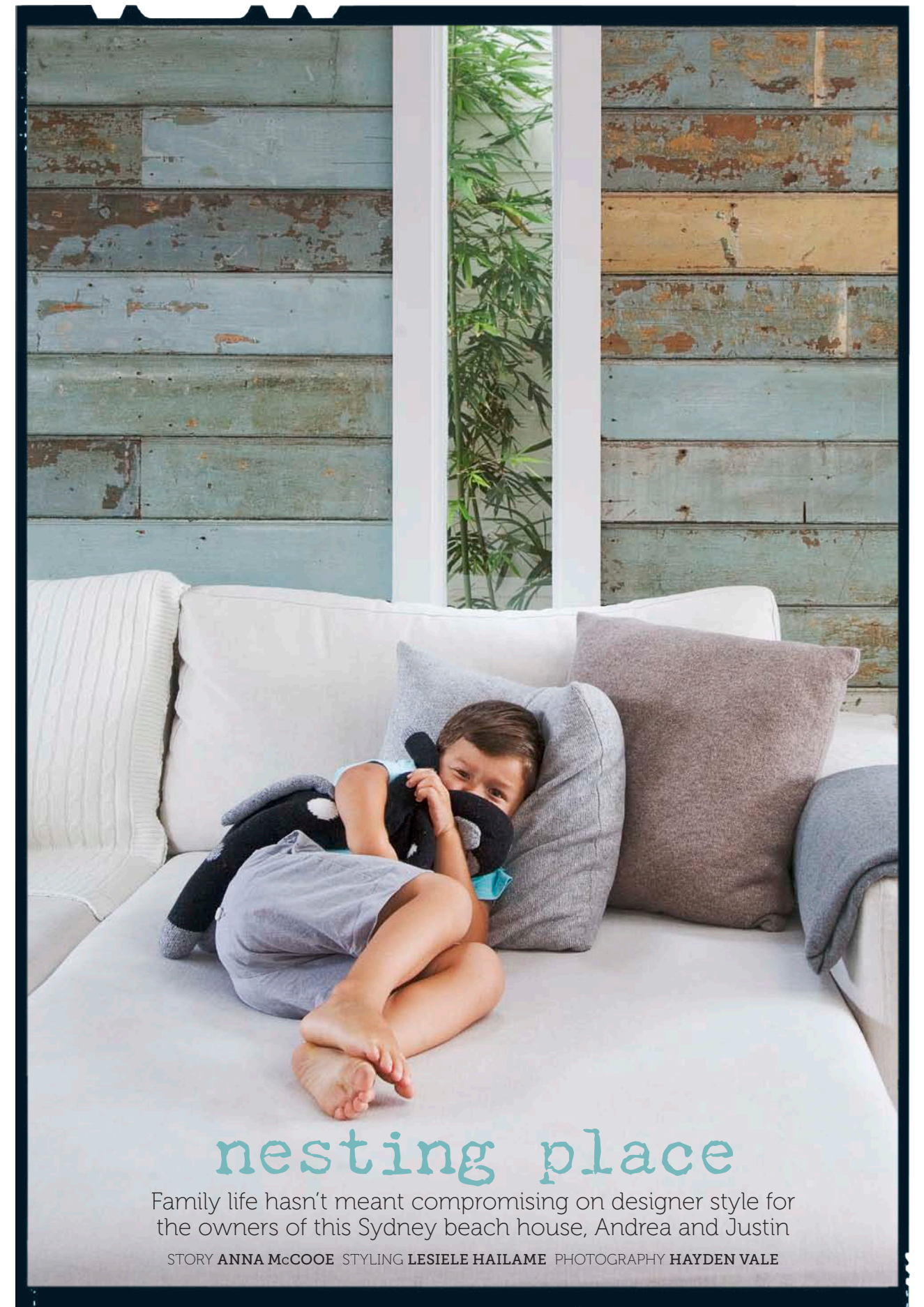


DINING AREA A photographic print of Bondi Beach by Aquabumps is an apt introduction to Andrea and Justin's beach side home. The B&B Italia dining table designed by Monica Armani, from Space, is a modern classic while Andreu World 'Tauro' chairs from Ke-Zu introduce sophistication and softness to the room.

LIVING AREA Three-year-old Max loves curling up on the sumptuous, roomy sofa. >



nesting place

Family life hasn't meant compromising on designer style for the owners of this Sydney beach house, Andrea and Justin

STORY ANNA McCOOE STYLING LESIELE HAILAME PHOTOGRAPHY HAYDEN VALE



“We get beautiful light throughout the morning”



LIVING AREA (above & opposite) An upholstered sofa and chaise provides plenty of comfortable seating for the family and their guests without cluttering the space. Try Freedom for a similar modular sofa – visit freedom.com.au. Warm timber accessories echo the tones of the feature wall – timber turned bowls from Mark Tuckey (visit marktuckey.com.au) offer a similar feel.

DINING AREA (above right) A Print Dolls tram scroll of Sydney’s eastern suburbs provides the home with a sense of place – try tramscrolls.com.au.



LIVING AREA (far left) The light well between the ground floor and first floor captured Andrea and Justin’s hearts on first inspection. “We get beautiful light throughout the morning and it really opens up the downstairs space,” says Andrea. “Plus, the kids love throwing their soft toys down to us and we toss them back up – this can go on for an hour with constant giggling the whole time.”



SWAPPING THE HECTIC PACE of New York City for life on the beach in Sydney’s eastern suburbs was an easy adjustment for Andrea and Justin when they arrived in Australia seven years ago. After falling in love with the picturesque beach suburbs and their character-filled houses, the couple, owners of an advertising agency, spotted a charming property and snapped it up at auction. The U-shaped kitchen was a bit limiting, but the light well into the living area, the sculptural staircase and weatherboard feature walls provided a home for the couple’s modern aesthetic and an easy introduction to Australia’s laidback lifestyle. Their new home was close to perfection, just as it was. Then kids, of course, changed everything.

When baby Max arrived, Andrea and Justin had to act quickly to reshuffle the home’s scheme. They turned the upstairs guest room into a children’s play area, creating a zone for toys and supplies in the process. “Once we saw how much of Max’s stuff was collecting in our TV room, we realised we needed to establish a space for his things, otherwise they would consume the whole home!” says Andrea. The downstairs TV area and courtyard were then transformed into a peaceful guest area for visiting family members. “With all our rooms upstairs, it’s nice for our guests to have space to themselves downstairs, and a private outdoor area for a little extra escape,” explains Andrea. >

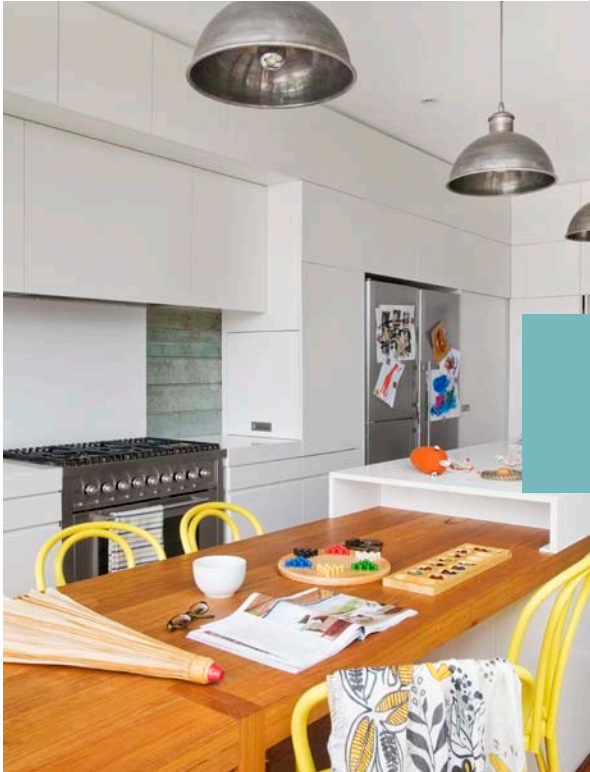


we love
The weatherboard feature wall
 The weatherboard wall lends the home a sense of heritage. “The previous owner found the boards wrapped in newspaper in the shed and decided to use them. He thinks they’re from the original cottage that was here in the 1800s,” says Andrea. “The wall suits the feeling of the house and is a feature everyone comments on.” For a similar look, paint new timber boards with Porter’s Paints’ Milk paint; see page 101 for details.



KITCHEN The rustic weatherboards continue into the kitchen, adding character to the slick 2pac polyurethane finished space. Quantum Quartz engineered stone benchtops in Alpine White were one of Andrea's bargain renovation buys. "We sourced them from Flag Marble & Granite, who are very affordable," she says. A blackbutt breakfast table and yellow 'No.18' bentwood chairs from Thonet (thonet.com.au), make weekday dining a breeze.

KITCHEN (right) Taking style cues from the weatherboard splashback, a cute memo board from The Bronte Tram (thebrontetram.com) provides a handy space for reminders.



A healthy dose of *storage* keeps the look organised



KITCHEN (top) Andrea and daughter Ava enjoy their inviting kitchen, truly the hub of the home. Nickel pendant lights from Ici et Là (above left) bring more timeworn charm to the space. >

< With Max now a toddler and an impending big brother, the family had officially outgrown their once-liveable small kitchen. The lack of storage and the layout that cut off the kitchen from the living space had to change. "We started the kitchen construction in late November and I was due to give birth to our daughter in February," recalls Andrea. "It was crazy but there's nothing like a deadline to get things moving!"

The couple sketched their ideas for a more open space and called in architect Tanya Hancock of T01 Architecture and Interiors to collaborate and draft the technical drawings. Together, they came up with an L-shaped kitchen to frame the living area and a long island bench with adjoined dining table to establish the space as the nerve centre of the home. They enlisted carpenter Rob Cochrane from Dimension Carpentry & Building to project-manage the kitchen renovation and joiner Anthony Colantonio of Ultimate Furniture to craft their vision.

With the hub of the home perfected, Andrea and Justin turned their hands to creating a cheerful and nurturing family environment. Artworks, family photos and toys bring flourishes to every surface, designer furniture provides an overall mark of quality, and a healthy dose of storage keeps the look organised. For this creative couple, kids provided an additional layer of plumes to a perfectly feathered nest.

Inside story

Who lives here? Andrea, 35, husband Justin, 36, owners of advertising agency Studio Woo, son Max, 3, and daughter Ava, 1.

How did you find renovating while pregnant and with a toddler in tow?

Andrea: "It was actually really exciting. I took my son Max over every day to see the progress. He loved it!"

Did the renovation all go according to plan?

"We had minor hiccups when we hung the lamps in the kitchen. The architect had specified for them to be equal distance above the island but when I saw it, I realised they needed to be shifted slightly so one of the three lights was centred above the sink. Things become much clearer on site;

if you have the chance, visit as much as possible."

Best decorating advice?

"You have to buy things that suit the style of the house – and stick to that criteria down the line. We moved here from New York and our loft there was very minimal, but this house had a lot of charm and weatherboard feature walls, something I thought we may not have liked. We mixed modern and recycled pieces to fit the house with our style and the furniture we owned."

Your favourite room?

"The kitchen. I am ridiculously scheduled and routine-oriented since becoming a mother. You have to be to get things done. Everything revolves around the island bench."

MAX'S ROOM (above & far right) Andrea's advice for decorating kids rooms is to stick to three colours. "For Max's room, it was blue, green and brown," she says. The playful bedspread is from Dwell Studio (visit dwellstudio.com) and the Jane Fontane superhero artwork is from United Galleries (unitedgalleries.com.au). "When we saw it, we actually thought it looked like Max."

NURSERY A curvaceous armchair from Monte Design in Canada (montedesign.net) provides the ultimate nursing station, while a solid birch Oeuf cot from Kido Store (kidostore.com) sets a serene tone. 'Molger' hook racks from Ikea (opposite, bottom left) showcase Ava's enviable collection of pretty dresses.

MASTER BEDROOM A chic palette creates a restful retreat and embodies Andrea and Justin's sophisticated modern style. Mementos from the couple's past life in New York feature in the space. The Flou bed (flou.it) was shipped all the way from New York and the photographs above the bed, featuring American model Stephanie Seymour, are from a campaign the couple shot with renowned photographer Juergen Teller.



STORAGE Open shelving and clear tubs with stickers from Kikki.K (kikki-k.com) keep clutter at bay.



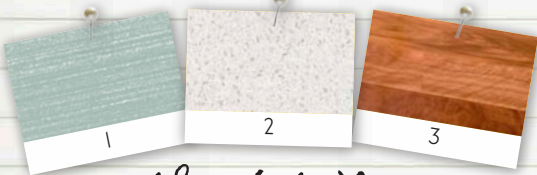
BATHROOM With a neutral mosaic-tiled feature wall, the bathroom is a practical space with a sophisticated touch.

style notes



PLAYROOM Andrea chose bright vinyl decal dots to mark the playroom for fun and games – try gigglesmiledesigns.com.au. A tent from Bazoongi Kids (bazoongi.com) and a 'Mammut' children's table setting from Ikea allow imagination to roam free.

“You have to buy things that suit the style of the house – and *stick to that criteria* down the line”



the details

1 Weatherboard paint Try Milk paint in Aquitaine, \$42/kg, Porter's Paints.

2 Kitchen benchtops Quantum Quartz engineered stone in Alpine White, \$500/sqm, Flag Marble & Granite.

3 Flooring Try 'Silkwood' 175mm engineered hardwood flooring in Brushbox, \$132/sqm, Boral.

CONTACT Architect Tanya Hancock, T01 Architecture & Interiors, (02) 9698 0411, t01.com.au. **Stockists, page 213**

