



**WELCOME HOME** Art forms the very soul of the family home on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula Kelli and David share with their sons Jack and Sam. An untitled oil painting (opposite) by Tasmanian artist Sue Lovegrove is the focus in the downstairs lounge and forms a unique backdrop for the couple's decorative pieces: a console from US retailer Restoration Hardware, a hurricane lantern and lamp from Pottery Barn (top shelf), and a curio picked up in New Zealand. A stand-out feature in the revived and refreshed 1970s original is the stunning floor-to-ceiling custom leather cladding (above) at the entrance, sparsely decorated with a bench and throw bought in Montana and a Country Road cushion, leading eyes to the beautiful tactile wall. An Ion 'Spider' light fitting from Porcelain Bear enhances the high vaulted ceiling. >



From the other side of the world in sunny California, expats Kelli and David sat down with a map of Australia and drew a circle around Melbourne. Keen to make the move back to their native country, but never having lived too far from the bustle of the southern capital, the couple made the adventurous choice to short list potential homes in suburbs they only knew via word of mouth. "We were living about an hour out of San Francisco where David was working, so we thought we could live about an hour out of Melbourne," says Kelli, her relaxed tone belying the monumental logistical challenge of relocating a family of four across the Pacific Ocean. "We felt it was time to come home, we just didn't know where home was."

That changed with the discovery of a 1970s property nestled amid the undulating landscape of Mount Martha on the Mornington Peninsula. Kelli had only seen the home via a video link, pausing the footage frame by frame to determine whether the family's collection of furniture and art would fit. They trusted their instincts and snapped it up. Ten years later, Kelli, David and their sons Jack, 17, and Sam, 14, have created a dream home where a sophisticated mix of earthy hues and natural materials projects warmth and welcome – all with a more masculine edge.

It wasn't always such a striking haven, though. After their move, the homeowners faced unappealing evidence of their home's original era, as well as an early 2000s extension. Undaunted, Kelli and David teamed up with local designer Kate Walker of Kate Walker Design (KWD) to bring together a home that reflects their family's life. >

#### FLOOR PLAN



**ENTRY** Well-travelled four-legged friends Teak and Raffy greet visitors alongside Kelli (pictured, top left). Engineered European oak wide board floors introduce the light-grey tones that are key to the home's natural palette. **DINING ROOM** The striking artwork 'Many Stars' by Ildiko Kovacs (top right) picks up the hues of a soft grey linear wool rug from Roger Oates, offsetting the rustic beauty of the custom dining suite by Coastal Living.



**FIRESIDE NOOK** Timeworn leather and linen pieces are centrestage against walls and ceilings done in Dulux's White Cloak Quarter, while Restoration Hardware's Deconstructed armchairs and an ottoman from Greedilulu atop a cowhide rug bought in Montana invite family members to kick back by the fire. "We wanted the house to feel lived in and, while we love our time together as a family, we also all enjoy our privacy," says Kelli. "These cosy nooks cater for all of those times."

"I'M NOT A BIG ONE FOR *trends* - I FEEL LIKE  
YOU NEED TO GO WITH YOUR GUT" ~ KELLI

**LEATHER WALL**  
The leather-clad wall  
around the fireplace  
was custom-made  
by KWD.



**KITCHEN** Designed to be aesthetically pleasing while cleverly concealing mess, the kitchen (below & opposite top right), with its hidden appliances and reverse-sided butler's pantry (opposite below right), perfectly serves the family. The designer, Kate, selected the Calacatta marble for the benchtops and splashback (its hints of caramel highlighted by Coco Republic leather bar stools) as the mountain-like shapes and patterns reminded her of the family's years living in alpine regions in the US. "If you drew a heat map of the house you would see we spend a lot of time around this space in the summer months - when the doors are flung open, the inside and outside collide in the most beautiful way," says Kelli of the custom, steel-framed glass doors that flood the room with natural light.



**FLOORS**  
Engineered  
European oak  
wide boards,  
KWD.





What started out as a modest plan to update chrome door handles quickly evolved into a full-scale makeover. The removal of a few walls and a palette change launched a chain reaction of renovating that would span two years, leaving no room untouched. Briefed on the family's love of alpine regions and the beach, KWD set about combining the twin passions to deliver a home for all seasons.

While 'sludgy' hues and woolly textures layer the home with warmth in winter, sprawling decks invite the family to bask in the summer sun. "While I adore all of the hard and soft finishes selected, it was the considered space planning and the joinery design that made the biggest differences to this home," says interior designer Kate. The beating heart of the home is the kitchen, where tones of deep green shift with the ever-changing light. It's a natural gathering place for the family – though cooler temperatures call for a migration upstairs, where an eye-catching, leather-clad fireplace and rich ochre accents set the scene for the ultimate cosy retreat.

Luxurious stonework sits alongside ambient custom lighting, but it's the art collection, lovingly acquired over a lifetime, the family most prizes. "Some of the rooms have been designed around the art," says Kelli. "It feels like you are living amongst these artists."

As much as this coastal home tells the tale of a well-travelled, curio-collecting and art-loving family, the design of each space also reveals how they have embraced Australian shores once again. "We've made it our place," explains Kelli. "It's taken us 10 years to work out how we really want to live in it. And this is us."

**UPSTAIRS LOUNGE** Dark joinery (top left) handpainted in Porter's Paints Caraway is the perfect foil for the white-panelled ceiling, while a wicker coffee table from Weylandts and a Coco Republic chair (atop a KWD custom rug) add some extra texture and depth.

**BUTLER'S PANTRY** Tucked behind the kitchen is a pantry as luxe as the main event. Laminex 'Battalion' doors (right) and handmade KWD subway tiles provide a style and scheme to match the rest of the home. >



**CABINETS**  
V-groove routed panels handpainted in Porter's Paints Black Cockatoo.



**SAM'S ROOM** "Our kids take a lot of pride in their own rooms and have always been avid collectors in their own right," says Kelli. Grey linen and timber furniture, both from Weylandts, point to the home's alpine-like aesthetic. Plush custom KWD carpet - handmade in India using three natural, undyed colours - provides the finishing touch to the design and ensures there's luxurious comfort underfoot.



**CARPET**  
Handmade  
"Manhattan Pewter"  
chunky loop pile,  
KWD.





VANITY  
Calacatta marble  
benchtop and sink,  
KWD.

**WE LOVE...**  
*lights as art*  
Key lighting pieces can take a space, such as a powder room, from functional to fabulous in an instant. Here, a sculptural sconce - the Jon 'N Wall' from Porcelain Bear - is a stand-out. "Art can take many shapes and forms," says homeowner Kelli, an art curator and avid collector. "I love the way the light interacts with the metallic tiles, making it an intimate and ambient space with a beautiful mix of materials. I could live in here - it's so flattering." Visit [porcelainbear.com](http://porcelainbear.com).



**POWDER ROOM** A clever mix of materials packs a stylish punch in the powder room (top left), where KWD's handmade subway tiles in Metallic Silver and a Calacatta marble vanity make a handsome duo. The small space features Perrin & Rowe Contemporary tapware, which is a favourite of Kelli's. "The interaction of soft light against the metallic tiles creates the perfect ambience," says interior designer Kate.

**LAUNDRY** An eye-catching splashback ('Ixtaba' encaustic tiles by KWD), double sink and English Tapware Company fixtures prove a workroom (top right) need not be overlooked in the style stakes. Cabinets in Porter's Paints Caraway add dramatic flair. "Given how much time I spend in here, I figured I may as well make it look as good as the rest of the house," laughs Kelli. "While this space was primarily designed as a laundry, it's equally considered as a place for the boys to clean their catch after a haul of cuttlefish and flathead."

**BATHROOM** The concrete bathtub (right) from Boyd Alternatives is the ultimate place for soaking and relaxing "and, on a Sunday night, this is where you will find me watching the sunset," says Kelli. A special coating designed by KWD, in conjunction with the importer, creates the unique tones in the pre-finished engineered oak flooring, which flows seamlessly with tiles also available from KWD. >



## CONTACT

### Designer

Kate Walker Design (KWD),  
(03) 5974 1800,  
katewalkerdesign.com.au.

### Builder

Kabsav, kabsav.com.au.

### WALLPAPER

'Altfield' grasscloth  
natural weave in  
Textured Dark Grey,  
KWD.

## STUDY

Strong lines, moody hues, custom-made cabinets and carpet by KWD create a cocoon-like effect, all complemented by a natural weave wallpaper. An artwork by Thornton Walker adds a sentimental touch. "I love this room. The client embraced our recommendation to create a bold, masculine space that was warm, layered and textured – like where Tom Ford would stay on an alpine holiday," says designer Kate.





# EARTHY TONES

*The details*



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2

## INSIDE STORY KELLI & DAVID'S HOME

**WHO LIVES HERE?** Kelli, an art curator (pictured below with pooch, Raffy); her husband, David, a tech entrepreneur; their sons Jack and Sam; and dogs Teak and Raffy.

**WHAT ARE YOUR DECORATING SECRETS?**

Kelli: "Composition and placement are important, but it's equally important that spaces are not too tightly curated. Even our kids have been given creative freedom to decorate their own spaces."

**FAVOURITE COLOUR?** "At the moment - green. It symbolises growth."

**DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE ARTIST?** "It's too hard to pick - we feel something deeply personal about every piece."

1. Porter's Paints Caraway in the mudroom.

2. Leather-clad walls, KWD.

3. The fully-enclosed pool area.

4. Metallic Silver tiles, KWD.

5. MUD ceramics atop

Calacatta stone shelves.

6. Artwork by Matthew Johnson

and 'The Souls' iridescent butterflies by Damien Hirst (top).



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4

5



6



COLOUR  
DECORATING  
*special*



# COOL, CALM & *CURATED*

A STRIKING RENOVATION PAYS DIVIDENDS FOR A FAMILY WHO SEAMLESSLY COMBINE  
THEIR LOVE OF COASTAL AND ALPINE REGIONS ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA

*Story & Styling JULIA GREEN Photography ARMELE HABIB*