

# RIPPLE EFFECT

Taking style cues from the classic Canadian lakehouse, these elegant yet robust interiors strike a harmonious balance.

STORY *Hanna Marton* | STYLING *Belle Hemming* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Stephanie Rooney*



**BEDROOM** Walls in Diane Bergeron 'Great Jones' wallpaper in Chestnut. Curtains in Mokum 'Satori Stonewash' linen in Ochre. Bedhead in Lee Jofa 'Stirling' fabric in Taupe, Jai Jai Upholstery Artisans. Cushion, Grand Designs. Lamp, side table and chair, Cromwell. Outdoor chair, Provincial Home Living. Rug, Silk Road.  
**LIVING** Walls painted Dulux Snowy Mountains Half. Pendant light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Hearth in Blue Roma quartzite; floors in Bridgeport European oak, all KWD&Co. Fireplace, Jetmaster. Artworks by Baden Croft. Sofa, Molmic. Coffee table, Coco Republic. Cushions, Macey & Moore. Rug, Hali.

**KITCHEN/DINING** Joinery in Porter's Paints Squid Ink, DMA Kitchens. Island joinery in 'Shaker' profile in Natural Oak, Farmers Doors. 'Surrey' handles, Hepburn Hardware. Splashback and benchtop in Mystic Blue stone, and island benchtop in Navona travertine, all KWD&Co. Curtains in James Dunlop 'Kyoto' linen in Snow. Thomas O'Brien 'Hicks' pendant lights, The Montauk Lighting Co. 'Icon + Lever' tapware, Astra Walker. Stools, Zenn Design. 'Kesden' dining chairs, Cromwell. Dining table and bench seat, Pottery Barn. *Teatree and Gumtree* artwork by Liam Waldie, Kelli Lundberg Art. Rug, Cadrys.

“A serene, sophisticated coastal foundation is balanced with a more robust, masculine edge.” KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

**Y**ou'd be forgiven if you've never heard of Muskoka. The pristine, peaceful lakes district in Ontario is one of Canada's best-kept secrets, although enough holiday-makers and celebrities – think, Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks – have flocked to its forests, maple farms, craft breweries and storybook cottages, that it's been dubbed 'the Hamptons of the north'.

When interior designer Kate Walker of KWD embarked on the design for a new house on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, she instantly thought of Muskoka. “I have always been enamoured by North American architecture,” she explains. “The Muskoka region of Canada is a breathtaking area that feels familiar and combines two of my loves – the countryside and water. Here from the hinterland there's a beautiful view across Port Phillip Bay that is so reminiscent of Muskoka.”

The homeowner was builder and developer Adam Magnus of Magnus Construction. Having previously worked together on about 20 projects, Adam trusted Kate's vision for “a nostalgic sort of aesthetic with punchy interiors,” he recalls. “We had a bit of fun with the finishes.” Adam and his wife, Jessica, had purchased the already-raised property in 2023, drawn to the block size and proximity to the beach and shops, and with a view to sell it after the build. “The triple-A location warranted luxury,” says Adam.

Kate and Adam's frequent collaborator, Heath Blair of Plume Studio, conjured up the landscaping, while Jessica painstakingly sourced furniture, artwork and decor. The finished property, aptly dubbed 'Muskoka', was unveiled 12 months after breaking ground.

Kate peppered the interiors of the four-bedroom home with earthy colours, such as camel and terracotta, integrating shades of blue “that reflect a lakeside rather than the seaside”. Bold and hardy materials, such as hardwood joinery, travertine stone and retro wallpaper, marry a cabin sensibility with modern-day elegance. ▶



**BUTLER'S PANTRY** Joinery painted Porter's Paints Squid Ink. Benchtop in Mystic Blue stone, KWD&Co. 'Surrey' handles, Hepburn Hardware. Chapman & Myers picture light, The Montauk Lighting Co. *Vast Field* artwork by Thom Filicia, Cromwell. 'Icon + Lever' tapware, Astra Walker. Farmhouse sink, ABI Interiors. Brass salt and pepper mills, The Cool Hunter. **KITCHEN** Island joinery in Natural Oak, Farmers Doors. Island benchtop in Navona travertine, KWD&Co. Pendant light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Stool, Zenn Design. Rug, Cadrys.

## THE PALETTE

Dulux Snowy Mountains Half  
(kitchen, dining, living, bedrooms)

Porter's Paints Moorehen  
(main ensuite)

Porter's Paints Squid Ink  
(kitchen/butler's pantry joinery)





“You know those movies you watched when you were younger of the North American family going to the lakehouse? That’s what we tried to achieve,” says Kate.

The primary suite gives main character energy. “The light that filters through is so soft and beautiful, and the space is so private and cocooning,” says Kate. “It’s a complete departure from the rest of the home, not just by where it’s located on the floorplan, but in terms of colouring and tone.” In the ensuite, which looks across the garden to the pool, dual Blue Roma quartzite benchtops, a drenching of teal paint and the freestanding bathtub are so transportive, you can almost hear the lakeside holiday sound of children skimming stones.

Were Adam and Jessica ever tempted to keep the house for themselves and their kids rather than sell on completion? “We’re tempted to move into a lot of the houses we build!” laughs Adam. “Muskoka is special and has an amazing feel about it... the natural light, the tones, the spaces. It just wraps itself around you.” ▶

**KWD:** [katwalkerdesign.com.au](http://katwalkerdesign.com.au).

**Magnus Construction:** [magnusconstruction.com.au](http://magnusconstruction.com.au).

**Rod Hannah Design:** [rodhannahandassociates.com.au](http://rodhannahandassociates.com.au).

**Plume Studio:** [plumestudio.com.au](http://plumestudio.com.au).

**Element Garden Design & Construction:** [elementgardens.com.au](http://elementgardens.com.au).

**POWDER ROOM** Wall in Linwood ‘Kimono Dreams’ wallpaper in Blaze. Vanity in Natural Oak, Farmers Doors. Benchtop in Mystic Blue stone, KWD&Co. Handles, Hepburn Hardware. Pendant light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Mirror, Boyd Blue. Tapware, Astra Walker. **ENTRY** Pendant light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Artwork by Merel Tieland. Lamp and dresser, Cromwell. Rug, Cadrys. **SITTING ROOM** Custom KWD bench cushion, Jai Jai Upholstery Artisans. Side table and chairs, Pottery Barn. Cushions, Macey & Moore. Rug, Silk Road. **BATHROOM** Benchtop in Navona travertine, and floor tiles in Bardiglio, Botticino and Noce stone, all KWD&Co.



**ENSUITE** Ceiling and walls painted Porter's Paints Moorehen. Vanity in Natural Oak, Farmers Doors. Benchtop in Blue Roma quartzite and floor tiles in Avaris limestone, all KWD&Co. Handles, Hepburn Hardware. Curtains in Mokum 'Satori Stonewash' linen in Ochre. Ceiling light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Wall light, Lighting Collective. Tapware, Astra Walker. Victoria + Albert bath, The English Tapware Company. Stool, Provincial Home Living. **BEDROOM** Walls in Diane Bergeron 'Great Jones' wallpaper. Bedhead in Lee Jofa 'Stirling' fabric, Jai Jai Upholstery Artisans. Curtains, as above. Lamp and table, both Cromwell. Throw, Hale Mercantile. Rug, Silk Road.



**THIS IS THE LIFE**

The home feels spacious, "but not overwhelming," says Kate. It's peaceful, just like an idyllic lakeside holiday home. "When you move through it there's no reverberation, it feels acoustically treated. Every surface has been considered, from the linen curtains to the textured carpet, so it's quiet." And thanks to thoughtful planning, the home offers both connection and separation.



“The home feels beautiful with textural layers throughout. It’s spacious without being overwhelmingly large.”

KATE WALKER

PATIO Door painted Porter’s Paints Navajo. Downpipe painted Colorbond Basalt. Joinery painted Dulux White Cloak. Benchtop in Blue Roma quartzite, KWD&Co. Tapware, Astra Walker. Capital barbecue, and Husky drinks chiller, both E&S Trading. Door handle, Domino Brass. Wall lights, Lighting Collective.



THE SOURCE

Create a cocooning home with layers of pattern, texture and warm tones through linen, timber and metallic accents.



Produced by Andrea Healy.

1 Faux bois and marble table lamp, \$3483, 1stDibs. 2 Liebherr 279L upright freezer with wine cellar, \$8599, Winnings. 3 ‘Kay’ reversible Persian rug, \$549, West Elm. 4 Vintage French glazed confit pot from Provence, \$420, Dusty Luxe. 5 ‘Callie’ slip-covered dining armchair, \$738, Castlery. 6 Aerin ‘Clarkson’ medium narrow sconce in Antique Brass and White, \$1090, The Montauk Lighting Co. 7 ‘Camden’ dining table in Wormy Chestnut Natural (250x120cm), \$3999, Freedom. 8 ‘Bastian’ 3.5-seater scatter-back lounge in Balmain, \$3299, Domayne. 9 Weave Home ‘Gigi’ cushion in Burnish, \$135, RJ Living. 10 CLA Lighting ‘Deksel’ interior wall light in Aged Copper, \$582.70, Woolworths. H&G