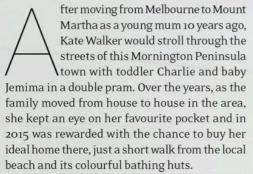




ENTRANCE A refreshed white exterior and bold blue door (Taubmans Stained Glass) sum up the scheme for this Mornington Peninsula home. "I wanted it to have a coastal feel without being twee," says owner/designer Kate Walker. Potted Ficus plants flank the entrance. OUTDOOR DINING Kate relaxes with children Charlie and Jemima – plus Pierre the pomeranian – under a pergola trained with blue-flowering Chinese wisteria. Chairs from Provincial Home Living and Lincoln Brooks. 'Sarah's Garden' bowl (with cherries), Wedgwood. Urns, Bunnings. Paving paint has transformed the existing concrete pavers.





In the meantime, Kate had established KWD, her own design practice, and could see past the property's superficial disadvantages - the drab grey exterior and untended garden, pink interior walls and green carpet - to the 1150m² corner block and elegant bones of the 1930s sandstone house. "It's one of the oldest in the area," she says. "I loved the uniqueness of its architecture and the potential to create an English-style garden, so I jumped at the chance."

Postponing structural changes, bar the removal of one wall, Kate reinvented the interior within the existing envelope. "As I'm in the business of making homes beautiful for my clients, I wanted something highly designed," she explains.

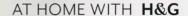




LIVING this page, top left and opposite "I pick a lot of flowers from the garden," says Kate. Dining table, sofa, coffee table and rug, KWD. Armchair in Thibaut 'Island Coral' fabric. Cushion in Kelly Wearstler 'Edo' fabric. Outdoor table and chairs, Freedom. Artwork above sideboard by Claire Spring. KITCHEN Glass-fronted units display Kate's china collection. Vase, Waterford. Artwork by Claire Spring. UPSTAIRS LIVING The coffee table and bamboo chair belonged to Kate's grandmother. Toys are stored in the white lkea cabinets. Sofa and pendant light, KWD. The hardwood floorboards have been sanded back and stained their original colour. Artwork by Claire Spring. FRONT YARD The new gate is sympathetic to the 1939 house. Always Greener Landscaping brought to life Kate's dream of a classic English garden.







To balance the project with her client workload, Kate enlisted the help of her sister, Amy Spargo of Maine House Interiors design studio. Together, they've created an inviting coastal haven that is elegant but relaxed. The blue front door opens to a bright, sunsplashed interior filled with a mix of classic design references.

"I definitely didn't want to follow a trend, but I love British colonial, American coastal and Chinoiserie styles, so elements of those are present throughout the house," says Kate.

The entry hall gives access to interconnected dining, living and kitchen spaces on one side, with a bedroom, bathroom and laundry on the other. Upstairs are two additional bedrooms, a multi-purpose space, study nook and bathroom.

Personalising each space is a harmonious composition of designer pieces and garage-sale finds, family pieces rich in meaning and muchloved collectables, as well as a number of specially

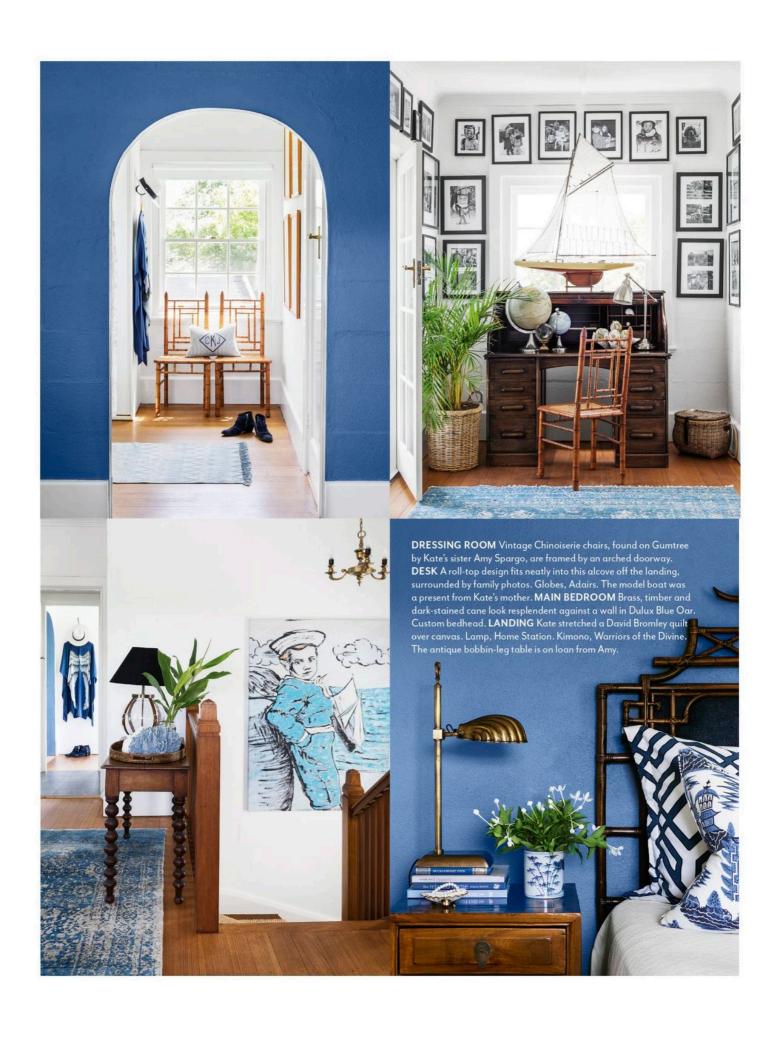
commissioned artworks – Kate's biggest splurge – along with beautiful rugs.

Sea breezes waft in through french doors and sash windows, while the landscaped grounds are a magnet for extended family. Charlie, now 13, and Jemima, 10, can be found playing in the pool or on an inground trampoline with their cousins, while adults tend the barbecue or enjoy a G&T under the jacaranda. A self-contained flat that Kate used as her first KWD studio now makes a fine poolhouse and children's retreat.

On the agenda for this year is a major addition at the front of the home. With her typical devotion to detail, Kate has already tracked down original moulds to replicate the exterior's reconstituted sandstone blocks. "They will look like they've always been there," she says. "I'm committed to keeping the character of the house."

KWD, Mount Martha, Victoria; (03) 5974 1800 or katewalkerdesign.com.au.





AT HOME WITH H&G

