

H&G MORNINGTON PENINSULA, VICTORIA

# MODERN FARMHOUSE

Vivid blue puts a happy spin on otherwise monochromatic interiors for a family home on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Julia Green* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Armelle Habib*

**EXTERIOR** The architectural detailing, exterior paint colour and landscaping were designed to give the farmhouse a sense of newness. The exterior is painted in Porter's Paints Aniseed, while the front door is in Dulux Baltic. In the entrance are Cotto Antico Notte tiles from Eco Outdoor.





“THE TIMBER AND TILE FLOORING THROUGHOUT BRINGS A TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA BUT WE ALSO ADDED PLAYFUL ELEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE HOME TO SURPRISE AND DELIGHT.” *Kate Walker, interior designer*

**LIVING** An Arteriors ‘Rotterdam’ accent table from Boyd Blue and Lotus Vessel #18 vase by Elena Strohfeldt from Makers. Mrkt sits between two Parker armchairs. Cushions, Walter G. Armchairs (right) upholstered in Alhambra ‘Candela 20’, Elliott Clarke. Jarden sofa. Timber side table (at rear). The Traders at Merricks General Wine Store. Norman floor lamp, Boyd Blue. Cosmo the pug patrols the living area (opposite). Classic buffet, Cromwell. Aerin ‘Fontaine Offset’ chandelier, The Montauk Lighting Co. Artwork by Angela Hawkey. Lamps, Coco Republic. Custom rug, KWD & Co.



*The move from* a small home on Sydney’s Lower North Shore to a rambling farmhouse on acreage (where their daughter wanted to learn to horse ride) on Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula was a huge lifestyle shift for the owners of this property. Kate Walker of design studio KWD, whose practice is also based on the coast, says their own location was an advantage. “They leaned on us a lot to ascertain what living on the Mornington Peninsula would be like and used our expertise to interpret their needs and guide them on what would work well for their family,” says Kate.

The house was solid so the roof pitch and staircase could remain, leaving Kate to focus on a full interior refit and space planning. Avoiding any structural works also meant skipping any lengthy delays for council permits, enabling a quick and smooth renovation process. The approach was to “amplify the positive features, focus on the integration within the space and to maximise the views”, says Kate. “This created a sense of open yet connected family living and allowed the home to breathe and feel somewhat larger than the original design.”

The concept was for a modern farmhouse aesthetic that paid “homage to the original fabric and essence of the home while making it feel fresh and new”, says Kate. “The architectural detailing, exterior paint colour and outdoor landscaping gives it a sense of newness, as do the clean lines of the custom joinery in the kitchen, walk-in wardrobe, laundry and bathrooms. The timber and tile flooring throughout brings a touch of nostalgia but we also ►



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**DINING** Custom dining table, Mark Tuckey. Dining chairs and rug, KWD & Co. Ferm Living 'Dito' candleholder, Designstuff. AYTM 'Varia' vase, Trit House. Pendant light, Zlights. **KITCHEN & SCULLERY** Joe counter stools, Classic With A Twist. Tula vase, Papaya. Oven, Wolf. Fridge, Sub Zero. Cabinet handles and knobs, Domino Architectural Brass Fittings. Infinity quartzite benchtop, Ziera marble splashback, and Mill Valley engineered European oak flooring, all KWD & Co. ▶



“THE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILING, EXTERIOR PAINT COLOUR AND OUTDOOR LANDSCAPING GIVE IT A SENSE OF NEWNESS.” *Kate Walker*





added playful elements throughout the home to delight and surprise – and give it a slightly contemporary edge. The staircase, an original feature, keeps the history of the home intact and links the old with the new.”

Kate says that rather than adopting a timber, black and white palette typically associated with the modern farmhouse look, she chose variations of blues that are prevalent throughout the house in the bedrooms, kitchen, laundry, tiles and paintwork. “We didn’t want the home to feel too coastal or too rustic, so we opted for charcoal and lots of different blue tones. The blue adds a happy spin to the otherwise monochromatic interior.”

Having moved to Victoria from Sydney meant that the homeowners would be hosting interstate family and friends, so they wanted to ensure a comfortable stay for visitors. “We wanted to facilitate a way for the home to expand when required,” says Kate. This was achieved with replanning, so that each of the dedicated guestrooms now have their own ensuites rather than just a powder room. The result is a home that’s cosy and intimate for the family day to day as well as offering a warm welcome to guests.

**DESCRIBE YOUR BRIEF FOR THE RENOVATION?** The owners wanted an interiors scheme that was appropriate for their new lifestyle on the Mornington Peninsula and better suitable for receiving regular guests.

**BIGGEST CHALLENGE AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?** There were no real challenges with this project, it was a smooth collaboration between owners, architect, builder, designer and landscape architect.

**WHAT WAS THE DESIGN SOLUTION?** To amplify the positive features of the home with a full interior refit. We also made changes to the floor plan so that the house would be better suited for hosting guests.

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE THE MOST?** How the house feels based on the design. It’s large enough for family and friends, yet still cosy, intimate and comfortable.

**HOW LONG DID THE RENOVATION TAKE?** Approximately 18 months. ►

**Design and building team** Interior designer Kate Walker, KWD; [katewalkerdesign.com.au](http://katewalkerdesign.com.au). Architect Steve Hofer, WKH Architects; (03) 5975 1328. Builder Montique Construction; [montiqueconstruction.com](http://montiqueconstruction.com). Joiner DMA Kitchens; [dmakitchens.com.au](http://dmakitchens.com.au). Landscape architect Plume; [plumestudio.com.au](http://plumestudio.com.au).

**DECK** The monochromatic theme is continued with the outdoor furniture from Coco Republic. **MAIN BATHROOM** Bryant sconces, The Montauk Lighting Co. Infinity quartzite benchtop, KWD & Co. Handles and knobs, Hepburn Hardware. Concrete Hexagon Charcoal tiles, KWD & Co. City Plus tapware in Weathered Brass, Brodware. Hugib concrete stone bath, Stonebaths.

## MATERIALS & finishes

**JOINERY** Farmers Doors slimline weathered oak timber veneer, custom designed by KWD.

**BENCHTOPS** Infinity quartzite (kitchen, main bathroom). Ziera marble.

**TILES** Cotto Antico Notte tiles from Eco Outdoor Australia (entrance). Concrete Hexagon Charcoal floor tiles (main bathroom), Zellige Charcoal wall tiles (main bathroom), all KWD & Co.

**APPLIANCES** Builder supplied.

**TAPWARE** City Plus, Brodware.

**PAINT** Porter’s Paints Aniseed (exterior). Dulux Snowy Mountains Quarter (throughout). Dulux Baltic (front door).

**LIGHTING** The Montauk Lighting Co.

**FLOORING** Manhattan 100 per cent wool loop-pile handmade carpet, KWD & Co (walk-in robe). Custom wool hall runner, stair runner and wool and silk rugs, all KWD & Co. Mill Valley engineered European oak flooring, KWD & Co (kitchen). Sudbury Moorit stair runner, Roger Oates.



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**STAIRWELL** Sudbury Moorit stair runner, Roger Oates. Liaison sconce and Alta lamp, both The Montauk Lighting Co. **WALK-IN WARDROBE** Manhattan wool carpet, KWD & Co. Ottoman, Jordan. **BEDROOM** Cilantro bedside table and Kenya lamp, both Boyd Blue. Custom bedhead, KWD. Artwork by Michelle Keighley, Greenhouse Interiors. **HOME OFFICE** Dorchester floor lamp, Arteriors. Armchair, Freedom. **MAIN BEDROOM SUITE** For similar sideboard, try Zohi Interiors. Gaios lamps, The Montauk Lighting Co. Artwork by the owners' son. ▶

“THE STAIRCASE, AN ORIGINAL FEATURE, KEEPS THE HISTORY OF THE HOME INTACT AND LINKS THE OLD WITH THE NEW.” *Kate Walker*



MORNINGTON PENINSULA, VICTORIA H&G



**EXTERIOR** There's plenty of room for visitors to stay and play. The pool sits within the magnificently landscaped gardens conceived by landscape architects Plume. ►

“THE OWNERS WANTED AN INTERIORS SCHEME THAT WOULD SUIT THEIR NEW LIFESTYLE ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA.” *Kate Walker*







## MORNINGTON PENINSULA, VICTORIA H&G

**POOL** The sparkling pool was one of the benefits of the family's move to the Mornington Peninsula. Outdoor furniture, Coco Republic. Dark grey pool tiles and Katharina Egyptian limestone pool coping, all KWD & Co.

**OUTDOOR DINING** In addition to the low-key casual lounge chairs and sofas, there is an area for more formal dining with a dining table and chairs from Early Settler that can seat 10.

**BARBECUE AREA** The outdoor set-up also features a firepit and pizza oven. Barbecue, Wolf. Stools, Zanetti.

**OUTDOORS** Moving to a rural property has given the owners' daughter the opportunity to learn to ride horses. **H&G**

