

These pages 'Summer' pool lounges in Sunbrella fabric in Taupe from Robert Plumb. Tribù 'Pure' sofa in Mokum 'Tanami' fabric in Raffia from Cosh Living. Fibreglass sun loungers in the 1960s style of Charles Zurlena. Terrazzo stools from Crosini. Outside pool fence, from left, 'MLB' lounge chair from Harbour. 'Tibbo' three-seater sofa and armchairs with teak frame from Cosh Living. Vintage coffee table by Tue Poulsen from Studio Hacienda. Shou sugi ban cladding from Carrolls Timber & Building Supplies. 'Narooma' random sandstone walling from Kellyville Landscape Supplies. Shade hoods from Heka Hoods. Anti-downdraft combination cowl from HiTherm. Pool coping in natural concrete. Sukabumi 'Aqua Jade' ceramic mosaic pool tiles from The Pool Tile Company.



Grand vision

It can be easy being green
– or it is for this house
that cleverly combines lavish spaces and timeless
style, while also being kind to the planet.

Words CHRIS PEARSON Photography PRUE RUŠCOE

These pages In the living room, 'Costela' chairs from Stylecraft. De Sede 'DS-600' sofa in Nougat leather from Domo. Artemide 'Juno' floor lamp by Vico Magistretti from Don Cameron Studio. Olive ceramic magazine table from Studio ALM. Vintage Japanese ceramic from Rudi Rocket. Serax 'Pawn' organic stool by Marie Michielssen from Becker Minty. Vintage Catavento coffee table from Vampt Vintage Design. Vase by Michael Pugh from Ondene. Brass singing bowl from Planet. Custom Cappelen Dimyr rug from Tigmi Trading. James Dunlop Textiles sheers by Solis. Flowers from September Studio. Willy Guhl planter from Robert Plumb.

This handsome home in Sydney's north west, an inspired collaboration between architect Julian Brenchley and interior designer Jase Sullivan, offers a beguiling blueprint on being green with elegance and style – while welcomingly eco-aware it never leaves glamour at the door. Grand yet intimate, modern yet timeless, it embodies intriguing paradoxes, not the least of being these vast and lavish spaces are almost self-sufficient in their energy and water needs, while also being a fully functional home for a family with four children.

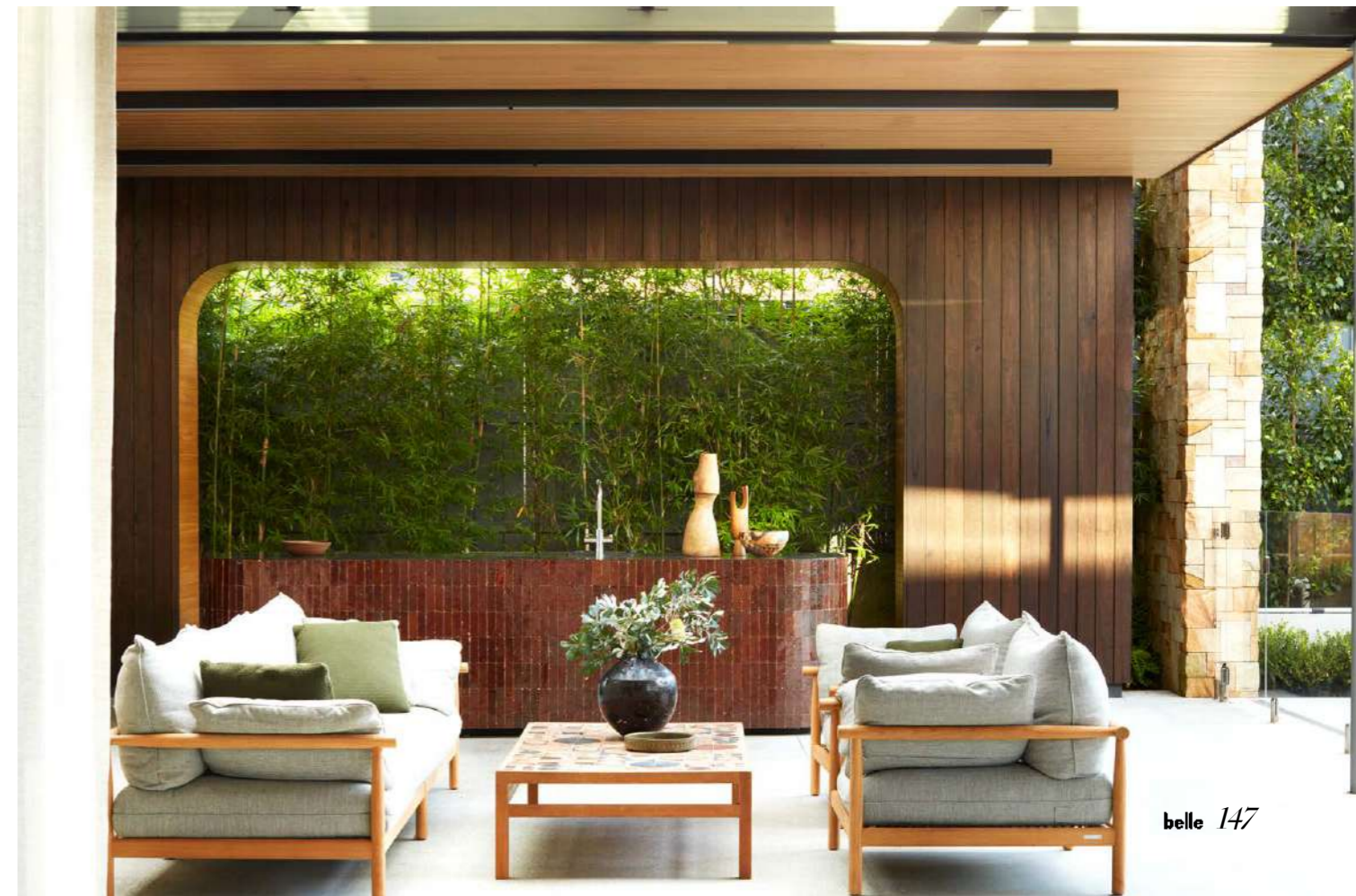
The owners bought the large, north-facing block in 2019. "Backing onto a golf course and occupied by a dilapidated 1960s double-brick home, it was a blank canvas, allowing us to design a property from scratch," says the owner. "We wanted open plan living to make the most of the northerly aspect and the views, with multiple living areas for our large family and a big central kitchen as the heart of the house." Equally importantly, the house needed to be kind to the planet, using its northern orientation to warm it, cross-ventilation to cool it, banks of solar panels, massive water storage tanks and embody robust finishes made to last – and also handle children's rough and tumble. "The owners asked for a forever home with 100 per cent sustainability so it won't cost a cent to maintain and they can hand down the keys to their children when the time comes," says Julian, principal at Group Architects.

While it has an eye on the future, it fondly glances over a shoulder for its overall look. "Aesthetically, we gave Julian free rein and he came up with a 70s Hollywood aesthetic, which we love," says the owner. Accordingly, he has created a six-bedroom, three-level home, with a mudroom, workshop and garage burrowed into the site, while the living areas, office, one bedroom >>





This page, from top In the TV room, vintage buffet in Formica with white module by Giuseppe Scapinelli from Vampt Vintage Design with large wine jar from Orient House. 'Rilievo' rug from Tigmi Trading. 'Big Easy' sofa from Molmic in Elliott Clarke Alhambra 'Faros' fabric. Vintage terrazzo round side and triangle side tables from Rudi Rocket. Tavolo Morbido coffee table from Studio Mignone with Monique Robinson vessel from Saint Cloche, Ryo Kodomari vase from The DEA Store, vintage Japanese bowl from Rudi Rocket and vintage rectangle blue plate from Planet. Jean Gillon 'Captain's chair' from Colecta Rara. Large Sung pot with plant from Orient House. On the terrace, 'Tibbo' three-seater sofa and armchairs from Cosh Living. Tue Poulsen vintage coffee table from Studio Hacienda. Zulu black pot from Orient House. Olive-green bowl, vintage bowl and tall vases on bar from Rudi Rocket. Raku bowl from The DEA Store. Bar tiled in Arabian Coco brick tiles from Perini. Floral from September Studio. **Opposite page** Artwork by Joshua Yeldham from Scott Livesey Galleries. 'Big Kick' pendant light in blackened brass from Volker Haug. 'Double Bell' dining table from The Wood Room. Afra and Tobia Scarpa 'Monk' chairs from Castorina. Issy Parker platter from The DEA Store. Vintage jug and three-piece Danish ceramic wall hanging from Rudi Rocket. 'Costela' chair from Stylecraft.



« and a rumpus sit atop in concrete and stacked sandstone. In a U-shape, the top level comprises a parents wing and another with four children's bedrooms. "You get the indoor-outdoor feel in spades on the ground floor through massive sliding doors, so you are outdoors most of the time," says Julian. "Upstairs you get the volume with the raked ceiling, but the U-shape creates a cosy breakout retreat with private family spaces. The concrete downstairs is grounding, while the airy upstairs floats over it with its raked ceilings and timber cladding."

With a nod to longevity, the material palette includes concrete, glass, stacked sandstone and charred-timber cladding. "The sandstone and concrete are bulletproof and time-tested, while the cladding is maintenance-free, pest- and rot-resistant," says Julian. Nothing was imported – even the custom light fittings were sourced from Melbourne, while vast banks of solar panels adorn the roof and two huge tanks mean the massive home is also mostly self-sufficient in its water needs. There's even a produce garden with two chooks!

Jase came on board in 2021. "I wanted to do such an epic design justice," he says. "With the main living area the size of a convention centre, and stone and glass walls, my challenge was to create cosy and warm spaces. The house is so large it gobbles things up – when you think you need 50 accessories, you really need 100." The owner's mid-century Danish armchair, the only piece he wanted to keep, became the starting point for a mid-century ambience. "I warm to this era because it was unostentatious and fun," says Jase. "Here, I created a 70s vibe with sculptural furniture and an earthy palette." Echoing the exterior for a holistic whole, Jase clad the top floor walls in charred timber,

while downstairs he combined that with natural stone and timber ceilings. "I used texture to add warmth," he says. "I don't like things too perfect. Initially, a plinth separating the TV and dining areas was to be concrete but I tiled it instead in handmade Moroccan tiles so it didn't feel too slick. I chose patinated brass fittings as I like the imperfections and how they age."

The predominant colours are tan and black, with Joshua Yeldham artworks inspiring blue tones. "Most mid-century leather furniture is black or tan," says Jase. "The large Yeldham artwork with elements of timber, ceramic and paint in the living room is the star of the home. It was a pinch-me moment to have such a special piece." Other standout items include a sinuous De Sede 'Snake' sofa and a Don Cameron Studio floor lamp. "I chose these curves to juxtapose with the straight-edged architecture." Two custom six-by-six metre rugs in the open plan, one flokati-inspired, delineate the living spaces and make the room cosier.

"I love the home's warmth," says the owner. "With its natural materials and finishes – timber, concrete, stone – it feels tactile and grounded. The charred timber cladding used inside and out and the Moroccan tiles bring a handmade quality." Adds Julian, "It's grand and boasts generous scale yet it sits modestly in the environment, ticking all the eco boxes. It's both modern and timeless."

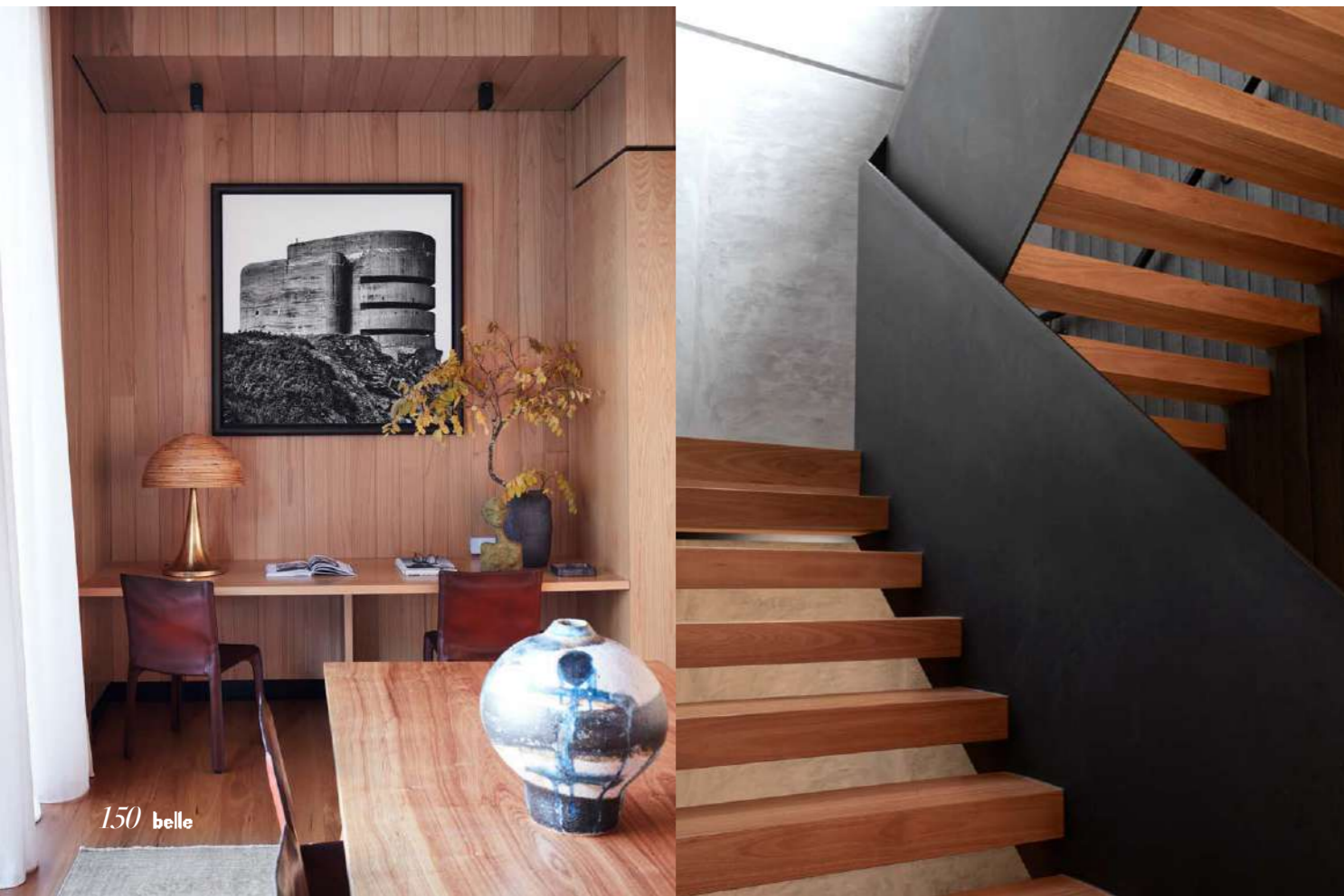
Built to last, this house gives new meaning to "forever home", with the owners intending to pass it down to their offspring. "I hope this spectacular modernist masterpiece, filled with beautiful artworks and classic mid-century furniture, will one day be heritage-listed," says Jase. ■

jasesullivan.com.au; grouparchitects.com.au

These pages 'Funnel' pendant lights from Natalie Page. Vintage French bistro stools in dark brown leather from 506070. Maximum Pietra Grey porcelain panel benchtop and splashback from Artedomus. Vase from The DEA Store with flowers from September Studio. Ceramics, from left, vintage vase and bowl from Rudi Rocket, Heather Rosenman 'Scribe' vase from Spence & Lyda, and medium vase from Rudi Rocket.



This page, clockwise from top In the main living room, De Sede 'DS-600' leather sofa from Domo. Vintage Catavento coffee table from Vampt Vintage Design. Michael Pugh vase from Ondene. Brass singing bowl from Planet. Custom Cappelen Dimyr rug from Tigmi Trading. In the kitchen, 'Funnel' pendant lights from Natalie Page. Maximum Pietra Grey porcelain panel benchtop and splashback from Artedomus. The stairs lead to the upstairs living room. In the boardroom and office, pigment print on cotton rag art paper by Don Cameron from Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert. Boardroom table made by client with Kate Dorrough 'River' stoneware from Arthouse Gallery. Cassina dark brown leather 'Cab' chairs by Mario Bellini from Castorina. Vintage brass and cane lamp from The Vault Sydney. Antique Persian rug from Cadrys. **Opposite page** In the upstairs living room, vintage 'Trio' sofa from CCSS TM. X+L '01' coffee table and Terje Ekstrom chair both from Tigmi Trading. Vintage blue vase and white jug both from Rudi Rocket. Artwork by Nicole Kelly from Arthouse Gallery. Vintage Ox Art buffet and vintage chrome lamp both from Rudi Rocket. Cappelen Dimyr 'No. 3' rug from Tigmi Trading.



SPEED READ

» When the owners bought this site in Sydney's north west, it was occupied by a humble 1960s house which they demolished to make room for this forever home for them and their four children. » As well as being luxe and spacious, it had to be kind to the planet. » Architect Julian Brenchley designed a home with robust, low-maintenance finishes, such as sandstone, concrete and charred timbers, that look the part while being virtually maintenance free. The northern orientation, banks of solar panels and huge water tanks mean the home is largely self-sufficient in its energy and water needs. » Interior designer Jase Sullivan created interiors that reflect the epic scale of the house while also honouring its eco credentials. Charred timbers and sandstone bring the outside in. He has also drawn on his love of the 70s, with sculptural pieces, some vintage, that make bold, timeless statements.

This page In the main bedroom, directional sconce in Cream from Obsolete Inc. Custom bedside table from JD. Lee Furniture. Vintage candle holders and vessel on bedside table, all from Rudi Rocket. Custom bedhead in Kelly Forslund 'Cremona Glant' fabric in Caper from Ascraft. Bed throw from The DEA Store. Duvet and cushion covers in 'Flocca' linen in Fog from Hale Mercantile Co. Beni M'Rirt rug from Tigmi Trading. Opposite page, from top Presiding over a quiet corner of the bedroom, Joshua Yeldham's *Owl of Blue Waterhole* from Arthouse Gallery. Lev & Lev vintage leather chaise from Castorina. *Brutal Monument* sculpture by Levi Hawken from Becker Minty. Large glazed ceramic urn from Watertiger. *Summer's Song* artwork by Colin Pennock from Arthouse Gallery hangs behind the 'Ruka' sideboard from JD. Lee Furniture. Green vintage ceramic from The Design Ark, Ella Bendrups 'Solcare' terracotta vase from Saint Cloche and ikebana bowl from Rudi Rocket.

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SIGNATURE STYLE
KEY PIECES

1 Bocci '84.6 Stem' horizontal suspended lamp, POA, Space. 2 'Elysian' commercial pull-out kitchen mixer in Brushed Gunmetal, \$580, from ABI Interiors. 3 Cappelen Dimyr 'No.11' rug, from \$4500, from Tigmi Trading. 4 Luna ceramic artwork by Katarina Wells, \$800, from Curatorial + Co. 5 de Sede 'DS-266' recliner chair in Sandstone, from \$14,650, from Domo.

