

# Wanderlust

*Marching to the beat of its own drum, this Melbourne heritage townhouse was reconceived to take inspiration from its owners' nomadic outlook*

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Despite its Melbourne setting, this house resists easy categorisation. 'It's not purely coastal, nor is it strictly urban,' reflects designer Jase Sullivan. 'There's an English sensibility in its detailing, yet it exists in a space between worlds.' Its owners, an Australian-American couple, divide their time between homes across different continents and view each residence as its own immersive experience, somewhere that feels 'like a destination,' Jase explains.

Originally a Victorian-era townhouse, the property retains its heritage-listed frontage, yet within it is transformed. Thoughtful interventions ensure an abundance of natural light (skylights and a basement lightwell illuminate even the most tucked-away spaces), and colour played a pivotal role throughout the design process. Jase's moodboards explored deep, muted hues – dusty purples, olive greens and warm reds. 'The idea was to reference their base in Byron Bay, but not replicate it – I think of the homes as sisters, not twins,' he notes. A standout element of this property, that ensures it has its own personality, is the yellow fireplace, which emerged from a moment of serendipity. 'I found these tile offcuts at DenHolm's workshop, originally from a chair prototype, and knew immediately they had to be used. The shade isn't a bright yellow,' says Jase. 'It has warmth and depth, a grounding presence.' One of the clients' favourite places to stay is Kit Kemp's Crosby

Street Hotel in New York. They love the refinement and traditional elements, such as the steel windows and doors, and how they are paired with saturated colours. 'When I lived in New York,' Jase explains, 'I knew the hotel well. It became a key inspiration for this home, as a place to become immersed within. Rather than imitating Kit's design, we saw the way she created atmosphere and depth as a core lesson in layering, which we sought to carry forward.'

Bespoke craftsmanship defines the interior. Almost every piece of furniture was custom designed, many in collaboration with artisans. DenHolm's Steve Clark not only crafted the fireplace tiles but also created sculptural handles for the laundry room, inspired by vintage red wall sconces from 1stDibs. 'Steve is meticulous,' Jase remarks. 'He considers the spatial context of every piece – what surrounds it, how much air it needs around it. His work has a raw yet refined artistry.' Lighting was another focal point, with all the fixtures sourced from Italy to ensure a distinctive identity. 'Lighting and fireplaces are the elements that make a space sing,' says Jase. 'They're also the biggest design risks. You constantly question if you've gone too far, but those moments of doubt often lead to the most rewarding results.' And therein lies this home's appeal – thoughtful yet uninhibited, sophisticated yet playful, it challenges convention while feeling entirely at ease. [jasesullivan.com.au](http://jasesullivan.com.au)

**Living room** Servomuto's 'Circus' chandeliers float in this lofty living space, their colourful eclecticism echoed by a pair of IPE 'Corolla' lounge chairs that are covered in vintage tapestries sourced from Nicholas & Alistair. A vintage Saporiti Italia coffee table sits on the 'Overlap' rug from Beni Rugs with a bespoke sofa by Jase Sullivan. The artwork on the back wall is *Gentle Rain* by Leah Thiessen, from Flinders Lane Gallery. The ceiling is painted in 'Custom Blue' from Painted Earth Byron Bay and the flooring is 'Hyde Plank' from Havwoods. The plinth surrounding the fireplace is tiled in bright-yellow limestone mosaic tiles ►





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**Terrace** Overlooking Port Phillip Bay, the elevated terrace affords both privacy and a prized outdoor space. The ‘Grao’ sofa and armchair and the ‘Granada’ drum coffee table are from GlobeWest; the cushions are made in Peter Dunham’s ‘Carmania’ and ‘Masai’ fabrics. **Kitchen** Full-height cabinetry in pale mint (Murobond’s ‘Cyprus’) gives this space a springlike feel, enhanced by the island which is painted in ‘Overcast’ by Porter’s Paints and topped with Roman travertine by CDK Stone. The colourful stools are from Philippe Model Maison and the leather ‘Saddle Capa II’ pendant lamps are from L’Aviva Home ►







**Kitchen** On the opposing wall, the subtle curve of the cabinetry (painted in 'Overcast' by Porter's Paints) sits just shy of the ceiling. The splashback is clad in beige glazed Moroccan tiles from local store Jatana Interiors. **Dining area** Custom shelving (painted in 'Sugarbag' by Murobond) displaying pieces from the homeowners' travels sits behind an integrated banquette covered in 'Gabor' fabric by Nobilis and 'Candela' by Alhambra. A 'Scarpa 121' dining chair by Afra and Tobia Scarpa, reupholstered in 'Sunflower' faux suede from Tigger Hall Design, is placed beside a dining table designed by Jase ►



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**Study** Warm, muted tones connect this space to the adjacent rooms. On the wall, a vintage Vistosi sconce flanks Melissa Boughey's *Sum of Parts, Interlude*. Beni Rugs' 'Entrata' design adds a softness underfoot, which contrasts with the sleek finish of the pink vintage lacquered Italian console that serves as a desk.

**Guest room/studio** Tucked up over the garage, a guest suite and studio share the warmth of the rest of the home. Cushions from Jordan sit on the 'Anfibio' sofa by Alessandro Becchi, its curves contrasting with the angles in Barbara Frua's 'Fortino' wallpaper for Pictalab Milano. In front of the sofa stands a vintage 1970s Italian coffee table by Gabriella Crespi. In the corner is a vintage brass 'Anna' floor lamp by Anna Ehrner for Ateljé Lyktan. The rug is a Beni M'ritt ►





**Bathroom** The Water Monopoly 'Rockwell' bath in 'Willow' with 'Industrica' tapware by Candana sits under Ben Mazey's custom ceramic artwork. The 'Arbon Limestone' flooring is from Eco Outdoor and the shower's 'Chasing Rainbows' handmade ceramic tiles are from local store Jatana Interiors. **Bedroom** 'Fortino' wallpaper by Barbara Frua for Pictalab Milano contrasts with a custom blue ceiling. A 'Parasol' table lamp by Palefire Studio x 8 Holland Street, a Murano glass bowl and a watercolour by Margaret Ackland sit on a restored 1960s Italian chest of drawers from Castorina and Co. The bedcover is the 'Aidaa' by LRNCE ►







**Ensuite** A custom vanity unit is topped with a Roman travertine top from CDK Stone and finished with 'Industrica' tapware from Candana. The wall light is Porta Romana's 'Iris' and the tadelakt wall surface is by Raw Design Byron Bay. **Guest bedroom** Barbara Frua's 'Shark' wallpaper for Pictalab Milano gives this room a grounded base, with the custom bed upholstered in 'Capretto' fabric by Serena Dugan (on the headboard) and 'Gigi' from Rose Tarlow (on the base). The bed is dressed with burnt-orange bamboo sheets from Ecoy with a LRNCE throw and 'Palmer' cushion from Jardan. Bespoke bedside tables are topped with brutalist lamps from Tamsin Johnson. The 'Pasture' rug is from Beni Rugs **See Stockists page for details** **ED**

