

Good **VIBES**

On Australia's east coast, this Med-inspired villa is filled with colour, vintage pieces and positive energy

PHOTOGRAPHY Prue Ruscoe
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OUTDOOR TERRACE

'I wanted this to feel like an extension of the living room, so I kept the pink and blue colour palette and introduced a vintage coffee table to avoid a typical outdoor look,' says designer Jase.

Bohemian 72 lounge chairs, Gubi. Tectona sunloungers (custom powder coated), Classic with a Twist; in Amida in Red on Natural, Peter Dunham at Ascraft. Pink Visconti poolside umbrellas, Issimo. Coffee table, Angelucci 20th Century





The download

THE DESIGNER

Jase Sullivan, who did the decor and a new floor plan. The house is the holiday home of an Australian couple with two adult children who live between Los Angeles in the US and Melbourne and Byron Bay in Australia.

THE PROPERTY

The Mediterranean-style, single-storey, five-bed villa is designed around a central courtyard. A reworked floor plan now includes two living rooms and a study, as well as the kitchen, dining area and five bathrooms. There is a second-storey extension used as a designated breathing and meditation space. Additionally, there is an outdoor lounge, dining, kitchen and seating area, as well as a separate guest house overlooking the pool.

a space designed for both serene relaxation and sophisticated entertaining, this holiday home answered the needs of an Australian couple seeking sanctuary from their bustling city lives. Calling on innovative designer Jase Sullivan to revamp it has resulted in a masterful blend of comfort and style, which has imbued the house with a feel-good atmosphere that truly epitomises the concept of escape.

Built in the 1970s, the property had gone through several renovations before facing its latest iteration. ‘The clients absolutely loved the location being so close to the beach and Byron Bay village, but they really didn’t like the design of the house and didn’t know which creative direction to take it in,’ says Jase. ‘When I was engaged to do the project, I presented the idea of giving it a Mediterranean makeover and altering the layout of the rooms for a better flow.’

Far beyond a few cosmetic changes, the new vision required the builders to pause work to enable Jase to come up with his completely reimagined concept for the building. It involved relocating the kitchen, guest living and dining room, as well as removing some walls and installing new ones. He was also tasked with designing a ‘breathing room’ – a first for Jase, who instead of a typical yoga space aimed for a living area aesthetic, crafting seating for relaxed, cross-legged lounging.

‘We added three side archways leading out to the central courtyard that can be seen from most of the rooms, and which are now the most striking element of the home,’ Jase explains. ‘We also incorporated the stone wall that runs down

the hallway from the front to the back of the house, which is a feature often seen in mid-century houses.’

Jase opted for materials with texture and imperfections, as seen in the tadelakt-clad walls and ceiling, accentuating the Mediterranean feel of the home. Steel windows and doors add contrast, while the use of wallpaper in the guest rooms and study brings cosiness. ‘I custom designed all the cabinetry and half of the furniture, while the other items are vintage pieces – several Italian – that I reimagined with new upholstery,’ says Jase. ‘In addition to the various tiled coffee tables throughout the house, I also designed the pink tiled outdoor dining table and we had the pool furniture powder coated to match it.’

Throughout, the colour palette and the aimed-for vibe were heavily inspired by the designer’s many holidays in the Med: ‘I love the sun-bleached vibrant colours contrasting with white-rendered walls on Greek islands, the kitsch styling from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s-built beach houses in Saint-Tropez and the curved white walls in Porto Rafael in Sardinia.’ For the wardrobe doors of the guest bedrooms, Jase took inspiration from some blue shutters that he saw on a farm house in the south of France, while the 100-year-old tiles on the floor in the main bathroom were sourced from an old ruin in Naples.

Here, time really does seem to slow down, aligning with the sun’s leisurely journey across the sky, while the house’s playful interiors, a constant source of visual delight, enhance that sense of unhurried pleasure. Living in the moment here is not a holiday indulgence – rather, it’s a daily reality.

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OUTDOOR KITCHEN

'I chose these rare vintage tiles as I wanted to create a sense of fun with the splashback,' says Jase.

Vintage **wall tiles**, Jatana Interiors. Custom **dining table** by Jase Sullivan; **top in** Jatana Interiors tiles; made by Eastern Forge. Tectona **chairs**, Classic with a Twist. **Seat cushions** in Zanzibar in Ocean, Peter Dunham at Ascraft; made by The Dusty Road





OUTDOOR AREA

This stone-clad wall was designed to align with the three arched doorways that lead to this central courtyard.

Cone wall light, Il Fanale. Seat and cushions in fabrics by Peter Dunham at Ascraft. Vintage chair (part of a set with table), Vampt Vintage Design



LIVING ROOM

'I designed the three-toned sofa and stained green coffee table, which definitely reflect my style,' says Jase. 'The mid-century blue floor lamp was probably my boldest choice - I always like to throw something out of the ordinary into the mix.'

Sofa in fabrics from Tigger Hall Design. Vintage **chair** by Marco Zanuso, Colecta; reupholstered in Nestor, Boussac at Pierre Frey. 1960s **floor lamp** by Carlo Nason for Mazzega, Lumini Collections.

Artwork by Diana Miller. Custom **coffee table** by Jase Sullivan; made by Arca Joinery

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KITCHEN

'I enjoy making comfortable seating around an island as it becomes a gathering spot while someone is preparing food or drinks,' says Jase. 'Hand-painted cabinets allow the clients to refresh the kitchen with a new colour in a few years.'

Custom **kitchen**, Jase Sullivan, **Bar stools**, Rachel Donath (custom powder coated); **upholstered in Masai**, Peter Dunham at Ascraft, **Funnel pendant light**, NPage Studio

MEDITATION ROOM

'I didn't want this to feel like a commercial gym,' says Jase. 'To achieve this, I sourced five vintage chairs; their shape is perfect for crossing your legs in a meditation pose.'

Coffee table and side table, both Tigmi. Vintage modular five-piece sofa, Colecta; reupholstered in fabric from Domus Textiles. Pendant and wall lights, Bloomingdales Lighting. For a Pierre Guariche floor lamp, try Pamono. Blue vase by Bianca Pintan. Curtains made by Creative Blinds



MAIN
BATHROOM

'I introduced an archway in the bath area for a sense of cohesion with the arches in the central courtyard. I believe it's always important to maintain a consistent thread throughout a home,' says Jase.

Wall tiles and Neapolitan floor tiles, both Jatana Interiors. Vintage wall sconce, Nicholas & Alistair. For a similar bath and tap, try Lusso





BEDROOM

'I love the clash between the lampshade and the wallpaper here,' says Jase.

Custom **headboard** by Jase Sullivan; upholstered in Nina Campbell fabric, Domus Textiles; made by The Dusty Road. Vintage **bedside table**, Vampt Vintage Design. Vintage travertine **lamp base**, Lumini Collections. Custom **lampshade** in fabric from South Pacific Fabrics. Berber grasscloth **wallcovering**, Peter Dunham at Ascraft