



Earthly delights

When Sydney florist Jodie McGregor renovated her family home, directing its attention to the garden seemed only natural.

STORY *Tamarah Pienaar* | STYLING *Kayla Gex* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Chris Warnes*



Homeowners Stu White and Jodie McGregor with their children (from left) Pirra, Remi and Carter. Chairs, Robert Plumb. Fireplace, DJB Group. Centrepiece, garland and wreath, all Jodie McGregor Flowers. Tableware, KeepRasin. Goblets, Bed Bath N' Table. **OPPOSITE** Plants with brightly coloured foliage such as (from left) *Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina', *Alternanthera* 'Little Ruby' and coastal rosemary provide year-round colour around the pool. Paper decorations, We Love Sundays. For Where to Buy, see page 218.



Somehow it is fitting that a florist would be drawn to a property by a tree - in this case, a magnificent 7m-high frangipani. Happily situated in the backyard, it produces masses of fragrant blooms just in time for Christmas.

Jodie McGregor and Stu White, proprietors of Jodie McGregor Flowers, spotted this Federation bungalow in Sydney's inner west in 2009. "We loved the location, the aspect and of course, the frangipani," says Jodie. But it wasn't all roses. The house had some beautiful original features but was fairly rundown, and the 1970s addition at the rear had a heavy timber-panelled kitchen and glass atrium that was "like a hot box in summer". Before committing to a sale, they had architect Vanessa Wegner look over the property, who confirmed its potential.

Stu and Jodie lived in the house for a few years then knuckled down to renovate. "We had a good idea of what we wanted, but decided to live in it for a while before making any changes," says Stu. "And between the kids and the shop, it was tricky to find the time to get started."

The couple called on Vanessa once again, providing her with a brief for a home that was "modernist leaning, but also warm and comfortable to live in". "Individual areas were important - our kids [Pirra, 14, Remi, 11, and Carter, nine] are or will soon be teenagers - but we also wanted spaces where we could relax and entertain large numbers of family and friends," says Jodie. "And keeping the frangipani tree was a must." ►



The statement splashback is a mural by botanical illustrator Adriana Picker, painted on a sheet of fibre cement and protected by a pane of glass. Joinery, E&A Kitchen Laminating. Quantum Quartz benchtops in Marble Carrara (island) and Storm (rear), WK Stone. Rangehood, Winning Appliances. Stools, Great Dane. Sliding doors, Magic Glass. **LEFT** A festive floral centrepiece, made by Jodie, is the star of this family's Christmas table. Napkin, French Country Collections. Plate, KeepResin. Placemat, Freedom. For Where to Buy, see page 218.







ABOVE LEFT A little bit of Christmas trim goes a long way. Gift wrap, Australian House & Garden, Bespoke Letterpress and Vandoros Fine Packaging. Ribbon from Koch & Co, Stampin' Up! and Vandoros Fine Packaging. Paper garland, We Love Sundays.

ABOVE "We did the decorating ourselves," says Jodie. "The last piece in the puzzle was the fabulous Verner Panton Globe light over the dining table, which was sourced for us by Vampt Vintage Design." Dining chairs, Barnaby Lane. Dining table, Mark Tuckey. Tray, West Elm. Bowl, Samantha Robinson Handmade Porcelain. Crackers, The Paperie. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove. Painting by Craig Waddell.

LEFT "Our bedroom has a really lovely feel," says Stu. Bedcover, Linen House. Bed and bedside table, Planet. Light, Koskela. Curtains, Blindcraft. Chair (on balcony), Barnaby Lane.

OPPOSITE Carter and Remi sneak a peek at their presents. Coffee table, Vampt Vintage Design. Sofa, Project 82. Throw, Pottery Barn. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove. Star and baubles, Ruby Star Traders. Tree, Mediterranean Markets. *For Where to Buy, see page 218.* ▶



FESTIVE FLOWERS & FOLIAGE

OUTDOOR TABLE CENTREPIECE

Pincushion
Colombian rose
Berzillia berry
Ming fern
Hypericum berry

OUTDOOR WREATH

Silver dollar gum
Magnolia leaf
Berzillia berry
Echeveria
Ming fern

OUTDOOR GARLAND

Ivy
Dodder vine
Silver dollar gum
Umbrella fern

ISLAND BENCH & INDOOR DINING TABLE

Cordyline
Hypericum berry

POOL HOUSE TABLE

Carnation
Hypericum berry
Silver dollar gum

◀ Vanessa came up with a two-point plan. The four front rooms of the bungalow were retained and refurbished, while the 1970s addition made way for a contemporary two-storey extension constructed from timber, recycled brick, steel, concrete and glass. At ground level, the extension contains an open-plan kitchen/dining/living area, which transitions to a deck that overlooks the pool and beautifully landscaped garden where the frangipani is front and centre. On the first floor is the main bedroom suite, the couple's home office and a guestroom.

The mix of materials was crucial to achieving the inviting, modern feel that Jodie and Stu were after, says Vanessa. "Timber is really versatile and a great way to warm up concrete and white."

This Christmas marks the first anniversary of the completed works and it's clear the house has evolved into a much-loved family home. "It seems as though we've been here forever," says Jodie. "We feel like we're on holidays every day so we're pretty happy about that!" **H&G Vanessa Wegner Architect, Gladesville, NSW;** (02) 9817 4256.





Comfortable and low maintenance, the pool house hosts a steady stream of visitors on sunny afternoons. From outdoor shower down to the kitchen sink and stylish casual furniture, every need is catered to. Bunting, We Love Sundays. Pool, Landshapers. Crazy paving, Eco Outdoor.

OPPOSITE TOP Low-slung water-resistant furniture is key by the pool. Sofa and coffee table, Robert Plumb. Chair, Barnaby Lane. Cushions, One Duck Two (on sofa) and Pottery Barn. Tray, West Elm. Tumblers, lantern and candleholder, all Bed Bath N' Table. Towels, Bed Bath N' Table. Flowers and flask, Jodie McGregor Flowers.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM The soothing main ensuite is a showcase for the mixed materials palette. Basin, Reece. Tapware, Astra Walker. Floor and wall tiles, Surface Gallery. Lighting, JSB Lighting.

For Where to Buy, see page 218.

H&G AT HOME WITH

Look we LOVE

Fun, family-friendly finishes are central to this home's success. The restrained materials palette allows texture to set the scene; bright colours, plucked from the garden, energise the interior.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT Indi linen-cotton **reversible cushion** with faux-leather back (45x45cm, back shown), \$70, Art Club Concept; www.artclubconcept.com. Vintage linen **throw** in Marshmallow, \$189, Aura by Tracie Ellis; www.aurahome.com.au. Rattan **placemat** with shell detail (20x10cm), \$75, St Barts; www.st-barts.com.au. Poly Rattan **patio chair**, \$369, The Family Love Tree; www.thefamilylovetree.com.au. Wooden **Christmas tree** with rotating branches (85cm), \$399, One Two Tree; www.onetwotree.com.au. Short glass and metal lantern in Hot Lips, \$86/4L, Dulux. Endure **paint** in Perky Plum, \$84/4L, Taubmans. Stone Textured ceramic **dinner plate** (26cm), \$17, Mozi; www.mozi.com. Geometric paper **garland** (2m), \$18, Down That Little Lane; www.downthatlittellane.com.au.