

# home and away

Treasures collected all over the globe infuse this contemporary Sydney home with history and soul

STORY & STYLING NATALIE WALTON PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WARNES



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Following a whirlwind purchase, Galit (pictured) and her husband's home is now a picture of calm and tranquility. In the living room, a duo of artworks from Globe West by Filipina artist Tes Pasola, wicker chairs and a Cavit & Co linen 'Verellen Camille' sofa set a relaxed, beachy tone. Dreamy blue accents come courtesy of handmade cushions from Elements I Love (opposite) and custom cushions in Westbury Textiles 'Bloomsbury' fabric in Navy (below). >



**LIVING ROOM** "We like to collect unique pieces from here and there," remarks Galit of the coffee table the couple picked up on holiday in the south of France. "It was an old door that was converted into a table." The sturdy piece is tempered by soft furniture to sink into, including a custom-made ottoman and armchair in 'Canvas Damask' by Rossetti Fabrics. The pure wool monochrome rug, selected for its handmade quality, is from Behruz Studio in Melbourne. These rugs are purchased in strips and then sewn together in the studio, offering the perfect dimensions for any space. >

"We hoped to **create** a space that would naturally reflect our **personalities**" - Galit



**FABRIC**  
'Luxembourg' pure Belgian  
linen, \$140/m, Westbury Textiles.



**BUYING A NEW** home was the furthest thought from the minds of Galit and her husband in May 2012. The pair were about to get married, enjoying a “premoon” in Broome, Western Australia, when a friend who worked in real estate called, excited that he’d stumbled across a property in Sydney’s eastern suburbs he thought the couple would love. Three days before their wedding, they went to a viewing and had an instinctive feeling about the place. “We walked in and said ‘This is it,’” Galit recalls. Two days later, the vendors accepted their offer.

With its airy, open layout and spacious living areas, the home’s floorplan had everything the couple could have wished for – the master bedroom came with an ensuite and nearby study, and there were two guest bedrooms, perfect for interstate visitors. The outdoor area, complete with an alfresco dining space and deck, was also a drawcard; as it’s half undercover, it can be enjoyed come rain or shine.

While the structure of the home was sound and very liveable, the interiors weren’t quite to the couple’s taste, so a rethink was in order. “When it came to decorating, we drew on a lot of influences and styles that we love – French provincial charm with rustic, earthy and vintage treasures that we’ve found all around the world on our travels,” explains Galit. “We like to juxtapose this style with contemporary elements, creating a feel that’s homely and warm rather than stuffy and precious.”

Adding to the whirlwind experience of the purchase, the globetrotting couple had already planned to jet off again following their wedding. Enter interior designer Marni Burger, whom Galit briefed before she and her husband left Sydney, to help turn each space into something special. Galit and Marni went through a stack of books and references, with the interiors of Belgian designer Axel Vervoordt becoming a key influence. The sofas were chosen in a similar style to his, as were the rustic benches in the bedrooms. “We wanted the place to feel very natural with muted colours and earthy fabrics,” Galit explains. “We love the style and charm of the south of France.”

While Galit communicated with Marni in the evenings from overseas and approved colour samples via text messages, the interior designer oversaw the bones of the transformation, including new flooring, updated kitchen cabinetry and new joinery. Galit took great pleasure in choosing the decorative finishes and fabrics, with a casual coastal aesthetic evolving naturally. “It complements the home’s setting,” she says. Now, the place sings with serene style – a palette of soft neutrals comes to life with whimsical blues, shots of yellow and vivid prints, while rustic timbers and wicker sit alongside luxe linens.

Although more art for the walls is on the couple’s wishlist, they’re now thrilled with their coastal French-inspired home, which reflects their easy, breezy style. “We like homes that are relaxed and comfortable,” says Galit. “Ours is a home to be lived in and enjoyed by its inhabitants and guests alike.” On all accounts, they’ve achieved their goals – and in record time, too.

we love  
*Re-imagined antiques.*

Galit has filled her home with vintage wares, such as the fishing reels hanging on the wall of the dining room.

Found at Sydney store Elements I Love, the items have been converted into something that's both decorative and functional, thanks to the addition of mirrors. "We love pieces that tell a story," she explains.

**DINING ROOM** A mix of styles and influences imbue each room with eclectic appeal. Here, a Spanish-style dining table – Gaudion Furniture in Melbourne carries similar designs – is paired with rustic French wicker chairs; visit Papaya to get this look. Walls painted in Dulux Antique White USA provide a warm ivory base, while louvre windows usher in cool breezes.





The open-plan layout works really well – I can be in the kitchen, and still interact with people in the living areas – Galit



**SITTING ROOM (top left)** Comfort comes first in this laidback living space, which is decked out with a leather Arthur G sofa and a sunny yellow 'Indian Nomad' rug from Cadrys. The artwork is by Sebastian Nash.

**KITCHEN (above)** A complete overhaul was carried out by EM Cabinetmaking And Joinery, resulting in a new contemporary space with fabulous finishes. An American oak island benchtop ties in with the floorboards, and Carrara marble benchtops from SNB Stone lend sophistication. The deep Belfast Sinks butler's sink, found at Restoration Online, is teamed with a Nicolazzi kitchen mixer.

**HALLWAY (left)** A row of antique French urns from Elements I Love, together with worldly finds – including a suitcase from Portobello Market in Notting Hill, London, and a blue rug from St Tropez, France – showcase the couple's globetrotting style. "These pieces remind us of our travels and experiences," comments Galit. >

**MASTER BEDROOM** Stepping inside this master bedroom is like being whisked away to the French Riviera. Chic stripes conjure a coastal vibe, with a custom-made bedhead and valance in fabric by Rossetti Fabrics. Luxe textures and fabrics abound, including Societe bedlinen from Ondene, a cashmere Bemboka throw and curtains in Designs Of The Time 'Khalka' linen from Elliott Clarke. Galit accessorised with vintage finds – the antique timber bench is from Orient House and the Parisian dressmakers' mannequin is from Elements I Love.





The bathroom has a five-star hotel feel, thanks to luxurious natural stone tiles, a freestanding tub and large windows that show off the view



**GUEST BEDROOM (top left)** Visiting family members regularly use the spare room, and as such, the couple haven't skimped on the decorating. A bedhead in Lizzo Java Collection 'Batavia' fabric from Westbury Textiles makes a striking focal point, while a floor lamp from Vixen & Velvet introduces a hint of industrial style.

**ENSUITE (above & left)** The couple was lucky to inherit a freshly renovated bathroom, swathed in large-format grey stone tiles. The bathtub also came with the home; for similar, try the Adesso 'Bianco Oval' freestanding bath from Tradelink. Generous windows – one of Galit's favourite features – capture views of the deck and beyond. An orange rug from Argentina adds a decorative touch, as does a wood-turned side table; check out the selection at Mark Tuckey for similar. >



**DECK** The combination of lush greenery, 'Sorrento Piazza' outdoor furniture from Globe West and an idyllic location makes this outdoor sanctuary difficult to leave.



## INSIDE STORY

### Who lives here?

Galit, a lawyer, and her husband, who works in financial services.

### What is your favourite piece?

Galit: "The timber kitchen island bench – I use it every day. It's beautiful and practical and doesn't get scuffed. It makes the kitchen the focal point of the whole living space."

### What do you look for when decorating?

"Something that has old-world charm and history, such as the fishing reels in the dining area."

### What would you do differently next time?

"In terms of the outcome, nothing. In terms of the process, I would have enjoyed being more present to watch the project come together, piece by piece. It wasn't really possible as we were travelling abroad quite frequently during the process."

### What's your best decorating tip?

"I can honestly say that getting a decorator added a lot of value, and I don't think a lot of people realise that. It's not just about someone giving you their creative input, it's also about their contacts, networks and knowledge."



Outdoor living is a breeze thanks to sliding doors which open onto an alfresco dining area.

"We wanted the place to feel very **natural and earthy**" – Galit



Timeworn lanterns and pots dress up the deck.

## PLANS



## CONTACT

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ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION  
ILLUSTRATION: KENZIEDSIGN.COM