

TEQUILA

SUNRISE

These pages The spectacular view across Pittwater is just one of the many attractions of this sunny home in Sydney's northern beaches. Looking across the living area from the dining room to the terrace where two Adam Goodrum 'Trace' armchairs from Tait sit with a Kartell side table in a citrus hue from Space. 'Granada Hourglass' side table from GlobeWest. Clients' existing sunbeds custom painted by Creative Finish, and upholstered by Rematerialised. In the foreground, a patterned cloth from Pigott's Store covers the dining table. Cup and saucer from Mud Australia. 'Deeply Pendant' raffia pendant lights from The Together Project. Vintage rattan chair. Oriental lamp base from Chee Soon & Fitzgerald with shade in fabric from Think Positive Prints.

A playful sunny vibe spiced with intimations of chic resorts in exotic locations underpins the jazzy makeover of this beachside holiday home.

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This page The living area overlooks the pool. Coffee table from denHolm. Gubi '9602' floor lamp by Paavo Tynell, 'El Zahri' rug and chess set, all from Tigmi Trading. Seletti plates and cushions in antique kimono silk, all from Chee Soon & Fitzgerald. Basket from Spence & Lyda. The striped awning is a nostalgic touch. **Opposite page, from top** The large naive-style artwork by Studio of the Sun from Jardan inspired the colour palette and the repeated motifs throughout the home. Clients' existing sofa and chairs refreshed with cushions in fabrics from Think Positive Prints. Basket from Spence & Lyda. 'El Zahri' rug from Tigmi Trading. Table lamp from Chee Soon & Fitzgerald with shade in fabric from Think Positive Prints. Painted checkerboard wall detail by Creative Finish. Dining area has 'Deeply Pendant' raffia hanging lights from The Together Project. The terrace was updated with new paving in checked tumbled-marble cobblestones. Pots from Robert Plumb custom painted.



Resplendent with tone, texture, colour and esoteric pieces this sublimely cool seaside sanctuary could be anywhere in the world, from Mexico to the Côte d'Azur. And that is precisely the mood that interior designer Yasmine Ghoniem, director of YSG Studio, wished to create – a free-spirited, international vibe for “a place that savours summer’s glow year round”, as she describes it. “You walk in and you instantly feel transported to another place.”

The house is actually situated overlooking Pittwater in Sydney’s northern beaches, taking in the vista all the way to the Central Coast. Reflecting its moniker, La Palma, the home is surrounded by palm trees. Despite its prime hilltop position it looked tired when purchased by current owners Jason Johnson and Portia Thomson as their beach house and holiday rental property.

Yasmine had worked with Jason previously on his Bondi apartment, his company’s Sydney headquarters and his first home with Portia in Sydney’s Dover Heights so they were completely in sync about the design aesthetic. “Yas is a creative genius,” enthuses Jason. “Her ability to meld colour and texture to create a desired mood is phenomenal.”

What Yasmine saw when she first visited the home were “weathered features and clichéd seaside themes”. Jettisoning references to the beach and water she instead sought to instil a playful yet sophisticated mood for the family that includes 14-year-old twins, an eight-year-old and a four-year-old.

Initial structural work included replacing windows and doors to lighten their mass, sanding the worn floorboards back to a warm timber hue, and removing all the greying timber and heavy outdoor paving. To comply with the couple’s desire to work separately from home Yasmine converted one of the guestrooms into another main bedroom, equipping both with luxurious ensuite bathrooms and custom marble and timber desks facing the view. >



This page The sunroom has existing cane sofas painted white and updated with upholstery in fabric from Think Positive Prints and cushions from Lucy Montgomery. Custom coffee tables by YSG made by Mediterranean Marble. Ketta 'Bela' floor lamp from Mobilia. Basket from Spence & Lyda. 'Bikini #5' wall lights from Servomuto. Ceiling painted in a custom French wash with decorative detail by Creative Finish. Artworks, from left: *Ghostly Misfit* tile by Jan Vogelpoel, *Stucco* by Stacey Rees, *Volcano Chess* by Alex Xerri, *Balcony* by Clare Walker. *Glass on Pink Stripes* by Sophie Sachs. Custom shelf from Saint Cloche with sculptures, from left: *Garnet* by Bettina Willner, *Yarnina II* by Sallie Portnoy and (below) *Red Snake* by Elise Cameron-Smith, all from Saint Cloche Gallery. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** The kitchen island has a Giallo Siena marble benchtop from Mediterranean Marble accented with an Astra Walker 'Icon' tap in Red. 'Gus' stools from Jordan. Vase from Spence & Lyda. Looking towards the dining area and a wall light by Olivia Bossy. On table: vase by Manuela Serje from Curatorial+Co. Bowl from Alex and Trahanas. Lemon candles from Nonna's Grocer. Custom bedhead by YSG made by Institch in fabric from Think Positive Prints. Throw from Cult. Curtains from Simple Studio. Wall light from Lighting Collective. Head sculpture from Spence & Lyda. Green water glass from Hay. The powder room is located off the sunroom and is decorated with the clients' mirrors. Hand towel from Loom. 'Elysian Minimal' mixer and spout set in brushed brass from ABI Interiors.



« Another request was for breakout zones for the kids “for play and a little peace”. Also, the house was to provide an easy space for convivial and frequent entertaining, so it “had to nail that fine combo of comfort and elegance”, says Jason. Yasmine adds, “The shared spaces had to feel unpretentious so you felt you could walk in from the beach in wet togs and plonk your feet on the sofa.”

A large naive painting in the living room inspired the tonal scheme and repeated motifs. In sunny primaries it depicts a melange of tropical themes from cactus and clay pots to pineapples and palm trees. It was no stretch for Yasmine to indulge her love of colour, a favourite move. “Vibrant red hues steal the show,” she says, but there’s no shortage of sizzling shades, with spicy ginger upholstery on outdoor furniture, zesty citrus accents and glorious patterns everywhere. Even the kitchen benchtop is flamboyant in a stunning honey-streaked Giallo Siena marble with waterfall ends and “a little fire” with red tapware and knobs on the Wolf stovetop.

But there are also quieter moments, with a sprinkling of earthy tones and white throughout. As some of the furniture,

indoors and out, was to be repurposed Yasmine refreshed timber and rattan seating with a lick of white paint enlivened by punchy upholstery, rendering them “ready to rhumba”. Similarly, smart striped awnings in black and white look sophisticated and add a nostalgic resort feel.

New checked tumbled-marble cobblestones around the pool provided an instant lift, repeated for effect in the flooring of the two main bathrooms. The checkerboard theme is reintroduced in the handpainted wall datum that runs around the living room and to mark the edge of a step in the dining area – “artistically acknowledging a trip hazard”, says Yasmine. Elsewhere, ceilings painted in a French wash with custom swirl detailing, handpainted wall stripes and door murals in palm tree motifs add personality.

Yasmine and Portia collaborated on the fabrics, selecting whimsical designs from Think Positive Prints’ archive to upholster bedheads, blinds and cushions and set the story for each room. Kimono silks cover scatter cushions in the living room linking with the blue porcelain lamp bases and oriental plates on the wall. »



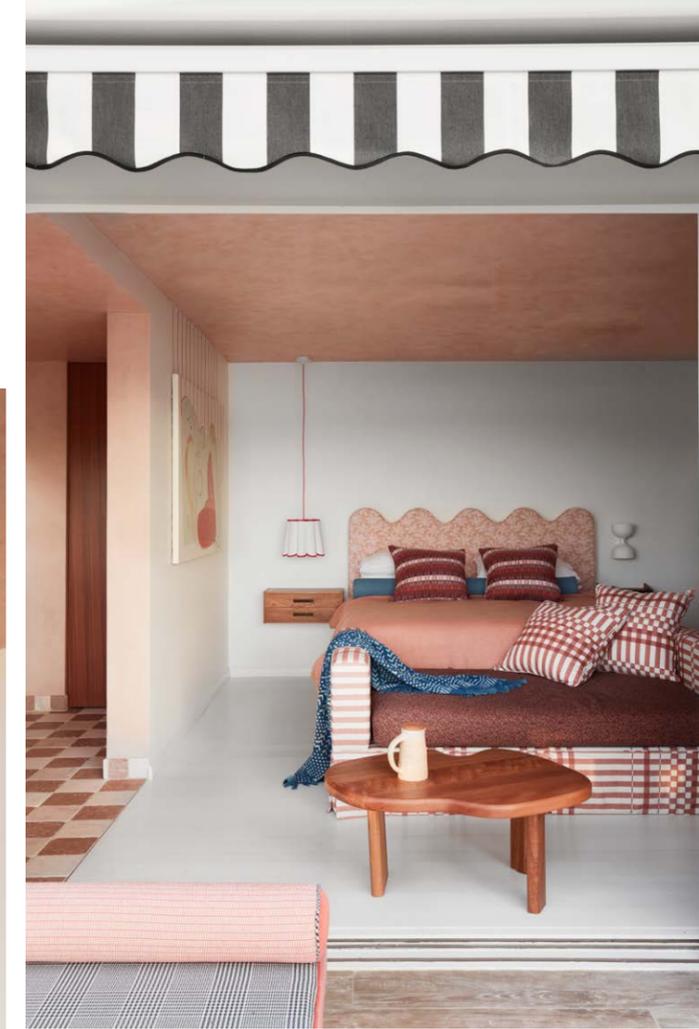
This page The terrace is an inviting spot for sunning and admiring the view. Clients’ sunbeds painted by Creative Finish and upholstered by Rematerialised. Kartell stool from Space. On the barbecue bench is a Marset ‘Ginger’ outdoor lamp from Mobilia, terracotta heads from Alex and Trahanas and a vase from Little Known Makers. Opposite page The outlook towards the Central Coast is mesmerising. Adam Goodrum ‘Trace’ armchair from Tait on the terrace, Kartell stool from Sadee and ‘Granada Hourglass’ stool from GlobeWest. Pots from Robert Plumb custom painted.

SMART STRIPED AWNINGS IN BLACK AND WHITE LOOK SOPHISTICATED AND ADD A NOSTALGIC RESORT FEEL.

These pages, clockwise from left The play of stripes and checks continues in a main bedroom with the handpainted decorative wall detail by Creative Finish extending above the artwork, *Repose* by Stacey Rees from Saint Cloche. Custom-designed bedhead by YSG made by Institch with fabric from Think Positive Prints. Clients' existing sofa reupholstered and cushions made by Rematerialised in fabric from Think Positive Prints. Pendant light, clients' own. Wall light from Anna Charlesworth. Throw from Chee Soon & Fitzgerald. Coffee table by Livio Tobler. Bedside tables from CCSS. The ensuite bathroom floor is tiled in a checked pattern in Portagallo and Rosso Verona marble tiles from Aeria Country Floors. Vanities and splashback in honed Tiberio marble from Mediterranean Marble. Mirror from Rachel Donath. 'Michelle' stool by Tim Rundle for SP01 from Space.

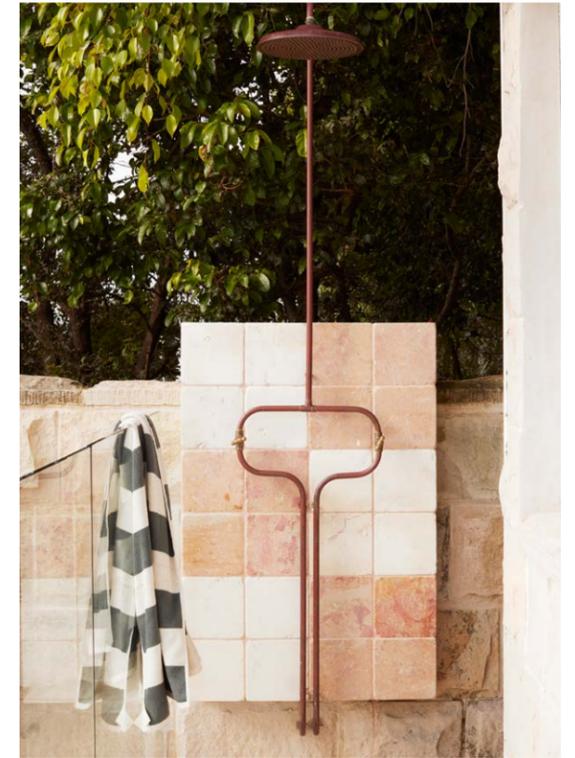
« Furniture selections underline the theme of a summer escape. The dining table, attended by casual rattan chairs, is dressed with a sunny lemon-yellow-patterned cloth conjuring Mediterranean picnics, while the two raffia pendant lights hover above “like sombrero hats”. On the terrace a refreshing scene is set with the plump, rounded shape of Adam Goodrum for Tait ‘Trace’ armchairs contrasting with angular Kartell side tables in citrus yellow.

While the spectacular view could have been the hero of this house it faces stiff competition from the interior design. From the myriad stone selections, exquisite fabrics and textural lighting to the artworks and handpainted details there is delight at every turn. One of the owners' favourite spots is a double daybed off one of the main bedrooms on the upper level. “It's so perfect up there and the outlook across Pittwater is incredible. We often indulge in a sunset drink or two before the chatty chaos of a family dinner draws us back downstairs.” [ysg.studio](#)



SPEED READ

» Yasmine Ghoniem, director of YSG Studio, was called on to revitalise a tired holiday house overlooking Sydney's Pittwater for owners Jason Johnson and Portia Thomson. » Dismayed by the clichéd nautical colours and seaside tropes Yasmine sought to introduce a playful, international feel, reminiscent of resorts in Mexico or the Côte d'Azur. » Heavy paving was replaced with tumbled marble cobblestones in a checkerboard pattern and walls and ceilings were painted in French washes enlivened with naive motifs to create a whimsical backdrop. » Colour plays a starring role throughout with vibrant red hues, ginger shades, citrus accents and fanciful printed fabrics. » As the couple requested separate workspaces, one guestroom was converted to a second main bedroom, both complete with luxurious ensuite bathrooms and custom desks overlooking the sensational view.



This page, clockwise from top left In the other main bedroom is a custom bedhead by YSG made by Institch with fabric from Think Positive Prints. Cushions by Rematerialised in Think Positive Prints fabric. 'Pepe' side table from Sarah Ellison. 'Del Rio' lamps by Lucy Montgomery. Handpainted palm tree door motif by Creative Finish. The outdoor shower is a practical addition backed by marble cobblestone tiles in a gridded formation. Custom-designed desk in Toledo marble and timber by YSG Studio made by Pullicino & Son. 'Big Diiva' chair from Grazia&Co. Italian Murano glass 'Cloud' pendant light from Lighting Collective. Fredericia 'Sequoia' pouf from Cult. Wastepaper bin from Hay. On desk, carafe from Maison Balzac. Tom Dixon 'Swirl' candelabra from Living Edge. Poker Face by Kerrie Oliver from Curatorial+Co. Three small artworks, clients' own. **Opposite page** The house with its refreshed facade and smart black-and-white striped awnings makes an attractive picture nestled into the hillside.

