



FEARLESS EXPRESSION



Designer: YSG
Project name: Polychrome House
Location: Sydney, Australia

Photographer: Prue Ruscoe
Colour consulting and mural: Lymesmith



Emotion and energy are driving forces in YSG's approach to design, and this is visible in the fresh and fearless strokes of bold colour and graphic materials of Polychrome House in Sydney. 'My process starts with imagining how I want a space to feel – its mood, its attitude, its references. I work subliminally, striving for an emotional outcome,' says designer Yasmine Ghoniem.

The owners are a couple of art lovers with three children and their brief to YSG was challenging. Functionally, they wanted to transform their 1960s two-bedroom, two-bathroom brick house into a home with three bedrooms, three bathrooms, an integrated indoor/outdoor retreat and a large living area. Aesthetically and atmospherically, they wanted the brick interior to 'blossom into an energetic design playground bursting with colour. A place that accelerated their mood the moment they entered,' says Yasmine.

YSG moved the kitchen to the ground floor and expanded the living area, removing the rear facade of the house to open it to the outdoors and the jungle-like view. A third bedroom, ensuite and loft was built upstairs, where the kitchen used to be. The existing brown brick and painted timber interior provided a giant canvas, which YSG and local design practice Lymesmith transformed with a vibrant and expressive palette. Quiet neutrals and soft pastels are punctuated with bold, bright colours that draw attention to feature walls and furniture items.

The floor is animated with a graphic pattern of black slate crazy pavers that connect indoors and out and reference the original era of the house. Sections of brick and timber provide an earthy and textural accompaniment to the primary colours and pastel hues injected throughout like an abstract painting.

An abstract mural is the focal point of the living area. Lymesmith painted the wall with a composition inspired by aerial photographs of the property's bayside location. 'The mural, with its zigzags, angles and squiggles and potent mix of primary colours, is pure Memphis in 2D,' says Yasmine. Lymesmith also painted a mural on the entry wall, with abstract white boats bobbing along the coastline and ocean. Classic pieces of mid-century furniture add to the dollops of colour and forms, and enhance the cheerful spirit of the house.

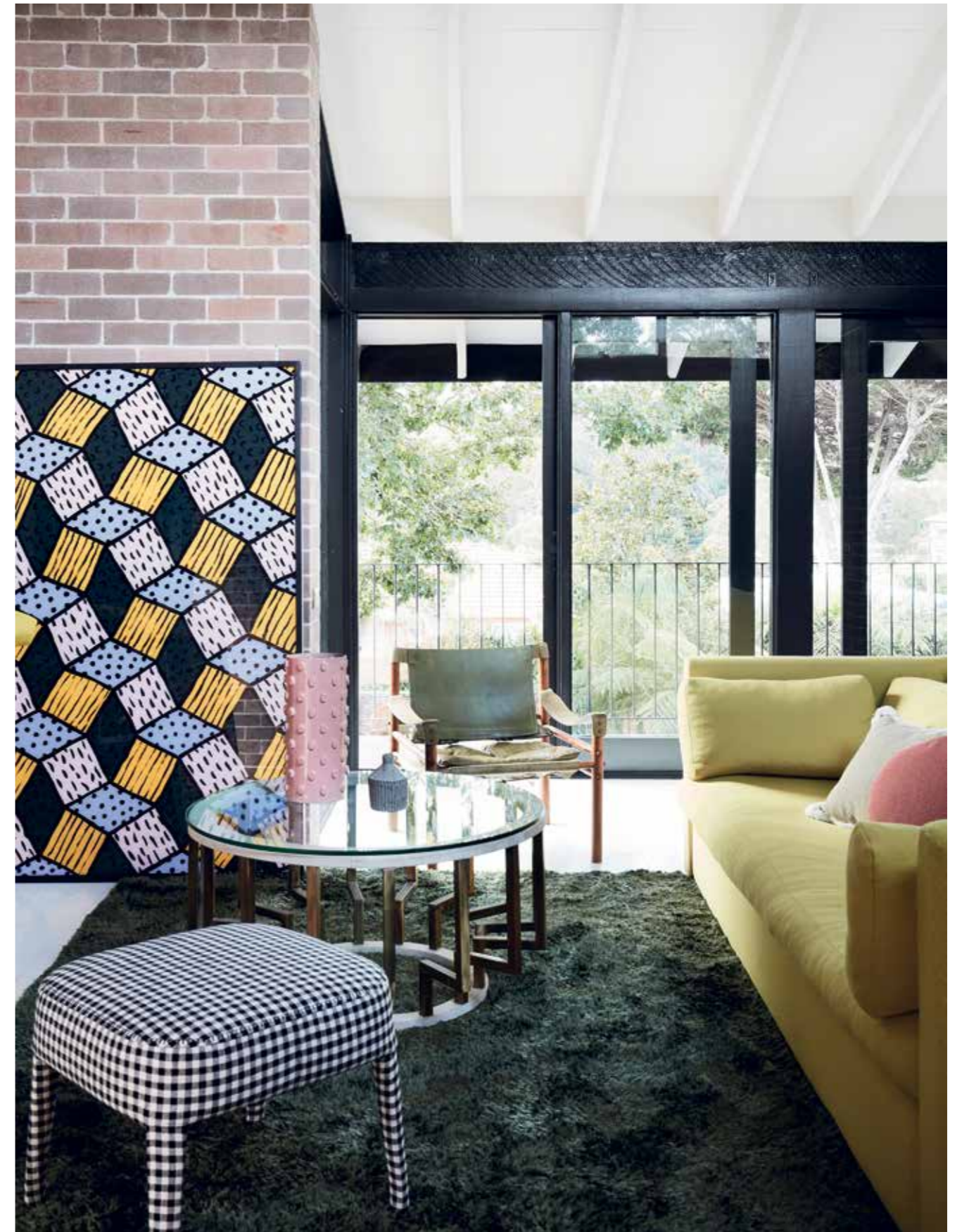
A custom brick plinth with seat pads separates the living area from the kitchen, where the joinery wall is bright yellow, the rear wall is painted terracotta red and a long black scrawl runs through the marble splashback, mimicking the crazy paving. 'It looks like an expressive gesture drawn by an artist, or like a bolt of energy charging the home.'

Mushroom-pink carpet covers the stairs, and white cork tiles replace shag pile floors on the first storey. The same colour palette is used upstairs, where more subdued tones and shades of green complement the treetop views. YSG also stripped back the plasterboard ceiling to its timber battens to enhance the space and light, replaced the enclosed wooden balustrades with flat bars and inserted colourful timber dowels to separate bedrooms and ensuites to ensure natural light flowed through.

Polychrome House is an uplifting and happy home that reflects the family's desire for joyful living. Intended to be their 'forever' home, the house embraces colour and personality, favouring energy, emotion and self-expression.

Previous page: Black slate crazy pavers provide an animated backdrop to Andreu World's Reverse dining table and Pierre Paulin's Groovy chair in purple.

Right: In the upstairs living area, the green tones in the rug, sofa and chair harmonise with nature outdoors.



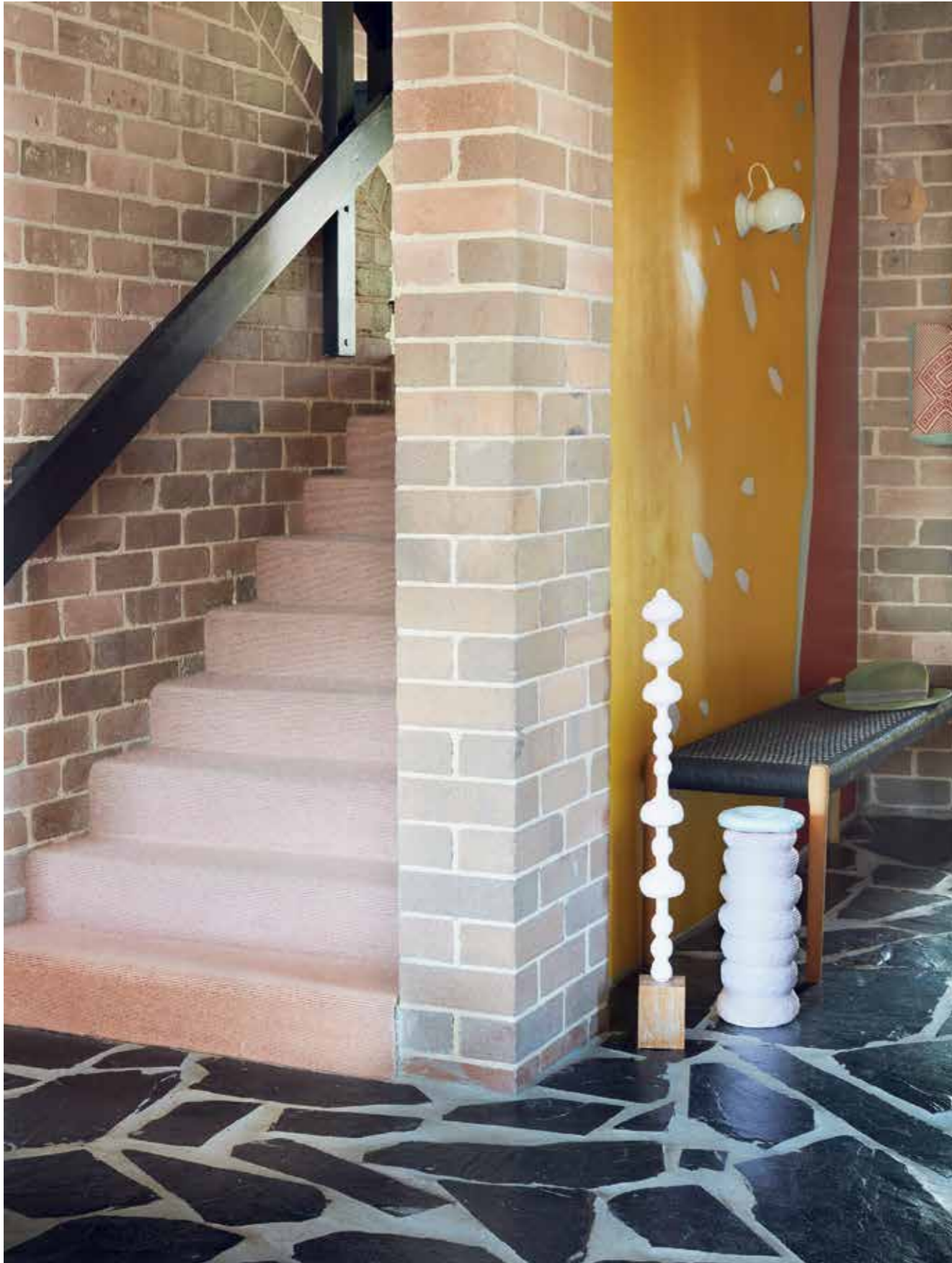


Above: The mural by Lymesmith is inspired by aerial photographs of the property's bayside location.

Right: The kitchen and living area are separated by a custom brick plinth with seat pads. Following page: Yellow, red and blue provide bold tonal highlights against the black slate, timber, brick and marble in the kitchen.







'Like the Memphis Group's approach, my process is as much about an attitude as it is aesthetic. This project definitely draws upon the lust for colour and bold shapes and there's no denying abstract expressionism's loose brush strokes also played a subliminal role.'

Yasmine Ghoniem,
director and designer, YSG



Previous page: Lymesmith's abstract yellow mural on the entry wall is of white boats bobbing along the coastline and ocean.

Above left to right: Brickwork provides a warm textural feature to the subdued palette of the bedroom; A loft with study maximises a small space. Right: Colourful timber dowels separate bedrooms and ensuites.

