

Holiday mode

Multidisciplinary Australian studio YSG has injected a breezy and relaxed 'vacation vibe' into the main bedroom of this family home, which hums to the beat of the 1970s



patchwork bedspread made from ewe Kente cloth from Appetite for Decoration, softly glowing wall sconces and a sculptural wall-hanging timber mirror. 'Rather than purchasing new furniture pieces, we mixed high and low finds, spanning the aesthetic breadth of 1950s Italian to the laid-back 1970s,' says Ghoniem, who then added some whimsical features like, she adds, 'the uniquely shaped and brightly coloured glazed ceramic wall hooks used as wardrobe pulls and mother-of-pearl cowrie-shell cabinet knobs'. She also pinned a vintage flag from Japan to the ceiling, its pattern adding 'a spritz of lime' to the scheme. Textural interest, meanwhile, was ramped up with the addition of silken French wallpaper to the wardrobe fronts.

Architecturally, part of the renovation involved removing the original wardrobes that lined the far wall and replacing them with a bespoke vanity area, where the owners have space to get ready for the day or catch up on emails in private. To resolve the issue of losing a surface to rest the bed against, YSG constructed a half wall that simultaneously serves as a large headboard. 'It's crafted from sandstone-shaded microcement, which sits well with the warm matte shade used on the ceiling and walls. This render, used elsewhere in the property, helps to unify everything,' explains Ghoniem. *ysg.studio*



'We created sensory journeys heightened by the inclusion of eclectic vintage furnishings'



'We wanted the bedroom to have a super-relaxed, vacation vibe,' explains the design maverick and founder of YSG, Yasmine Ghoniem. 'A retreat that can open up in the warmer seasons like a five-star tropical hotel.' It's a fitting approach for a project that backs onto the beach in Byron Bay, a coastal town popular with surfers, holidaymakers on yoga retreats and A-list Hollywood celebrities alike. Spanning 345 square metres and split across two levels, YSG's latest home renovation, 'Checkmate', captures that same sense of escapism favoured by locals, with a combination of rustic textures, a confident colour palette and vivid checkered patterns.

Despite the exotic location, the clients still wanted their bedroom to feel snug and secluded – more of an exclusive retreat than a busy resort. 'Cosy not contrived was the brief,' explains Ghoniem. 'They wanted it to feel natural and lived in – a sanctuary that inspires relaxation and slowing down.' To achieve this, the studio infused the bedroom with honeyed caramel, toffee and cream shades as seen on the walls, curtains and furniture. It also stripped the timber floorboards, replacing them with a cork floor that continues through to the ensuite bathroom.

The home's stunning natural surroundings were a bonus, but Ghoniem wanted the interior to create its own 'sensory journeys' heightened by the inclusion of eclectic vintage furnishings and a lot of 1970s-influenced brown, which grounds the scheme and talks to the clients' love of that 'footloose, carefree period'.

Personal flourishes in the bedroom that Ghoniem says further 'invite your mind to switch gears down a notch or two' include a cosy

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From top The bedroom has a warm, neutral colour scheme with 'Tennessee Tussah' curtains in gold by Catherine Martin for Mokum and linen bedding in chocolatey 'Grenache' from In The Sac; YSG founder and director Yasmine Ghoniem sitting in the dining room of 'Checkmate' house

From top YSG Studio mixed custom, bespoke pieces such as this handmade ceramic side table by Lisa Lapointe and LockerRoom with the 'Roy' bedside lamp by Viabizzuno; an original built-in wardrobe was removed on this wall to make way for a bespoke vanity area with a vintage mirror and chair; chequerboard cork floor tiles in 'Calais Cream' and 'New Madeira' from Marques Flooring lead from the bedroom to the ensuite and across the adjoining landing