

# ROOM TO MOVE

Bright and spacious, this Canberra home accommodates the rough and tumble of family life without sacrificing style.

STORY & STYLING MEREDITH MCKENDRY  
PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER



Homeowner Reuben shares a joke with children Rori (left) and Sam in the open-plan kitchen/dining/family room. Trama Bianco tiles (splashback) from Rivoland Tiles. Kitchen benchtops in Corian Glacier White. Antique dining table. Dining chairs from Dare Gallery. MissoniHome cushion from Inside Story. Pendant light from Ikea. Vinyl flooring from Carpet Court. **OPPOSITE** Sam steps inside the modernist-style home. Sculpture bought from a garden centre. For Where to Buy, see page 188.



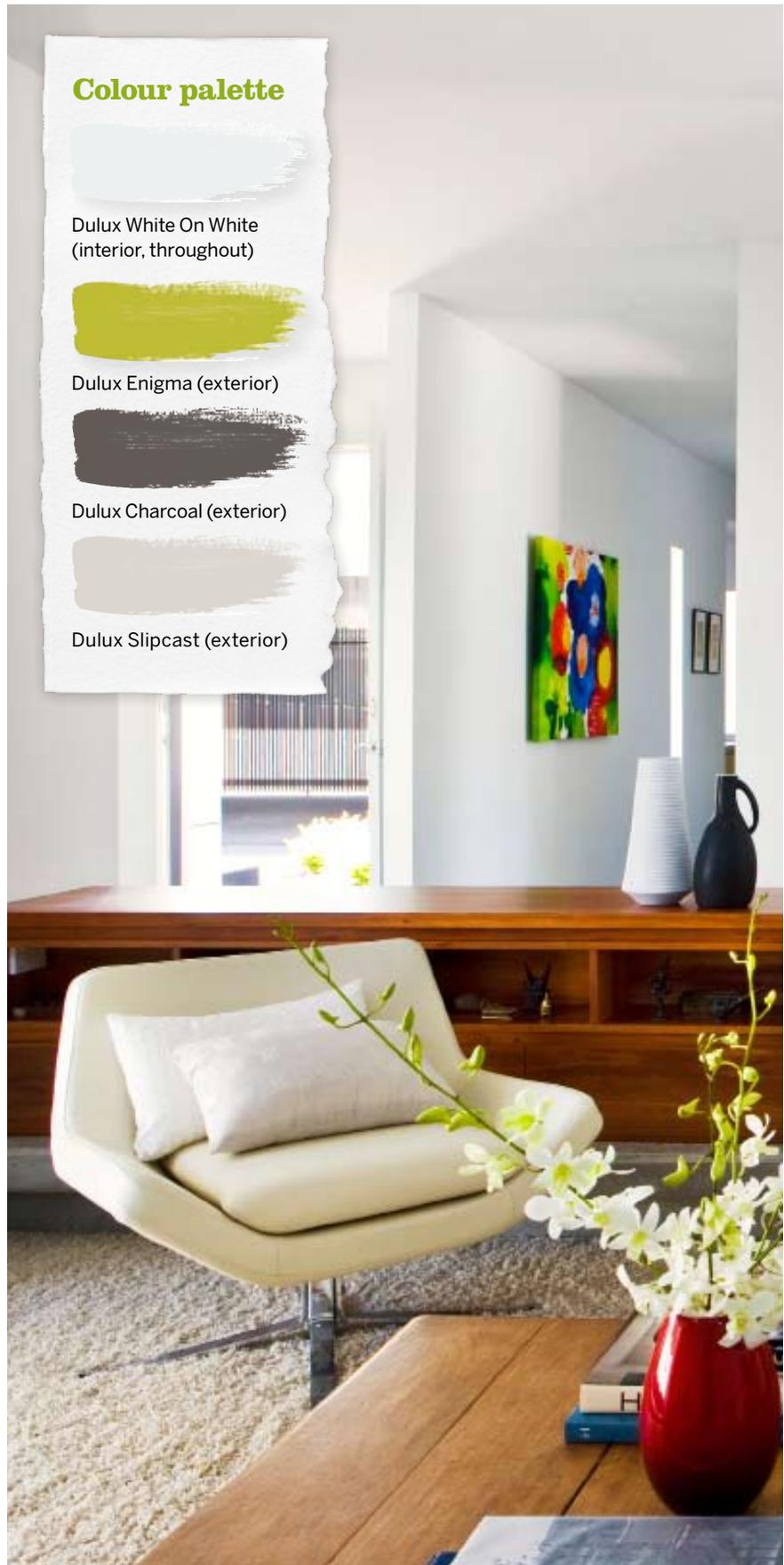
Flowers from Botanics on Jardine (throughout).



**W**ith its crisp white backdrop, splashes of bright colour and robust finishes, this stylish abode in the heart of Canberra is set up for relaxation. Home to Jane and Reuben and their children Rori, 10, and Sam, eight, the sun-drenched, modernist-style three-bedroom house features a striking Mondrian-inspired exterior that always invites comment. “People either really like it or really hate it,” says Jane with a laugh.

The property backs onto a reserve, offering plenty of space for the children to run around and explore, and Jane and Reuben loved it on sight. But they weren’t convinced they could transform the original 1960s cottage into a suitable family home. After having plans drawn up to extend and renovate, they decided that to get what they really wanted, they would need to knock it down and start again.

Jane and Reuben’s vision for the new home was inspired by Mies van der Rohe’s famous Farnsworth house and they briefed designer Adam Hobill to create a home with clean lines and a low profile. “We wanted the house to be light and open, with a variety of >



**‘We wanted the house to be light and open, with a variety of living areas both inside and out. Adam pretty much nailed the floor plan after our first meeting.’** JANE

The living room is a favourite spot to hang out in winter. Sofa from Orson & Blake. Cushions on sofa from Bodhi Leaf. The armchair was bought while on holiday in Tasmania. Vases from Home by Creations. Nuovo shag-pile carpet from Carpet Court. Cabinetry by Caliber Kitchens. Fireplace from Burning Log. Artwork by Xuan Min Jin. Marimekko fabric on frame (in hall) from Nordic Fusion. **OPPOSITE** A pair of quirky posters from Ikea and an antique barber’s chair bought in Turin, Italy, liven up a corner of the entry hall. Pendant light from Ikea. Floor tiles from Rivoland Tiles. For Where to Buy, see page 188.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes will allow.



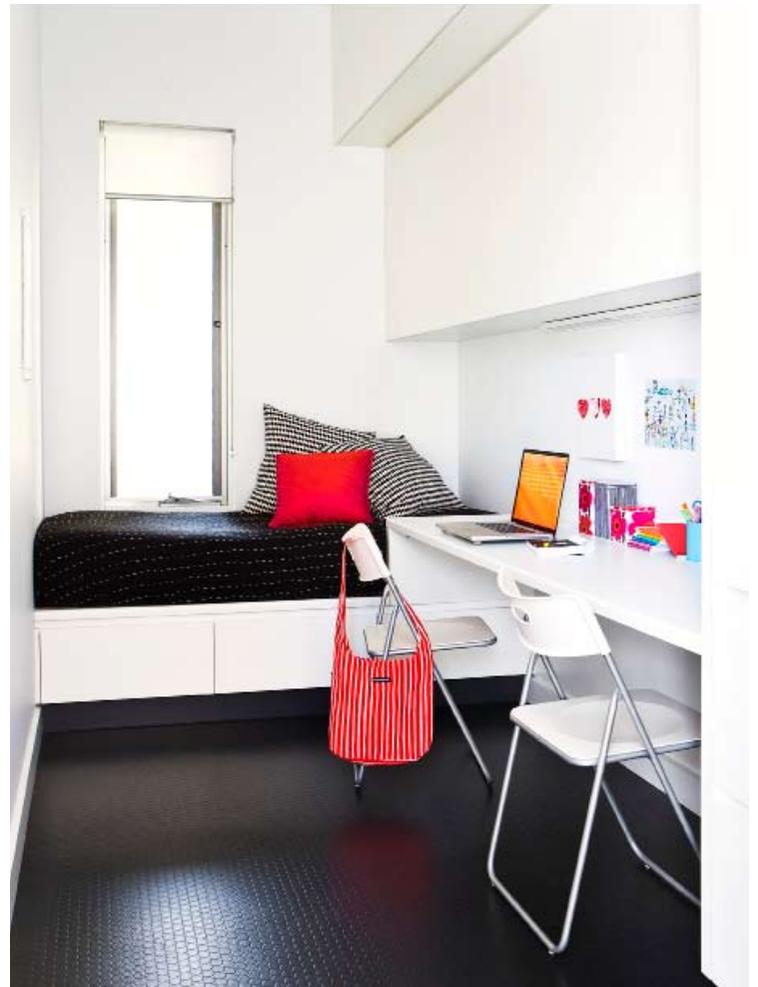


< living areas both inside and out," says Jane. "Adam understood exactly what we wanted and pretty much nailed the floor plan after our first meeting."

The home is divided into two zones: living areas to the right of the entrance, accommodation to the left. The living zone contains the living room, study and vast open-plan kitchen/dining/family room that opens onto a large deck, which is ideal for entertaining. The bedrooms (all with ensuites) and a playroom that doubles as a guestroom, are located in the accommodation wing. Almost every room overlooks the pool or garden.

The house is light and breezy in summer yet warm and cosy in winter. This is largely thanks to the raked ceiling, oriented for full shade in summer and full sun in winter. In addition, louvre windows maximise cross-ventilation, and windows and doors are double-glazed with toned glass to help reflect UV and control heat gain. "It's the most comfortable place we've ever lived in, in terms of light, space and warmth," says Jane.

Interior designer Kylie Radburn designed a gleaming white kitchen that is totally in keeping with the architecture, and included plenty of storage to keep the home clutter-free. "The amount of storage Kylie managed to fit into the house is great," says Jane. "We actually have quite a few empty cupboards - that's never happened before!" >



The main bedroom's charm stems from its mix of antiques and funky modern accessories. Bed from Country Road. Bedlinen from Bed Bath N' Table. Artwork bought at markets. Antique chair. Stool was a street-side find. Piece de Resistance carpet in Venice from Carpet Court. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** Custom-made storage keeps the playroom tidy. Sofa bed and rug from Oz Design. Floor tiles from Rivoland Tiles. Sam's bedroom is bright and cheerful. Bedlinen from Bed Bath N' Table. Bedside table from Ikea. Posters from Paperchain Bookstore. Along with a built-in desk and cabinetry, the study features a built-in day bed and doubles as a guestroom when required. Joinery by Caliber Kitchens. Chairs and striped cushions from Ikea. Pink cushion from Freedom. Vinyl flooring from Carpet Court. Artworks by Rori (left) and Sam. For *Where to Buy*, see page 188.

### This is the life

The family room is the centre of activity in the summer months. With a bank of glass doors that open directly onto the expansive deck, pool and garden beyond, it's the ideal spot for both relaxing and entertaining. In winter, the family prefers to spend time around the fireplace in the living room. "We pretty much spend all our time in the family room in summer, but in winter, we love hanging out in the living room – it's so intimate and cosy," says Jane.



## H&G houses

### Family friendly

To meet the changing needs of the family, the home has three different living areas inside, which allows everyone to have their own space. There are also separate zones outside, so the kids have the option of playing in the pool, on the deck or down on the lawn area. "If Rori and Sam both have friends over, they don't get in each other's hair," says Jane. "It works really well."

In the main bedroom's ensuite, Cignus tiles from Rivoland Tiles are used to create a decorative splashback. Basin and tapware from Rogerseller. Cabinet by Caliber Kitchens. Wall and floor tiles, all Rivoland Tiles. MissoniHome towels from Inside Story. **OPPOSITE** Rori and Sam relax by the pool. Beanbags from Coast New Zealand. For Where to Buy, see page 188.





**‘In summer, we practically live in the family area with all the doors open – and on the deck ... It’s pretty easy living.’ REUBEN**

< The decor blends treasures found on travels overseas with modern pieces – an antique Chinese dining table, picked up when the family lived in Italy, looks divine teamed with sleek white chairs. A simple backdrop of cool white walls and dark floors unifies the different areas and fresh flowers, accessories and artworks contribute colour and life and a sense of fun.

Family life revolves around the expansive open-plan space. High ceilings and floor-to-ceiling glass doors give the room a spacious feel, while a low-key modular sofa piled with cushions and a couple of simple beanbags by the inviting pool create a relaxed mood.

On a hot summer’s day, the family loves to lounge around the pool and soak up the relaxed, carefree vibe. “In summer, we practically live in the family area with all the doors open – and on the deck,” says Reuben. “We have great fun goofing around in the pool and having a barbie. It’s pretty easy living.” **H&G**

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