

DOORS ALWAYS OPEN Being the youngest of eight children, homeowner Faith dreamt that her home, which she shares with her husband, Paul, and their children, Farrah and Fletch (pictured below), would be a place where she could hold big family gatherings. When it came to the couple renovating their Melbourne home, they wanted to create small intimate spaces within big open areas, so they upped intimacy levels in the vast new living area with this cosy corner (opposite page, far left), with its Huset 'Velletri' table and built-in window seat, with seat cushions covered in Warwick 'Jarvis' fabric in Glacier. "I wanted it to be the small zone within the large zone," says Faith. With a white timber roof, skylights and mural, the outdoor room (below & opposite page, left) mirrors the light-filled home's interiors. "We wanted to have a relationship between the inside and outside," says Faith. A vertical slat screen separates the dining area from the new swimming pool, which was also added during the revamp. >



welcome home

AFTER EIGHT YEARS OVERSEAS, FAITH AND PAUL KNEW IT WAS TIME TO COME BACK TO AUSTRALIA TO CREATE THEIR DREAM FAMILY ABODE

STORY ANNETTE DASEY STYLING JACQUI MOORE PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB

THIS PAGE: SUNNY LIFE BEACH TOWEL, THE FAMILY LOWE TREE
OPPOSITE PAGE: WASE HUSK CUSHIONS, WARM HOME DECOR



LIVING AREA

After eight years living in tiny apartments in Macau, the couple designed an airy open-plan living area (this page & opposite) that's perfect for a crowd, with double height ceilings and exposed beams. Central to the room is the King Furniture 'Concerto' sofa in Oasis Bark. "I don't think that style will age," says Faith. "The kids have been using it as a trampoline so hopefully it lasts a few years!" An ottoman from Precedence adds warmth to the room, while the circular window is a playful addition. "This was the vision of our architect, Michael Roberts," says Faith. "Essentially it's for light but you also get a feel for the detail of the trusses and can see through them to the outside. The kids bang on the window at night saying, 'Can I come down?'" >



To celebrate her husband Paul's 40th birthday, Faith gave him a tram scroll filled with phrases and words that evoke heartwarming memories and mantras: 'We love to breathe fresh air in Queenstown' reminds the family of times spent in New Zealand, Paul's country of birth, while 'Meet up with mates in Melbourne' speaks largely for itself. The precious piece now resides in the centre of the couple's beautiful home in Melbourne's Bayside region, which they share with their children, Farrah, seven, and three-year-old Fletch (all pictured opposite). "It makes us smile each time we walk past," says interior designer Faith. Yet these are not the only words that amuse the couple and visitors alike in their inviting abode. There, on the wall above a outdoor built-in seat is the graffiti art wall with the very relatable words: 'I'm sorry for what I said when I was hungry'.

Whimsical touches abound in this modernised four-bedroom weatherboard home that the seasoned travellers bought in late 2013, and renovated with the help of architect Michael Roberts of Studio 40 Building Design. "After living in the concrete jungle of Macau for eight years, we wanted to create a home that blended simplicity, quality, informality and fun," says Faith, whose interiors passion came to the fore while working in human resources for a large Chinese hotel that was managed by hotelier Paul. "We had in mind a coastal-style weatherboard after seeing some fabulous examples on our trips to New Zealand, where Paul's family lives."

To realise their vision, the couple and their team reworked the existing home to include an entertainer's kitchen to cater for a crowd, an extra bedroom, ensuite, walk-in-wardrobes, and

swimming pool, and designed an extension that would star a living area with double-height ceilings and a spacious outdoor room, all without breaking the bank. "We wanted liveability and quality and, although there are some signature pieces we invested in, the beauty of the house is well-designed spaces with good finishes, and clever accessorising with objects that hold memories for us," says Faith.

In her day job, Faith creates stylish homes and shopfronts with her business partner, visual merchandiser Stacey Williams – so when it came to her own home, she let her imagination run wild. The result is practical and sometimes daring creations, such as the fabulous street art in their outdoor room. "We had this big white wall and wondered what we could do with it," says Faith, who briefed artist Ashlyn Henderson with quotes that she and Paul are known for. "That space is about people coming together and having a great time, so we wanted something fun," she says.

Unique nods to the family's past, such as the lovely corner sitting nook and table that speaks of card games on holidays, also make the house feel like home. "I really wanted to create a cosy space behind the huge lounge room for the kids to colour in, and where Paul and I could read the Sunday paper," says Faith. "I was inspired by childhood trips at the beach, huddled around the bench seat in the caravan with my aunty and uncle and large family." Yet here it is a pool and spa rather than the ocean, the family jumps into. "Our house has become the go-to venue for our very large family functions, school friend sleepovers and spa parties with our mates," says Faith. "We look forward to many more years here bringing up our children and making memories with family and friends."

ENTRYWAY Floating timber slats on the roof of the entry hall create a focal point in the entrance (top left). The spacious area hints at the sense of openness that defines the rest of the home. "You can see right through the house from the front door to the back fence," says Faith. At the bottom of the stairs is the tram scroll that Faith had made (tramsrolls.com.au) for Paul. "Instead of just doing suburbs I wrote a message about all of our favourite places, plus experiences we've shared," she says. The black HK Living bench seat is from House Of Orange, and the rug was bought in Morocco.

(OPPOSITE PAGE) CUSHIONS: CASTLE & THINGS; THE FAMILY LOVE TREE: COCO REPUBLIC; MARK TUCKEY; TRAY: MOZI; PARROT: KAZARI & ZIGUZAGU; CANDLE: SALUS



RUG
 'Luxor' rug in Oyster, \$142/sqm, Rugs Online.

DINING AREA "Because it sits directly opposite, the dining area is really an extension of the kitchen," says Faith (pictured below, with Farrah). "Often meals are at the breakfast bar but we sit at the table four or five times a week. It's a beautiful space because you have the light shining through at the back." The custom-made table is accompanied by Freedom 'Brandon' dining chairs that Faith chose for their hardiness. "Nothing about the house is essentially too stuffy or oozing opulence," she remarks. The cluster of juju hats from Safari Fusion warm up the space. "They add a textural element and they also keep within the earthy theme."



FLOORING
 'Rustic' blackbutt
 180 x 14cm floorboards
 in matt finish, \$113/sqm,
 Tait Flooring.

(THIS PAGE) STRIPED VASE HK LIVING



"I WAS *realistic* ABOUT WHO I WAS ENTERTAINING AND, HAVING SUCH A LARGE *family*, WANTED A SPACE WHERE WE COULD BE *comfortable*, AND HAVE A CHAT" ~ FAITH

KITCHEN
 Two feature walls covered in 'Wabi Cloud' wallpaper in Gold by Calico add drama to the kitchen (top & right), which also includes a splashback in 'Rubix' white tiles with charcoal grout (try Designer Tile Company for similar) and a Falcon cooker in black and brass. "I love the simplicity of an all-white kitchen but wanted to add a bit of a wow factor," says Faith. The mum-of-two bought the trio of 'Piper' glass pendant lights above the island bench from Jordan to fit the home's colour scheme, and chose 'Skal' bar stools from Satara, which echo the look of the dining chairs. "I came across Rachel and Nick Cope of Calico in New York," says Faith. "Their custom-made

wallpapers are handmade using a marbling process. It has a uniqueness and individuality to it, and I love the gold bling, too."

LIVING AREA
 On the far wall of the living area (top) hangs an artwork by Bali-based artists Merzuka Dopazo and Teresa Calderon. "I stumbled on it at a store a few years ago and went back to the shop each day to admire the beauty, colour and texture," says Faith. "When Paul told me I should buy it as the first piece of art for our house I was reluctant to commit. Three weeks later, my birthday arrived and so did the artwork, and it made up for a thousand birthdays and Christmases in advance - I love it." >



MAIN BEDROOM Faith and Paul's bedroom is as inviting as they come, with a 'Peacock' bedhead from The Family Love Tree creating an ornate focal point. The sumptuous bedlinen includes a Cakebread knitted throw and blue velvet quilt atop Bedouin Societe linen, all from Fenton & Fenton. The Pop & Scott 'Stumpy' timber bedside table and 'Enoki' pendant lights from Montreau add to the down-to-earth vibe. "I love that our bedroom is the front room of the house so we can look through our beautiful box windows to the front garden," says Faith. "I added the external square bay windows, and can sit on that window seat and read a book there - not that it happens often!"



PAINT
Wash & Wear
Barrier Technology
in White Exchange
quarter strength,
\$71.90/4L, Dulux.

THIS PAGE: PAISLEY CUSHION, MISSION CUSHION, SAFARI LIVING, SHAGPILE CUSHION, FENTON & FENTON



“SURROUND YOURSELF WITH *good trades people*, SHOW THEM RESPECT AND THEY WILL REPAY YOU TENFOLD IN QUALITY WORKMANSHIP” ~ FAITH

MAIN BATHROOM

The bathroom (top left) encapsulates Faith's design vision. "Having the benefit of reworking the entire home I was able to create a moodboard of white, black, timber and brass," she says. For a traditional look, Faith chose Cotto gloss white penny round tiles (try Tile Stone Paver) and Belgium Stone floor tiles in Carbone from National Tiles, a showerhead and tap from Astrawalker's Old English Range in Aged Brass and an 'Industrial Vintage' pendant lamp from Lucretia Lighting. The expansive cabinets, by Elyse Cabinets, have been trimmed with the blackbutt timber used for the home's floorboards for a connection with the rest of the interiors. A Hatria 'Daytime' basin is large enough for two in the morning, while a round mirror from Precedence adds to the vintage theme.

FARRAH'S BEDROOM

A sparkly Confetti System tassel garland and gold dot decals create a sweet space for Farrah (top right). "She loves to read and curls up in her bed and counts the wall dots," says Faith of the Zakkia gold wall decals from The Third Row. A replica Kartell 'Componobili' bedside table from Matt Blatt and colourful bedlinen complete the happy space.

FLETCH'S BEDROOM

This little boy's heaven (right) includes a train table from Toys "R" Us and a mobile made with model planes from Boyle Industries. "What little boy isn't obsessed with transport?" says Faith. "I think Fletch's first words were, 'Mummy, Daddy, plane.'" The Happy Camper bed from Parenthood is dressed in a pompom blanket - try Kip & Co for similar. >



SOURCE BOOK

INSIDE STORY FAITH & PAUL'S HOME

Who lives here?

Faith, interior designer and co-owner of Smashing Spaces; her husband, Paul, a hotelier-turned-business manager; and their children Farrah, seven, and Fletch, three.

Your best design tips?

Faith: "I am of the 'buy once and buy well' mantra."

Best build tips?

"Get the layout of the house right. Feature walls and splashbacks can be changed at minor cost. Structural beams are the opposite story."

How would you describe your home's style?

"A real mix of old and new. The aged brass with modern tiles in the bathrooms and kitchen defines the style."



(OPPOSITE PAGE) MISSONI HOME CUSHION SAFARI LIVING. PLACEMATS ARMADILLO & CO. PLATTER HK LIVING. JUG JARDAN. ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. ILLUSTRATION: KENZIEDSIGN.COM

OUTDOOR ROOM

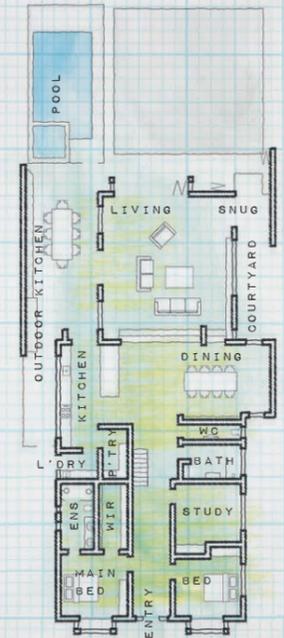
Huge extended-family functions are a breeze thanks to extra long built-in benches (opposite page), a teak dining table from Jeff's Shed and Huset 'Velletri' indoor-outdoor wire chairs with magnetic terylene cushion covers in White.

SWIMMING POOL

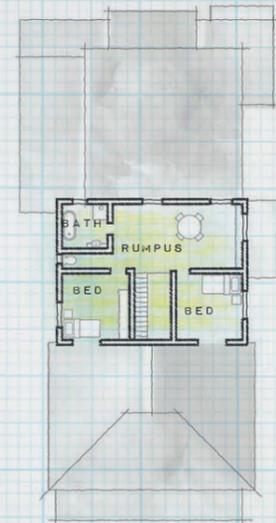
Popular with Farrah and Fletch (above) and adults alike, the swimming pool and spa was added during the renovation. "If you have a spa you use it year-round," says Faith. "We use it three times a week in winter and every day in summer."

PLANS

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



CONTACTS

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smashingspaces.com.au.

WE LOVE...

custom murals

In the outdoor room, wall art by Melbourne artist Ashlyn Henderson is a major talking point. "My mantra is, 'I'm sorry for what I said when I was hungry' because I get hangry," says Faith. "Paul says things are 'tastiness' like Homer Simpson would. He's the family cook whereas I burn water and get hungry and say, 'Feed me'." Custom murals by Ashlyn start from \$1300, Ashlyn Henderson, hello@ashlynhenderson.com.

