



This page The pitched roofs and symmetrical structure are framed by manicured gardens. Opposite page The house opens into the ground-floor living room with a double-height void above. Fireplace in 'Aurora Fiorita' honed stone from FUM, with *Miss in the Dunes* artwork by Hermentaire above. *Silly Little Me* artwork (in rear billiard room) by Michael Taylor from M Contemporary. 'Study edition 190' wall relief (upstairs landing by Henry Wilson.

WINGING

Words **CARLI PHILIPS** Photography **LILLIE THOMPSON**



The H-shaped floor plan of this

regional home sets the stage for

lashings of stone and deeply personal possessions.



Upon moving back to Australia after 15 years abroad, this young family sought to embark on chapter two of their lives, settling into a peaceful area in Victoria's south-west and building their dream, H-shaped home. The courtyard-centric layout – a nostalgic retelling of the owner's childhood home – was realised by Torquay-based building designers Section Studio.

After construction had commenced, interior designer Sally Knibbs of Sally Caroline was brought on board with the stated goal of adding soul to the home by way of luxurious materiality, sophisticated furniture, art and decorative accessories. Sally credits Built by Wilson as the bow that tied the project together, multitasking in their roles both as builders and managers with an eye to the finer architectural details.

The family had lived in both Geneva and London, and they loved the formality of the latter city's smaller, more boutique townhouses. They had also resided in the Caribbean for a period and had an affection for the region's free, expressive style and indoor-outdoor living. Coupled with the reality of living in regional Victoria, Sally reached into the depths of her imagination to incorporate elements of place and memory across all four locations within this new home's design.

"We considered everything," says Sally, referring to her clients' lifestyle as well as their state of being. "Where they're at in life, »

This page A custom 'Saint Marc' rug from the Sally Caroline collection anchors the space. 'Monti' armchair by Laura Gonzalez. Cream Tacchini 'Julep' armchair and lounge from Stylecraft. Honed marble side table from Noma Co. 'Twister' side table from Sophie Davies. Custom coffee table by Sally Caroline and Bent Mental. Candle holder by Harry Boström for Bo-Svensk. 'Lotus' bowl by Katarina Wells Ceramics. Opposite page, clockwise from top left Joinery unit in Roman Travertine from CDK Stone. Objects on shelves by Henry Wilson, Samantha Robinson from Tigmi, Sophie Nolan from Michael Reid Clay, Emily Ellis from Pépité, Kristy Hussey from Michael Reid Clay and Catherine Dix from Tigmi. // In the entryway, vintage mirror, Carlo Nason round wall sconce and Valentino Più vintage armchair from Nicholas & Alistair. Peill & Putzler vintage glass wall light from Aesthetiker. Vintage side table from Graham Geddes Antiques. Bowl from Montana Labelle. In the archway are two wall sculptures by Kelly Larkin. Ceramic vessel (next to chair) by Astrid Salomon from Studio Gardner. Artwork above chair by Erin Chaplin supplied by Otomys. // The climate-controlled wine room features custom-designed steel doors by Steelform in Oxytech Hawthorn Green powdercoat finish. Roman travertine flooring from CDK Stone and 'Paloma' stone from FUM.

« where they came from, who they are, where they were living. They were all factors in the design.”

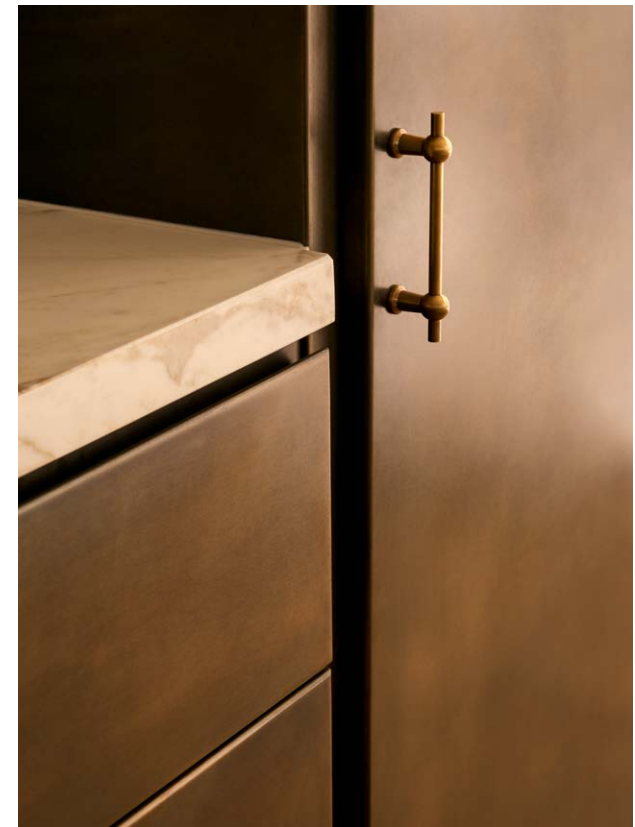
The home opens into a double-height living area with supple, banana-shaped Tacchini ‘Julep’ sofas and a pistachio ‘Monti’ chair by French designer Laura Gonzalez. The autumnal colour palette hovers over a rich chocolate rug and a commanding minty accented marble fireplace wall that accentuates the sense of arrival. The space acts as a mediating anchor between the dwelling’s two wings; to the east, a wine room with forest-green doors, the kitchen, dining and entertaining spaces with valley views, and to the west, the children’s bedrooms – each with an ensuite – and a recreation room, complete with a billiard table and bar. “Everyone can come together in the heart of the house or peel off to either side,” says Sally of the format.

As per the owners’ brief, the organisation of these spaces adopts a symmetrical and classically elegant layout. Cabinetry too, was created for formality and structure, with neat bronze joinery topped in Calacatta Vagli Oro. Tucked at the far end of the zone is

the TV room, outfitted with a large cosy couch. “This lounge is very much designated as a separate activity,” explains Sally of the setup. “It’s about consciously going and settling in there rather than absorbing it into an open-plan area, which they really didn’t want.” The north-facing spot connects to an outdoor terrace, pool and pool house.

With its playful pink palette, this stand-alone structure is a departure from the home’s more subdued colours. “We had a bit of fun in here,” Sally says of the rosy, microcement bar, island-inspired rattan chairs and candy-striped ‘Perch’ bar stools from her own range. “It’s a stand-alone party space for the adults or kids that places the family’s love of entertaining front and centre.”

Add to that a cinema and gym in the basement, and there’s a plethora of options for both relaxation and revelry. “They really wanted spaces their growing teenage boys could enjoy with their mates. Sometimes 20 of their friends pack down there! We navigated that concept with a combination of quiet calm, gentle layers and dialled-up boldness.” »



This page, clockwise from top left The brass joinery in the kitchen is topped with ‘Calacatta Vagli Oro’ from FUM. ‘Manhattan’ tapware from Brodware.

Miele oven. Custom stained herringbone timber floors from Made by Storey. // ‘Chemin De Fer’ cupboard pulls by Noble Elements. // A Spanish-style Bobbin-leg console with a Churresque top from Graham Geddes Antiques forms the dining table.

Cassina ‘Cab’ chairs from Mobilia. Linen curtains made by Shades. ‘Three Halves’ floor lamp by Sozou Studio. **Opposite page** Marghen Studio ‘Calypso’ pendant from Mobilia. ‘Perch’ stools by Sally Caroline. Artwork, clients’ own. Bettina Willner blue vase from Saint Cloche Gallery. Vintage Italian Murano glass wall light by Veca from Aesthetiker. On rear shelf: Kelly Brown ceramic vessel from Pépité. On counter: platter from Maison et Jardin. Vase by Katarina Wells Ceramics.





« Upstairs, the guest rooms, study and rumpus line one side of the floor plan with the master wing opposite. A work by French artist Hermentaire hangs in the corner of the generous master suite, adding lively colour to the reserved hues. An electric teal carpeted dressing room leads to a graceful ensuite with a glowing ceramic ‘Paw’ sconce in sunset hues by Pierre Yovanovitch and a traditional freestanding bath from The English Tapware Company.

When it came to dressing the house, Sally paired vintage objects from the likes of e Moderno and Aesthetiker with iconic Italian pieces from Cassina and Kartell. Local design objects and lighting were added to the mix, but Sally was sensitive to the owners’ existing treasures, too. “We created a climate-controlled space to house their enormous collection of wine and sculptural carafes, which came with them when they relocated back to Australia,” she says. “And to make sure the house didn’t feel like a furniture showroom, we integrated sentimental pieces including thousands of their books on all sorts of topics, from cooking to travel, watches, cars, gardens, art, politics, history and, of course, design.” 15

sallycaroline.com; sectionstudio.com.au; builtbywilson.com; instylegardens.com.au

This page, top left In the master bedroom, *Hidden in the Spring* artwork by Hermentaire. Massproductions ‘Dandy’ sofa from In Good Company. Ernesto Gismondi ‘Tebe’ vintage floor lamp from Tigmi. // In the ensuite, honed ‘Aurora Fiorita’ vanity stone from FUM. Doorframe clad in polished green onyx from Franca. ‘Manhattan’ tapware from Brodware. // In the master bedroom, custom bedhead by Sally Caroline and Jai Jai Upholstery Artisans. ‘Coquille’ sconce from Atelier de Troupe. ‘Onda’ bedside table by Poliform. **Opposite page** ‘Paw 2’ wall lamp from Criteria Collection. Water Monopoly bath from The English Tapware Company. Sally Caroline custom-designed steel doors made by Steelform, with a bronze ‘Croissant’ knob by Emily Gillis x Zachary Frankel.



SPEED READ

» The owners of this home in Victoria returned to Australia after 15 years living in Switzerland, England and the Caribbean. » They loved the formality of the London homes they’d lived in and wanted a similarly classic look. » Built by Wilson were an integral part of the project, acting as both builders and eagle-eyed managers. » Interior designer Sally Knibbs of Sally Caroline worked within the H-shaped floor plan by Section Studio, which links both sides of the house with a double-height living area. Upstairs, the guest rooms, study and rumpus line one wing of the house, with the master wing opposite. » A climate-controlled wine room was central to the brief. » The owners’ thousand-plus book collection is scattered throughout the house alongside vintage objects from eModerno and Aesthetiker.



This page, clockwise from top left In the pool house, 'Vogue' club lounge from Lincoln Brooks. 'Sherman' sofa from Molmic. 'River' rug from Armadillo. Vintage cane armchairs from Maison et Jardin. Curtains by Shades. Brass fireplace. Cast 'Palladiana' coffee table by Harley Hamilton from Tigmi. On the joinery unit, 'Cairo' natural raffia lamp by Tikifeva from En Gold. *Bradley's Head* artwork by Sally West. // 'Perch' stools by Sally Caroline. Island bench in honed 'Quatre Saison' from FUM. Zellige splashback tiles in Blood Red from Tiles of Ezra. // A view from the pool to the pool house. **Opposite page** The resort-like pool deck has 'Albany' teak sunloungers from Jati. Custom cushions in 'Campus' by Dedar Milano from South Pacific Fabrics. 'Sundial' straight valance umbrellas from Basil Bangs.



1 'Twister' lamp base, \$2200, Sophie Davies. 2 'Onasis' dining chair, \$399, Domayne. 3 CTO Lighting 'Whistler' wall light in Satin Brass, \$3325, Winnings. 4 'Lark' coffee table, \$5980, Fanuli. 5 'Kennedy' ribbed large square ottoman in Silver Sage, \$1410, GlobeWest.