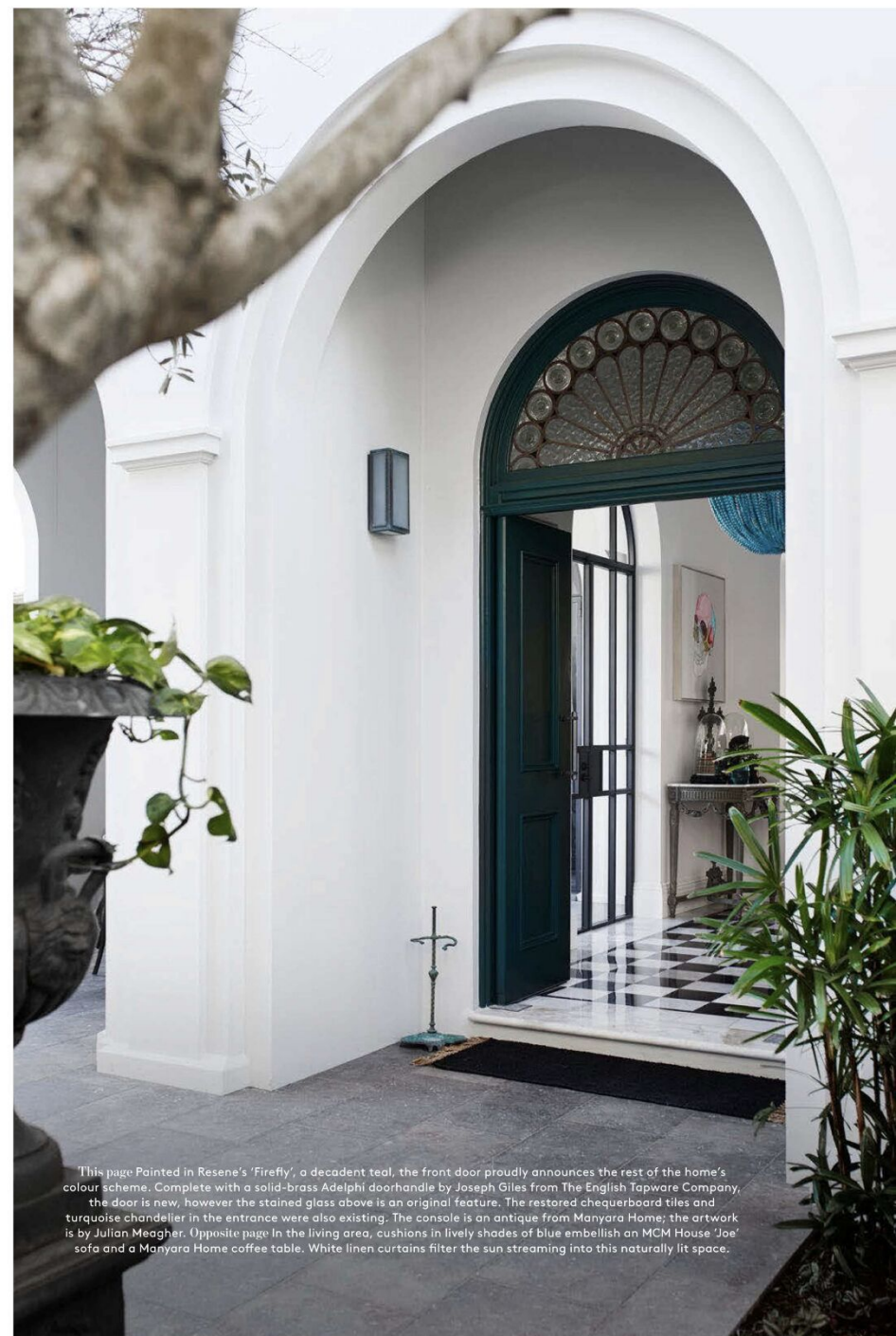# Marine themed

Venerable architectural details *and parquetry floors sourced* from an 18th-century French *chateau nod to this verdurous* harbourside home's storied past.

Words **LINDYL CRABB**   Photography **DAVE WHEELER**   Styling **STEVE CORDONY**

This page Painted in Resene's 'Firefly', a decadent teal, the front door proudly announces the rest of the home's colour scheme. Complete with a solid-brass Adelphi doorhandle by Joseph Giles from The English Tapware Company, the door is new, however the stained glass above is an original feature. The restored chequerboard tiles and turquoise chandelier in the entrance were also existing. The console is an antique from Manyara Home; the artwork is by Julian Meagher. Opposite page In the living area, cushions in lively shades of blue embellish an MCM House 'Joe' sofa and a Manyara Home coffee table. White linen curtains filter the sun streaming into this naturally lit space.

SPEED READ

» Dominique and Justin Hird purchased this Watsons Bay property in 2016 and engaged Weir Phillips Architects to turn the converted 1920s Masonic lodge into a functional, family-friendly home. » While the historic features and flooring were retained, significant additions were made including a new kitchen and two undercover entertaining areas. Storage was created in the form of a garage and basement, roofing was replaced and the pool was rebuilt. » Madison Turner made the custom joinery, Sally Rhys-Jones designed many of the ensuite bathrooms and Dangar Barin Smith took care of the extensive landscaping. » Dominique furnished the interiors in a palette inspired by the garden and the existing turquoise decor, with her own eclectic twist.

« beyond. "We began with the light fitting as the hero and built the scheme from there. We wanted a relaxed yet sophisticated mood that took in plenty of cues from the greenery outside," says Dominique. She set the tone in the downstairs living area with a pair of indigo Moroso 'Redondo' armchairs, a vintage peacock-hued rug and ceramic side table from Smithmade in the same shade. An assortment of aquamarine cushions adorn the MCM House 'Joe' sofas; a spectrum of blue treasures occupy the Molteni 'Piroscafo' glass cabinet.

This bejewelled yet breezy scheme extends into the ground-floor kitchen. A honed Calacatta Belgia marble island is the *chef d'oeuvre* of this multitasking space – Dominique notes that at just under 9m, it's one of the largest benches Euro Marble has ever made. The ephemeral colours of the sky, now visible with the installation of steel-framed glass windows and doorways, appear to have inspired the paint used on the custom-built joinery: Resene 'Half Innocence' on the cupboards and Dulux 'Oolong' for the island. And speaking of great lengths, 250m of white linen was required for the kitchen curtains that were remade to fit these new glass openings.

Whereas the palette drew from existing elements, the decor nods to Dominique's own taste. "We wanted to make an impact with the pieces we chose," she says of the French antiques, modern classics and Etsy finds. "My style is eclectic with Hollywood Regency glamour," she adds. "I like to take things you wouldn't normally see together and make them work." She favours Manyara Home for antiques and LuMu Interiors for custom designs and mirrors. Hub and Fanuli are her go-to for furniture staples which feature throughout the master bedroom. To furnish the deck upstairs she turned to Parterre and Gather Co. Replete with a Wolf barbecue, extraction fan, heating, automated blinds and Bang & Olufsen speakers, it's the perfect vantage point to watch the yachts sail by during the Sydney to Hobart.

Spectator sports aside, the real magic happens right in their own backyard. "We love doing things in nature, whether it's gardening, catching up with friends at Camp Cove beach, exploring the rockpools or hanging out at the local parks," she says. "The community here is amazing. It's relaxed and the open spaces give you room to move. We think Watsons Bay is the best place to live in Sydney." |¶|

weirphillips.com.au; sallyrhysjones.com; dangarbarinsmith.com.au

This page At around 60 square metres, the master bedroom "feels like we're in our own little piece of paradise," says Dominique. Extra windows were installed to maximise the view; the added light now bounces off mirrors made using antique French windows by LuMu Interiors. The Flexform 'Caress' bed, the 'Zeno Light' sofa and the 'Magi' chaise are all from Fanuli. Sprawled across the super king bed is an Amara cotton velvet coverlet from Leilah; layered over the existing tallowwood floorboards is a Casablanca rug from Tribe Home. Opposite page, from top To make better use of the refurbished kitchen on the top floor, this once unprotected deck was turned into a year-round undercover casual dining zone. The custom redwood decking is furnished with a Skargaarden 'Saltö' sofa from Parterre, a Molteni&C 'Miss' chair, Turkish urns from Gather Co and hurricane lamps from LuMu Interiors. Slabs of Carrara marble envelop the renovated master ensuite. Chrome fixtures such as the Perrin & Rowe tapware and basin stand and the Giffin Design 'Candle' sconces keep the look polished. The joinery and mirrors were designed by Weir Phillips and made by Madison Turner.

« flooring, which was sourced from an 18th-century French chateau in the Loire Valley. Seduced by the property's worldly features and sea-girt surrounds, Dominique says they moved right in: "We lived in it for a year and realised we needed to make it more functional as a family home."

Dominique and Justin wanted to make this a place where they could "create family memories" and engaged Weir Phillips Architects to steer the ensuing renovations, which "needed to work for now, when the kids were young, and in the future when they were tweens and teens." This required rearranging the floor plan, building a new study upstairs and a garage with basement storage below, replacing all the wooden French doors with arched glass ones to let in natural light and installing more windows in the master bedroom, "to ensure we could see the city views from our bed".

The yard received the same family-oriented overhaul – an undercover entertaining area was added, the swimming pool was rebuilt with bench seating and Will Dangar of Dangar Barin Smith landscaped the garden. This particular task involved the use of a crane to lift a forest of mature plants over the fence and into the backyard. The manicured mass of olive trees, towering palms, monsteras, bromeliads, vines, white birds of paradise and cacti more than fits Dominique's request for a lush jungle with lots of privacy. "We love being able to see the city," she says, "but now we feel like we're on holiday whenever we arrive home."

While the structural changes were left to the experts, Dominique took care of the interior decorating. She gathered inspiration from two key elements – an existing turquoise stone chandelier in the entrance and the tropical gardens »

This page This outdoor enclave was originally an indoor kitchen. It felt too removed from the living areas so the couple had it turned into an entertaining area. Like the plants brought into the garden, this bluestone Parterre table was so heavy it was moved in with a crane. The Royal Botania 'Jive' dining chairs are also from Parterre. Opposite page The new kitchen is defined by the Euro Marble island and custom joinery by Madison Turner. Topos 'Curve' stools from Hub provide seating around the island. The sink features Perrin & Rowe tapware from The English Tapware Company as well as Zip taps for hot, chilled and sparkling water. The Joseph Giles solid-brass hardware is a combination of 'Gibbons' pulls and 'Ashworth' handles. On the wall is a line drawing of Gertie by Julian Meagher. The whale artwork is by Jonathan Delafield Cook.