

AUSTRALIAN

Kitchen dressing: *Decorating for foodies*

# HOUSE & GARDEN

*A little bit  
country*

110+  
pages  
of

REMARKABLE RURAL RETREATS



**EXTERIOR** A Lysaght metal roof defines this home in Ballarat, Victoria. Onyx wall light. Unios. Custom-made Corten steel letterbox.

## A NEW VIEW

Being receptive to her architect's ideas has reaped huge rewards for the owner of this home in Ballarat, Victoria.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Karin Bochnik*  
PHOTOGRAPHY *Rhiannon Taylor*



When architect Richard Teed of Moby Architecture & Interiors in Ballarat was approached by local resident Marita, she had a clear vision of what she wanted her house to look like - Hamptons-style with provincial accents and a white rusticity.

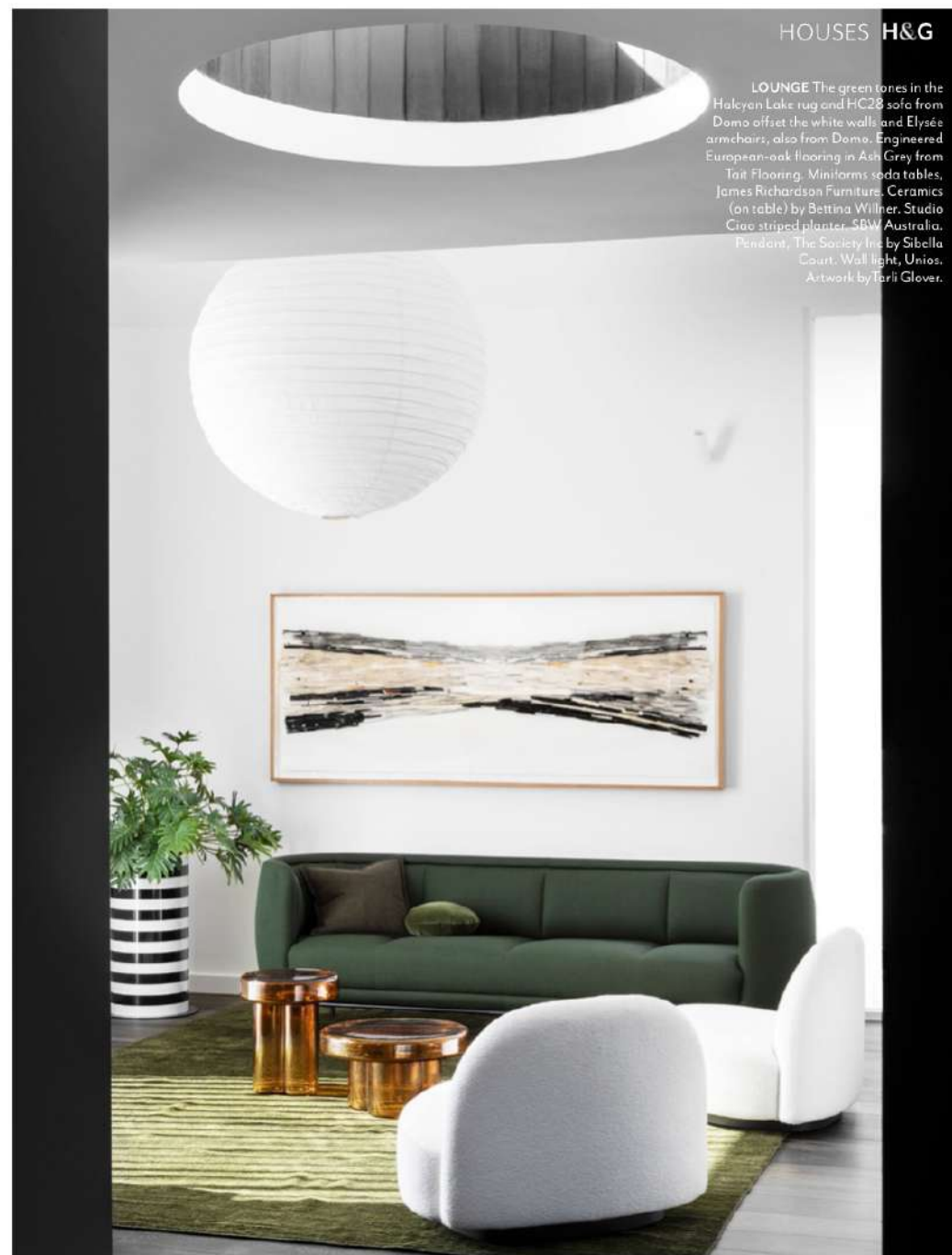
While that's about as far from Richard's aesthetic as you can get, he recognised the qualities and lifestyle Marita wanted and he could certainly see the site's potential.

"We considered her images, but instead of a literal adaptation of them we showed her how we could achieve a contemporary resolution," says Richard. "We could see how she wanted to live and what she wanted, rather than just the look. We exposed her to a style she hadn't considered before but embraced."

There were some significant challenges, including the steepness of the land, the proximity to Marita's neighbours and a narrow face to the street. Richard's main goal was to create a home that would feel private and rural, despite being surrounded by looming buildings in a very suburban area.

Originally, there was talk about exploring a double-storey building in the centre of the 605-square-metre property, but it would have been domineering and the view may have been compromised. When Richard started sketching and playing with the forms, a distorted H-shaped plan started to evolve, with two separate pavilions linked by a central courtyard. Because the block was so steep, Richard designed the footprint to split over three levels so that as the house steps down at the rear, the ceilings can still be high without neighbours being able to see in. ▶

**LOUNGE** The green tones in the Halcyon Lake rug and HC28 sofa from Domo offset the white walls and Elysée armchair, also from Domo. Engineered European-oak flooring in Ash Grey from Tait Flooring. Miniforms sofa tables, James Richardson Furniture. Ceramics (on table) by Bettina Willner. Studio Ciao striped planter, SBW Australia. Pendant, The Society Inc by Sibella Court. Wall light, Unios. Artwork by Earli Glover.



## THIS IS THE LIFE

"I really love how simple, clever and sculptural this house is – there's nothing contrived or pretentious about it," says a clearly delighted Marita. "The size of the block and its significant steepness could have been a curse but Richard seized and celebrated it. To be honest, the house still catches me by surprise. It really does give me so much joy."



**KITCHEN** Black is a brilliant choice here, delivered via Yennette laminate in Black Matte from Polytec (joinery door fronts), hardwood in a black ash shiplap profile and Paperack benchtops in Solid. Arrow linear pendant. Unios. Dita stools. Grazia & Co. Kol dining table and Halo dining chairs (in background dining area), SBW Australia. Sculpture on shelf, Jan Vogelpoel. Looking through the shelves to the living area, the artwork is *Horizon 2049* by Daniel Anderson, Studio Gallery. Icon tapware, Astra Walker. Cooktop and oven, Asko. White vessel (rear shelf nook), Simone Karras.



HOUSES **H&G**

Hidden behind the entry wall is a door made from solid vertical spotted gum in a shiplap profile, wrapping around on all sides to create a hidden office pod. Because Marita is a journalist and has potentially sensitive information in there, it's easy to lock up and close off.

From the middle entryway point, the house splits into two arms – there's no choice but to go down the private path, or public part. The adjacent, eastern wing of the house unfolds into a semi-private living area, where Marita sometimes holds meetings. Although it's fairly narrow, it gets light all day. Because it's a tech-free zone, it's beautiful and quietly calm with only bookcases and a piano. The footprint was actually the result of a happy accident. "The builder mistakenly set the slab at the wrong level and built a step up to this room, but we nixed it out and I think it now actually works really well," says Richard. A long corridor ensues, with a path of two bedrooms separated by a bathroom and, at the back, the master bedroom.

Back at the entry, the alternative route is a step down to the western wing, which opens into the kitchen with a view down the house to the sunken living room and raked ceiling. Marita did a complete turnaround with the colour palette. "She originally really wanted light and bright, but we thought it could be banal and flat, so we explored black timber boards with feature grade and lots of knots with movement through the grain," says Richard.

"There are long, horizontal lines through the vertical elements. We basically did anything to give it texture." Open shelves between the dining and living divide the spaces. "Yes, there's division but it's transparent and has depth," he adds.

Although it's a suburban area, it was very important to try to block out the "suburban mess". "We designed windows low to the garden and windows high to the sky," says Richard. "This draws the eye up or down but not across. We did whatever we could to create a connection to the outdoors and avoid a direct view of the neighbours. Focusing downwards means Marita's garden is visible instead of the greater surroundings. In this area she got her provincial landscaping – there are lots of topiary balls!"

The house may look completely different to the initial pictures that Marita had showed Richard, but she enjoyed the project so much she's already talking about perhaps selling it so the pair can work on something else together. "She was an amazing client who came to me with a strong idea but was totally up for the process," explains Richard.

"Now the project is over, she has a hankering for contemporary architecture. Next time she wants to go the whole hog – all industrial. She's come a long way. This building has enabled her to grow and really appreciate modern design."

*Moby Architecture & Interiors, Ballarat, Victoria; 0421 573 146 or [mobyarchitecture.com.au](http://mobyarchitecture.com.au).*



THE LAYOUT



**LIVING** This image and opposite Togo sofas, Domo. Baxter 'Nepal' armchair, Space. Miniforms 'Chaps' marble tables and Studio Henry Wilson bronze light (on table), James Richardson Furniture. Scope wall lights, Unios. Clover rug in Birch, Bayliss. **COURTYARD** Bottom: Tribu teak dining table, Cosh Living. The wall adjoining the home's two wings is painted Cutek Black Ash. ▶



# THE PALETTE

Haymes Paint Magnolia Moonlight  
(exterior walls)

Cutek Black Ash  
(courtyard wall)

Porter's Paints White Rhino



**MAIN BEDROOM** The same Polytec black laminate used in the kitchen reappears, with oak door pulls from Kethy, as does the shiplap hardwood. HC28 armchair, Domo. Pendant, The Society Inc by Sibella Court. Iris wall light, Unios. Mirror, GlobeWest. Bedlinen and Studio Henry Wilson lamp, In Bed. Curtains, Veri Shades. European oak bench seat. **BATHROOM** Icon tapware and basin, Astra Walker. Melamine joinery. Vessel on bench, In Bed. Mild steel shelf in Dulux Metalshield. Vessel on shelf by Bettina Willner. Iris wall light, Unios.



1

# THE SOURCE

*Monochrome pieces offer instant impact – and by opting for gentle shapes you can ensure they won't overpower.*



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Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow. Produced by Saffron Sylvester.

1 Surface sconce in Bronze (35x30cm), \$1840, Studio Henry Wilson. 2 Dylan mirror in Black (120cm), \$249, Freedom. 3 Muses II unglazed ceramic planter by Tatsiana Shevarenkova (26cm), \$1200, Saint Cloche. 4 Veneta coffee table in Calacatta Viola marble (137.2cm), from \$4995, Coco Republic. 5 SP01 'Michelle' barstool in Carbon Stained Ash & Satin Black (81.5cm), \$880, Space. 6 19-69 'Villa Nellcôte' EDP, \$259/100ml, St. Agni. 7 Marcello Land Abstract print (145.8x104.8cm), \$1575 (framed), Designer Boys Art. 8 Theo Coconut eyelet curtains (300cm pole width x 213cm drop), \$568.80/pair (custom sizes available), Tuiss Blinds Online. 9 Organic cotton face towel in Black & White Wave (part of a set), \$70/set of 3, Loom Towels. 10 Amanti boucle chair in Belair Snow (80x76cm), \$1950, Heatherly Design. *For Where to Buy, see page 190.* H&G