

PALETTE

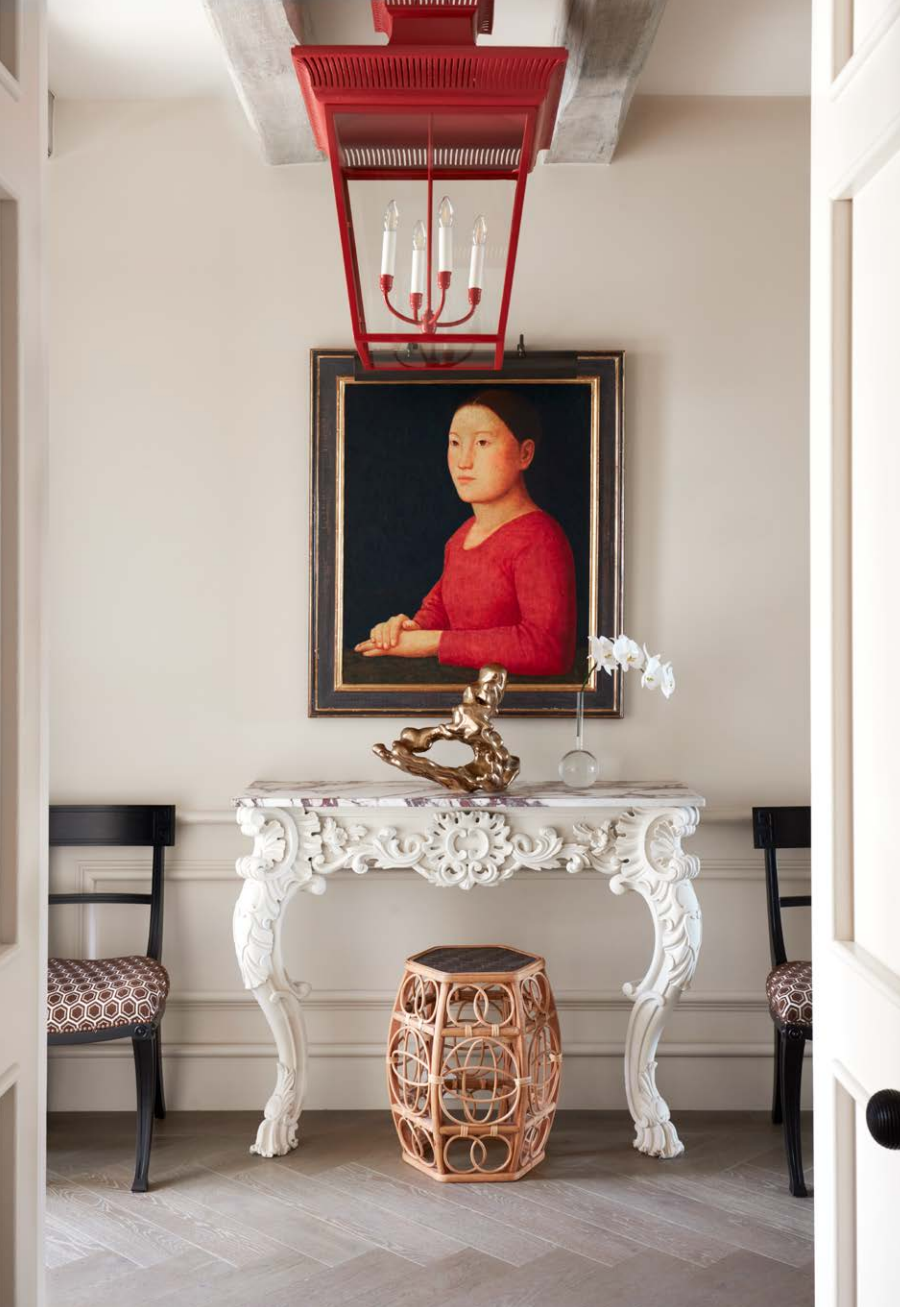
This family home showcases interior designer Cameron Kimber's knack for blending bowerbird curation, playful colours and lashings of luxury.

Words **ANDREA TOMAZ** Photography **PRUE RUSCOE**

PLEASE



This page Sitting pretty, the bergere chair has been reupholstered in Manuel Canovas 'Pavillon de Bidaine' fabric from Domus Textiles while the Soane armchair was re-covered in Fez Stripe in Indigo from Tigger Hall Design. Both the ottoman and curtains feature 'Beauchamp' velvet in Tabasco from James Hare with braid from Unique Fabrics. The Phillip Jeffries 'Driftwood' wallpaper in Cream is from The Textile Company. The 'Manzanilla' abaca rug in Blonde is from International Floorcoverings. The brass floor lamp is from Universal Lighting. Opposite page The staircase is red carpet-ready with the 'Montecarlo' runner in Firefly 55 from Fyber and an artwork by Dorothy Elaine Vicaji holding court against snow-white walls in Porter's Paints 'Cumulus'.



These pages, from left A sense of arrival is absolute in the entrance hall, which exudes drama and definition. A Xue Mo artwork pairs with ebonised Regency side chairs and a hanging lantern from Laura Kincade that was resprayed in Dulux 'Battery'. Comfort and luxury are united in the opulent but welcoming living room where the finer details mean everything. The sofa was reupholstered by Cameron Kimber Design in Manuel Canovas 'Pavillon de Bidaine' fabric and a Colefax and Fowler 'Arlington' bullion fringe in 'Tomato' from Domus Textiles. Woodwork painted in Porter's Paints 'Cumulus'. Artworks near the fireplace are by Salvatore Rosa (top) and Stephen Ormandy.

Cameron Kimber is an interior designer who lives life in full colour – and he loves to layer art, textures, beautiful wallpaper and fabric prints. Making a bold decorating statement is just another day at the ‘office’ for Cameron, whose design hallmark is taking classic interiors and enlivening them by overlaying a mix-and-match ethos.

Originally, this property was a “very pretty, small three-bedroom bungalow”, which was replaced with an entirely new five-bedroom home with a bigger footprint that maximised its harbour views. The project came together through architect Daniel Boddam from The Studio, builder Andrew Severino from M&G Building, and landscape designer Anthony Wyer from Wyer & Co. “We worked very closely and collaboratively,” says Cameron. “It was a fantastic project.” With creative confidence and bold direction front of mind, a couple with three young children put the interiors of their home in Sydney’s eastern suburbs into his hands.

“The clients wanted all the convenience and lifestyle of a contemporary home, but they also desired traditional charm, which suited me because I love classic interiors,” says Cameron. “Daniel’s original design was even more modern so we softened it with panelling, beams and mouldings. The look is slightly Los Angeles. I think that’s a great thing for a Sydney property, because LA does indoor/outdoor living so well too. Daniel created a »

» great connection with how the spaces open up beautifully to those harbour views and the garden. It's perfect for entertaining. The landscaping really ties the whole home together. It was just so important."

In decorating the interiors, Cameron says that comfort and luxury were of paramount importance and he focused on the finer details placed in every room in order to create enjoyable and easy day-to-day living. "To me, comfort and luxury are the same thing. It's a featherdown sofa you can sink into, or somewhere to put your drink comfortably, or a wonderfully warm house."

When it came to the palette within the home, Cameron was given full creative expression. "She [the client] loves colour. And so do I, so I said, 'Look, let's not be afraid of it.' So we used vibrant shades on walls in some rooms and big patterns mixed

with neutrals. And they love it: from the tomato-coloured carpet on the stairs to the burnt-orange velvet curtains in the front living room, the vibrant floral sofa in the family room and the vivid green walls upstairs. They were all leaps of faith, but the clients trusted me because they know me. Taking those risks really paid off because it made it really exciting."

Taking a tour around the home is a visual adventure. Entertaining zones open widely to the outdoors. The sitting and lounge spaces are vibrant and floral, where velvet mixes with simpler materials such as printed cotton and raffia.

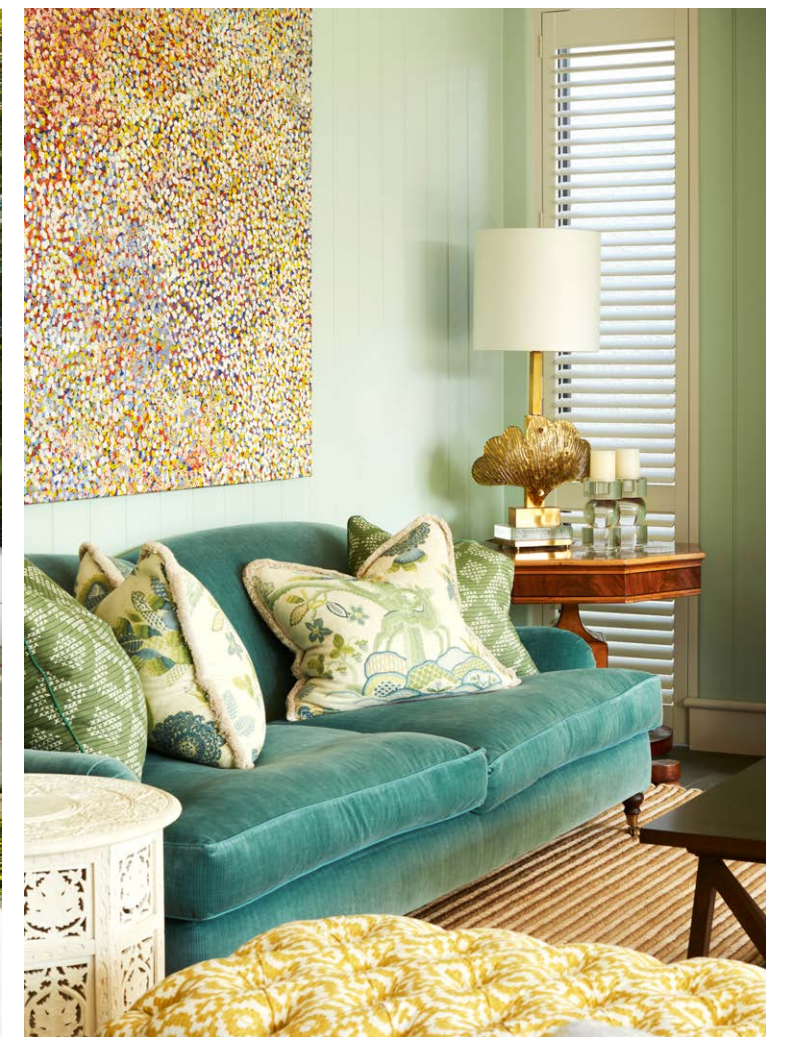
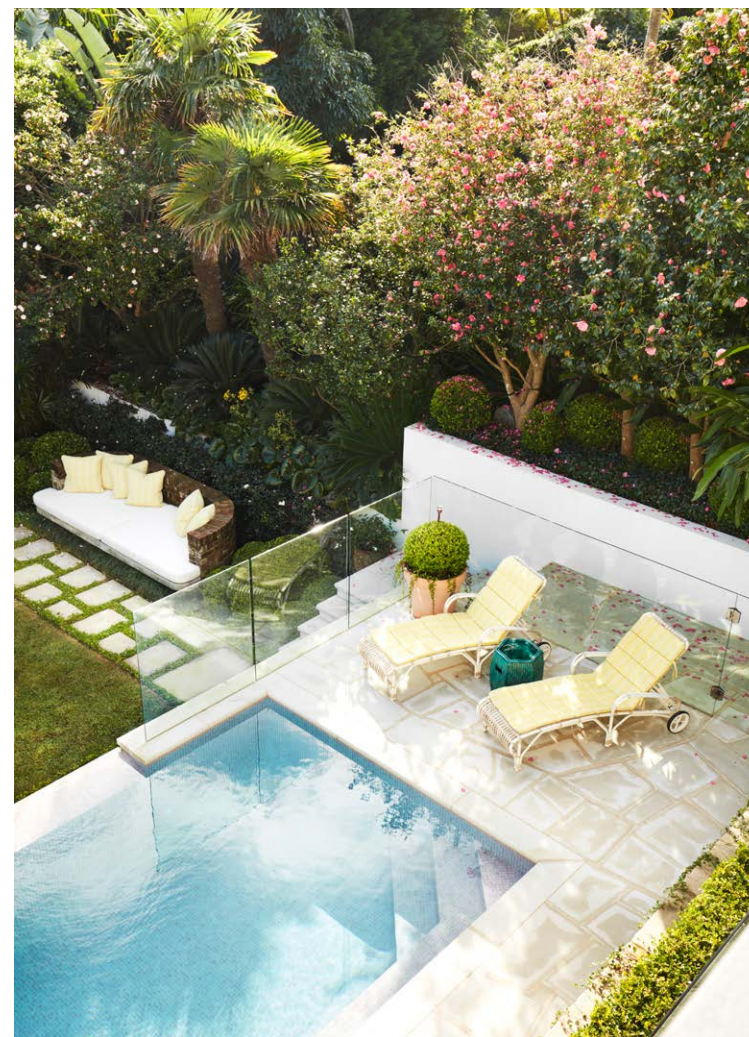
The blue kitchen catches the eye and commands attention, but it also hides a big secret: it conceals a substantial scullery to handle all the big catering tasks that accompany parties and entertaining. "It was a very clever move from the architect," says Cameron. »

These pages, clockwise from left A concealed television sits behind the Ray Crooke artwork. As this space connects to the dining area, Cameron designed it to be suitable for relaxed family downtime as well as glamorous 'on-show' entertaining when guests pay a visit. The artwork is by Lorna Ward Napanangka. Porter's Paints 'Breakwater' adds depth. The armchairs were reupholstered in fabrics from Orient House and Domus Textiles. Vintage lamp from Conley & Co. All building work was completed by Andrew Severino from M&G Building. Exterior paintwork in Dulux 'Beige Royal'. The garden, created by Anthony Wyer from Wyer & Co, was "such an important part of the project", says Cameron. "It was key in building that indoor/outdoor feeling throughout the property, which is really what Sydney life is all about."





This page, clockwise from top The bright kitchen isn't just beautiful, it cleverly harbours a connected and concealed scullery zone that is immensely valuable to the family. "They love to entertain and do charitable works, so it's great that the house has that space," says Cameron. The lower living area features a Bessie Pitjara artwork above the sofa on a wall painted in Porter's Paints 'Water Nymph'. The pool area adds quintessential glamour and conveys a blend of Sydney sensibilities with a touch of LA. "I chose the pool tiles in a very pale pink, which gives the water a soft, aqua glow," says Cameron. "The landscaping by Anthony Wyer ... frames the whole structure in a series of courtyards. It really sets the house off beautifully." **Opposite page** Artwork by Peter Poulet. Gold lamp from Conley & Co. 'Manzanilla' abaca rug in Blonde from International Floorcoverings.





Above and opposite page The main bedroom, which enjoys leafy vistas and harbour views, includes a sitting room, walk-in wardrobe and an ensuite. Bedhead and cushions in Colefax and Fowler 'Kendal' print in Leaf Green from Domus Textiles. Striped carpet from Missoni, vintage lamps from Conley & Co and artwork by Thea Proctor. The adjoining sitting room is papered in Thibaut 'Shang' extra-fine sisal in Kelly Green from Boyac. Red cushion in Lee Jofa 'Jag Trellis' from Elliott Clarke. **Below** Drama, glamour and chinoiserie collide in the guest powder room, with walls in Pierre Frey Braquenié 'Le Paravent Chinois Iris' wallpaper from Milgate. Porter's Paints 'Granny Smith' on joinery and a glossy black on cornices. Wall sconces with Vaughan shades from Domus Textiles.

« The glamorous guest powder room is a bold and moody space, which is quite different from other parts of the home. "It's very dramatic," says Cameron. "We wanted it to be a chinoiserie fantasy, a bit of fun and be a bit 'out there'."

Meanwhile the spacious main bedroom suite, complete with dressing room, ensuite and sitting room, is a true retreat and is Cameron's favourite space. Here, neutrals are mixed with vibrant striped Missoni carpet, touches of green on wallpaper and fabric, and leafy prints that echo the shades of the garden and harbour foreshore beyond, creating a space that's all about seclusion, dreamy vistas and peace.

What's clear is that this luxurious home is both a grand entertainer and place for restful, private family time. Each room surprises and delights, telling a unique story through colour and furnishings that convey playful exuberance and warmth.

"The house is alive," says Cameron. "It's a great house for young children, a great house to entertain in and it's a great house to be alone in too. It's beautiful." cameronkimber.com; danielboddam.com; mgbc.com.au; wyerandco.com.au



SPEED READ

» Interior designer Cameron Kimber collaborated with architect Daniel Boddam from The Studio, Andrew Severino from M&G Building and landscape designer Anthony Wyer from Wyer & Co to create this luxurious family residence in Sydney's east. » Cameron harnessed bright colours, re-covered key pieces and plumbed the family's art and antiques collection to create an unfussy home that's luxurious and glamorous yet relaxed. » Spaces were opened up to embrace the garden while also creating a deep connection with the harbour. » This home is designed for private family time as well as big, beautiful parties. » Being bold with the interiors was always vital, says Cameron, who advises, "If it looks good, just do it. Be brave."