

magic makeovers
- LIVING -

HOME ADVANTAGE

A design maven brings texture, soul and lashings of style to her own open-plan family zone

WORDS JACKIE BRYGEL STYLING BREE OLIVER PHOTOGRAPHY SUE STUBBS



BEFORE



FLOORING Robust and on-trend Pandano cement-based flooring by Concrete Artisans extends across homeowner and interior designer Melissa's new kitchen and living areas. "The house is north facing, so the concrete floors attract heat in winter and create a cooling effect in summer, when the height of the sun changes," she says. "They're perfect passive energy."

As director of The Design Hunter store in Sydney, Melissa Bonney is no stranger to rescuing rooms trapped in a time warp. But when it came to rethinking the hub of the home she shares with her own family, the interior designer was in for something of a surprise. "It's just as hard choosing finishes for yourself," she says. Working with her partner, Brendon Bott of B2 Construction, Melissa has created an open-plan kitchen, dining and living room awash with natural, organic materials such as timber, stone and concrete. The couple's light and bright new space is worlds away from its predecessor. "Everything was dated before," says Melissa. "Now it all functions really well for our family."

"WE WANTED AN OPEN LIVING AND ENTERTAINING AREA FOR OUR YOUNG FAMILY TO ENJOY" - MELISSA, HOMEOWNER



BREAKFAST BAR "The solid timber joinery and island surround is my favourite feature of the kitchen," says Melissa. "It requires a loving application of beeswax every couple of months, but it's truly beautiful and adds such warmth and interest to the space." A trio of replica 'Tollu' stools from Matt Blatt imbue the casual eating zone with a chic, cafe-style vibe, enhanced by charcoal-hued ceramic 'Licht Pendant' lights by Mud Australia for Koskela. >



MATERIALS Natural stone requires more care than its reconstituted peers, but was always going to be the benchtop material of choice for texture-lover Melissa. "The main finishes were selected for their textural qualities and are all natural materials," she says. Topping her island and workbench in elegant serpeggiante limestone, she chose blackbutt timber as its supporting act. With no windows in the cooking zone, a mirrored splashback reflecting the light and lush outlook to the garden cleverly brings the outdoors in.





SEATING AREA In this inviting corner of the living room, a stunning black-and-white 'Awely' (body paint) artwork by the late, highly renowned Aboriginal artist Minnie Puerle (find similar works at *The Gallery Shop*) takes centre stage above a custom cowhide 'Click Clack' sofa and assorted cushions from *The Design Hunter*. The Progetti 'Rnd Time' wall clock is a playful touch, while a white leather ottoman from *Citta Design* teams with a carved side table and vintage copper plant holder, both also from *The Design Hunter*, for a material mix with impact.

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LIVING AREA Thanks to new aluminium bi-folds to the deck that disappear when fully opened, the living area is now flooded with natural light. Rattan occasional chairs by Papaya complement a handcrafted Beni Ouarain rug from Kulchi, two vintage leather ottomans sourced from Dirty Janes in Bowral and Bonnie And Neil cushions. On the deck, black Acapulco chairs from The Design Hunter invite quiet contemplation.



"THE NEW full width doors CONNECT THE SPACE TO A LARGE DECK AND GARDEN AREA, WHICH ALLOWS LIGHT IN AND THE PERFECT indoor outdoor FLOW" - MELISSA HORNBER

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DINING Roomy enough to accommodate a small crowd, the table – custom-made by Melissa's partner Brendon, the project's builder – has blackbutt legs and a marble-effect render top. The classic vintage Parker chairs were a fortuitous curbside discovery by a "thrilled" Melissa, while the striking wooden dish is a much-loved old find from Coco Republic.

budget breakdown

Appliances.....	\$6000
Barstools.....	\$300
Benchtops.....	\$5000
Bi-fold doors.....	\$10,000
Building & labour costs.....	\$33,500
Dining table.....	\$2500
Flooring.....	\$10,000
Joinery.....	\$22,000
Occasional chairs.....	\$2200
Pendant lights.....	\$1000
Rug.....	\$7000
Sink & tap.....	\$600
Sofa.....	\$5500
Splashback.....	\$2000

total: \$107,600*

source book

Interior design: The Design Hunter,
(02) 9369 3322, thedesignhunter.com.au
Builder & joinery: B2 Construction,
0404 154 431, b2construction.com.au
Stockists, page 267

APPROXIMATE COSTS: ARTIST UNKNOWN; FRAMED CORAL: THE DESIGN HUNTER; ARTIST UNKNOWN; CORAL: THE DESIGN HUNTER; ARTIST UNKNOWN; CORAL: THE DESIGN HUNTER
*SOME COSTS ARE BASED ON OWNERS' ESTIMATES AND WILL VARY