

Home Grown

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Her Spanish-style farmhouse is almost entirely off the grid and offers breathtaking views of the Northern Rivers hinterland. EMMA LANE, the creative force behind The Farm Byron Bay, proves she has the magic touch.

Emma wears:
COOPER knit, \$329, and
JAC + JACK skirt, \$549.



Left: Emma and Tom Lane with their children (from left) Charlie, Matilda, George and Lulu, and their Hungarian vizsla, Ranger. Below: Emma surveys the home's newest addition, the pool.

Left, Emma wears: AJE coat, \$695. ACE OF SOMETHING hat, \$79.95. Below: AJE dress, \$595, and skirt, \$450. BRIXTON hat, \$99.95.

An almost-Iberian, terracotta-tinted farmhouse atop 120 acres, with views that stretch across the lush Byron Bay hinterland and out to the ocean beyond: Emma Lane may very well be living in your dream home. Together with her husband, Tom, she created agritourism hotspot The Farm Byron Bay, and will soon launch The Beach House East Coast, a beachfront event space where part of the proceeds go directly to an environmental trust. As Lane puts it: “It’s celebration meets conservation; a project with a social conscience.”

Lane centred her world around sustainability long before it became a buzzword and while her business ventures are firmly grounded in eco-consciousness, her three-bedroom home, dubbed The Range, is the culmination of years spent practising self-sufficient living. “The main

farmhouse is predominantly off the grid,” she explains. “We capture our own rainwater, irrigate the garden using a pump from our spring-fed dam and generate our own solar electricity, which we store in batteries to use during overcast weather or at night.” The house also has a solar passive design, which harnesses the sun and wind to effectively heat and cool the space. “Large eaves and openings provide summer shade and cross ventilation, while fireplaces both indoors and outdoors heat the property using firewood foraged from the land.”

Lane’s rustic minimalist aesthetic derives from a love of nature and her many travels around the world. The Range draws particular inspiration from Spanish *fincas*, akin to a country estate or ranch, while the strong presence of neutral colours was to ensure the house didn’t contrast with the surrounding environment. “From a distance the house is hardly noticeable,” she says. “We are all about nature and nurture. Our home is a true reflection of our family and way of life.”

It was a sea change that first inspired the Lanes, along with their four children, to make the move from Sydney to their holiday home in the Byron Bay hinterland. Realising a need to reduce the travel time between home, work and school, they later bought and renovated a home in the centre of town. Then, in July 2017 they purchased The Range and, in August last year, the family moved into the main house. The luxurious infinity pool and surrounding alfresco space was completed just in time for Christmas.





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Lane and interior stylist Sarah Ellison designed the sunken lounge. Timber was repurposed from the original home's framework to create the living room shelves.



Designed with form, functionality and sustainable living front of mind, every space in the home showcases the family's love of nature and togetherness.



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The neutral soft render throughout the outdoor spaces was chosen to ensure the home looked as discreet as possible, despite its advantageous position atop a ridge line.

Ironically, the couple initially considered knocking down the house and rebuilding from scratch. “In the process of demolition, we saw the house had really good bones. More importantly, we realised the slab and other parts of the house would have to be buried in the ground in order to dispose of it,” recalls Lane. “We decided it was better for the environment to use and build around what we had, recycling where we could.”

Recycled materials have been used throughout the house and therefore most of it is a nod to Australia’s rich history and natural environment. Local businesses and craftspeople played a pivotal role in bringing the home together, too. The 300-year-old terracotta floor tiles, from a demolished casa in Croatia, were sourced by a friend. The bathroom vanities were crafted from reclaimed Australian hardwood. The same builder repurposed timber frames from the original house into living room shelving. “All the rock walls and fireplaces were built by a local stonemason friend of ours. He and his team foraged in the old remnant rainforests on our property to find 45 million-year-old basalt rocks formed from the extinct Tweed volcano. I think they give the place a strong sense of self, if a place can have such a thing,” says Lane.

Along with utilising the many natural resources at their disposal, the family made a commitment to regenerating their property by planting 50,000 native trees, a project that should result in the regeneration of five rainforests over the next five years.

Lane says her life philosophy has merged with her approach to business in the most holistic way. “Our family values of honesty, integrity, collaboration and respect are the same values we share with our businesses. All our properties – The Farm, The Beach House and now The Range – are places where we hope people see those values and can feel relaxed and inspired too.” ❶



Get the look

Create a sophisticated yet cosy feel with a down-to-earth palette of warm ochre, amber and clay.

DINOSAUR DESIGNS bowl, \$280. Use as servingware or just as a stunning centrepiece.



NAU armchair, \$3395. A delicate touch of pink makes the earthy palette more feminine.



GREAT DANE pendant light, \$1650. Sculptural pendants add a contemporary touch.



KAS cushion, \$59.95. Lush texture adds grit to neutrals.



GLASSHOUSE candle, \$42.95. The sweet scent turns any room into a comforting cocoon.

GREAT DANE bedside table, \$4250. The natural timber finish and sleek design make it versatile.



TOM DIXON milk pan, \$195. High-gloss copper brings glamour to late-night lattes.



LSA INTERNATIONAL jug, \$99.95. A bold shade to add punch to your plain glasses.

HAY chair, \$3395. The perfect shape for curling up in with a good book.



CALLESELLA dining table, \$14,995. The beautiful clean lines work perfectly with statement chairs.



SHERIDAN throw, \$149.95. Chunky knits and tassels create touchable living spaces.

