

CREATIVE *we love*

# welcome to the jungle

WE TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THE NORTHERN BEACHES STUDIO AND HOME OF PLANT-OBSESSED EMMA McPHERSON

MOVE OVER CAT LADY, THERE'S A NEW CRAZY IN TOWN – just ask Emma McPherson, the cultivator behind The Plant Room. "Plants are no different to cats and the crazy people who love them are no different either. There's also a lot of crazy plant men out there," she says. Part nursery, studio and retail store, The Plant Room is an inimitable hot house that nurtures handmade and unique pieces in a setting that's as tranquil as it is cleverly designed. "It's filled with all my favourite things, so it's completely an extension of my home, and of me," Emma explains of her Manly-based store. "I grew up in the '70s and we lived with nature inside our house," she recalls. "My dad would spend most of his weekends in a nursery; he only spoke in the botanical names." For Emma, having greenery in the home that she shares with her husband and son Mac goes well beyond simple aesthetics. "I say to my clients, 'If you love it, if it talks to you, if you have an emotional experience, then you can't go wrong.' Having an emotional connection is the most important thing." →



**Green house** Emma's home features an eclectic collection of handmade items, vintage pieces, quirky artworks, ceramics and, of course, plants. "I don't think you can put a plant in a bad spot. I style things my own way," she says.

**Homeward bound** "I wanted to create a space where when you walk in, you feel like you're walking into someone's home," Emma says. Handcrafted furniture by JD Lee and Dion Antony is displayed alongside ceramics, planters, artworks and wall hangings.



*"EVERYONE CAN BE AN AMAZING GARDENER. YOU JUST NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE GETTING PLANTS FROM PLACES THAT WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO CARE FOR THEM. AND ALWAYS VIEW THEM AS A LIVING, BREATHING THING."*

10 QUESTIONS WITH EMMA McPHERSON

1. What did you want to be when you were a kid? I was a floater and a dreamer and had no idea what I wanted to be, and I think I stayed like that until my late twenties.
2. Where do you find inspiration? Everywhere. The beach, nature, my little boy and travel, especially America. A lot also comes from conversations and connections with people.
3. Do you have a mantra? I have two: "Follow your bliss" and "Risk equals reward".
4. What do you treasure most? My son, Mac.
5. Favourite space? My backyard. It nourishes my soul. And my cabana, I like to meditate in it every morning. For me, it's a space of connection and support.
6. What music are you listening to right now? Always the Foo Fighters. Also, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, and I do love a bit of Lana Del Rey.
7. What do you never leave home without? My big black van. I'm always driving around in it, picking up plants and dropping off furniture and pots.
8. Favourite holiday destination? Somewhere surrounded by nature, close to the beach and with really good service.
9. Your most recent purchase? My beautiful Pernilla chair.
10. Favourite plant? I don't think it's possible to like just one plant. It's like asking if I have a favourite child. I just love greenery and nature. 🍀

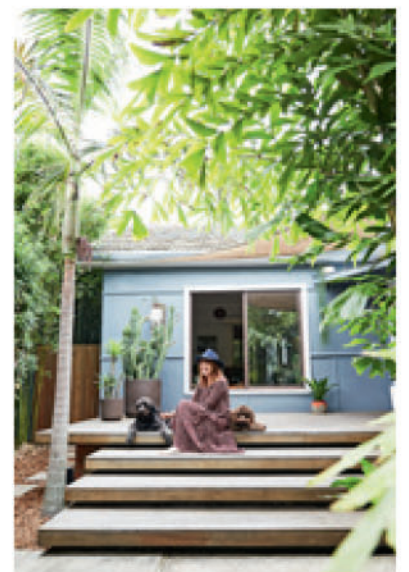


Check out Emma's store, The Plant Room, at 57 Pittwater Road, Manly, NSW, or follow her on Instagram: @the\_plantroom



at HOME

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**We are family** The Curl Curl property is also home to the family's two dogs, labradoodle Dixi and spoodle Dave, and Emma describes it as "a '50s fibro shack with crazy hippy vibes". **Tatts amore** Artworks of Lana Del Rey and Elvis Presley (p40) by Cheyenne Randall hang in Emma's home and her store. "He did a whole series, placing tattoos over people," she says. "They're amazing."