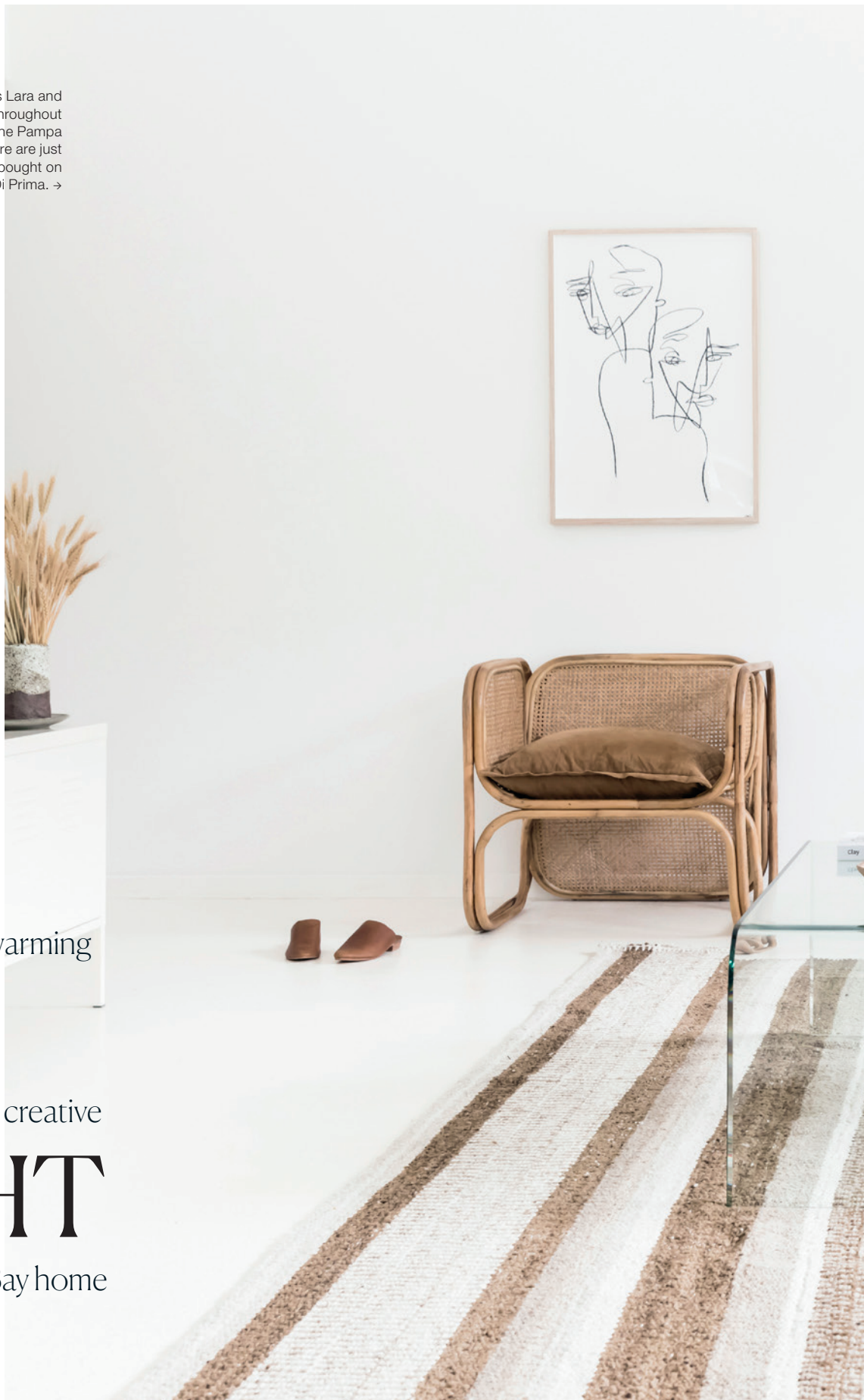


Organic element Homeowners Lara and Matt Fells have used woven textiles throughout to enhance their home's coastal feel. The Pampa rug and rattan armchair from Worn Store are just two examples. The coffee table was bought on Gumtree and the artwork is by Jazz Di Prima. →



ALL

Calming neutrals and warming

IS

textures combine in this creative

BRIGHT

couple's relaxed Byron Bay home







who lives here?

Lara and Matt Fells, founders of footwear and clothing label St. Agni, their son Jude, five months, and Harper the Cavoodle.
St-agni.com; @stagnistudio

LIFE SEEMS TO IMITATE ART in Lara and Matt Fells' Byron Bay home. At first glance, the space is pared back and predominantly white, but it's the considered touches – think handmade vessels, rattan furniture, cosy throws and rugs – that are reminiscent of the couple's design label St. Agni and its handcrafted, woven leather wares. "My style is very neutral," Lara says. "I like pairing whites and natural tones with lots of texture." Since first moving in, the couple haven't made any dramatic changes as they loved the simplicity of the house, but with Lara's minimalist-leaning and relaxed aesthetic, a sense of tranquility descends upon every room. "I like our home to have a very calm feel," she adds.

COASTAL LIFESTYLE The couple were first drawn to the home's open-plan layout and four-metre-high ceilings in the living and dining areas, which flood the space with sunlight. "Natural light is so important to us," Lara says. "It was one of the things that really appealed to us when we bought the house." To maximise this natural light, concrete floors have been painted white and large windows left curtainless, except for the bedrooms. The location was also a big drawcard. "We're a five-minute walk from the beach and really close to the centre of Byron Bay, but you wouldn't know it – it's so quiet," Lara says. A covered outdoor lounge and dining area takes advantage of the tropical green garden and makes for the perfect spot to enjoy breakfast. During summer, friends gather here for barbecues.

KEEP IT LOCAL When it comes to homewares, Lara and Matt proudly support their fellow local artists and labels. Everything from the master bed to floor rugs can be attributed to the couple's creative friends, and several pieces were made by the couple themselves, including a speckled vase that was a present from Matt and framed sketches drawn by Lara. "I really enjoy sourcing things from lots of different places," she says. "I've found a lot of our furniture secondhand on Gumtree and eBay – I like pieces that have beauty in their imperfections." 📍

Open-plan living The living space, which includes the kitchen and dining areas, is Lara's favourite part of her home. "I love that it's so open with lots of light and high ceilings and that it's very simple, with three pendants and a window splashback as the focus." The splashback was an existing feature, the pendants were handmade by Sit Still Lauren, the vintage chairs came from eBay and the table is from MCM House. →

how to blend indoors and out

1

Stick to just one colour for your home's interior and exterior (Lara and Matt went with white) to create uninterrupted visual symmetry.

2

Choose outdoor furniture made from the same materials as your indoor pieces. For example, timber and wool rugs in a similar palette.

3

Add warm textiles, such as cushions or throws, to your outdoor space and display fresh, natural elements like plants and branches inside.

Pet friendly Harper lounges on a Molmic sofa. Lara had the washable white linen cover made – a must for a family with a dog. The lamp is from MRD Home. **Restful balance** Lara's favourite piece of furniture is her timber bedframe. "It was custom-made for us by our friends at Sheoak Design," she tells. The bedding is a mix from In Bed and Cultiver, the lamps are from Urban Outfitters, the rug and throw are Pampa and the bedside tables cost just \$40 each on Gumtree. →



“I LOVE LINEN AND NATURAL
TEXTURES AND FABRICS. THEY HELP OUR
HOME FEEL RELAXED AND LIVED-IN.”





Swing time “I think Australian homes really make the most of outdoor living,” Lara says, pictured on a swing from Pop & Scott. The couple painted the original grey exterior white and had a day bed custom-built in the outdoor sitting area with storage under the seats – a practical addition that’s perfect for lazing about in the afternoon sun. The couple have a pared-back approach to luxury, which is at the heart of both their home and their label St. Agni. The brand’s designs, including leather and rattan loafers (pictured), are made for comfort with a nod to mid-century design. The rug is from Pampa and the timber box is second-hand.

text karlie verkerk; lindy crabb | photography maree homer | styling kerrie-ann jones

Dine alfresco Family and friends regularly kick back around the outdoor table by Sheoak Design on chairs from MCM House. The Pop & Scott wall hooks will hold towels when the pool is built, hopefully in time for summer! →





Nature, nurture The neutral colour palette flows into the nursery, which is decorated with a vintage rug, fruit-shaped mirrors from Tigmi Trading and cactus from Pop & Scott. The cot is from Ikea and Lara says she found the wood chest six years ago when they first moved to Byron. "I can't let it go."

shop it! Layer natural textures in neutral hues



1 Home Republic "Malmo" linen **throw** in Olive, \$119.99, Adairs. **2** Bronte 3-Seat **sofa** in Italian Linen White, \$2499, Lounge Lovers. **3** Brass **hooks**, \$50 for a small half circle and \$55 for a small full circle, Pop & Scott. **4** Bambury "Amaya" **cushion**, \$84.95, Temple & Webster. **5** Washed linen **cushion cover** in Dusky Green, \$14.99, H&M Home. **6** The Cane **lounger** in Natural/Natural, \$849, Worn Store. **7** Brass apple **mirror**, \$99, Tigmi Trading. **8** Siena Rattan **loafers**, \$269, St. Agni. **9** Arcadia 3-piece bent glass nested **coffee table set**, \$769, Living Styles. **10** Rustic nude jute **rug** (2.2m x 1.5m), \$399, Rug Emporium. **11** Wooden storage **box**, \$44.99, H&M Home. **12** Chablis round **table** in Natural Fir, \$999, Brosa. **13** Monte #0279 **rug** (1.8m x 2.5m), \$2250, Pampa. **14** Glass Half Full 610 **vase**, \$270, ACV Studio. **15** Ficus elastica decora rubber **plant**, \$8.70, Bunnings. **16** Tuscan Path "Terracotta Elementary" 28cm **pot**, \$10, Bunnings.

**Colours and finishes**

FROM LEFT Sleek Concrete **benchttop**, \$500 a sq m installed, Caesarstone. Lenda **curtains**, \$29.99 for a pair, Ikea. Eggshell Acrylic **paint** in Lamb's Wool, \$101.07 for 4L, Porter's Paints.