

# NEUTRAL PALETTE TROPICAL OASIS

WORDS PENNY SHIPWAY  
PHOTOS ANASTASIA KARIOFYLLIDIS



WHEN IT COMES TO the home of acclaimed Sunshine Coast artist Amanda Brooks you really can't judge a book by its cover.

Amanda is renowned for her stunning and vibrant, contemporary pieces. Her celebrated series of punchy, floral arrangements are particularly popular in the homes of country Australia. From lilacs, jacarandas, fuchsias, salmons, teals and canary yellows, the paintings are always bursting with a veritable fruit bowl of colour.

In contrast, her exquisite Noosa hinterland home, perched in the exclusive hills of Doonan, projects more of a neutral Cape Cod style palette of whites, greys, charcoals and timbers and only the exceptional splash of muted colour.

"My paintings are no way, not at all like my home," Amanda says. "I love painting bright and bold, but I have to paint different paintings for our home as I prefer to live with restful colours. But I do love the paintings I sell to people who love colour!"

Amanda, who says she can work wonders with a bucket of Napisan, shares her sprawling tropical home with her husband Jason and their three "messy" children: daughter Coco, 8, six-year-old twins Jasper and Indigo and their beloved pets, a blue staffy called Zinzan and two Burmese cats Sophie and Porcini.

"I love plantation, classic style, one-off individual pieces of furniture and a mix of Asian, coastal and French," she says. "They are very neutral colours. It's very impractical with young children, but they are old enough now to know what they can't touch. I used to pull my hair out, but it's getting easier. They have a separate wing to the house, with a TV and toy room and their own bathroom and decks."

Amanda's favourite part of the home is the newly-built parents' retreat, which is "always immaculate and smells of coconut and lime". It is joined by an enclosed breezeway to the house, and is complemented by Turkish travertine flooring, western red cedar bi-fold doors and plenty of glass louvre windows.

"It's always quiet and restful, and an escape from the home-based business and busyness of our home," she says.

The split-level, five-bedroom, four-bathroom home boasts sweeping views from Noosa to Peregian, with grand pavilion-style ceilings and an infinity lap pool. Resting on a hectare, the manicured tropical gardens are filled with agaves, yuccas, cordylines, gardenias, cycads, heliconias, black bamboo and tiger grass, with the property backing onto 400 hectares of reserve.

Its features include two built-in fireplaces – one in the main living room, which is more than five metres tall and clad in sandstone, and the other in the master bedroom with an old timber mantel. There is a separate guest house which Amanda uses for gallery viewings by appointment, and all five bedrooms have private decks.

"Our friends describe it as Sex and the City decadence," Amanda says of the self-contained parent retreat's generous galley-style walk-in-robe.

Amanda has always been interested in homes and used to draw floor plans as a child. "I would dream of being an architect >



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or interior stylist. I ended up studying graphic design and photography. I love to help buyers with design ideas.”

From “very humble beginnings”, Amanda purchased her first cottage at 23, and has never been afraid to knock down a wall or pull out a paint brush. Originally from Durban, a coastal town in South Africa, Amanda and Jason have lived on the Sunshine Coast for 18 years, spending their first 10 years doing up and selling homes.

“We moved 10 times in 10 years,” Amanda says.

They bought their Doonan home 10 years ago, a Rex Oakley-designed home which was just two years old at the time, and together made several additions including the landscaping, pool, guest house, parents’ retreat and extra decks.


With the home’s limited wall space because of extensive glass and louvers, Amanda rotates her paintings, keeping the ever-changing wall space vibrant and fresh.

“I have new paintings on the walls daily as they sell quickly, and some days I have none,” she says. “I love abstracts in muted colours and the neutral florals and birds. I also love our children’s art; they are all so creative and artistic.”

When she isn’t painting in her studio, Amanda admits to having a healthy Pinterest obsession, and reads glossy house magazines for daily inspiration.

But it’s sniffing out homewares and furniture in local shops where she has the most fun finding one-off pieces, including pieces collected over the years and painted white. 🍷

**Amanda’s artwork is available at Watermelon Red, Shop 5, Peregian Boardwalk, 224 - 226 David Low Way, Peregian Beach. 5448 1452 or [watermelonred.com.au](http://watermelonred.com.au)**

 FOR EXTRA SALT visit [saltmagazine.com.au](http://saltmagazine.com.au) to see more photos of Amanda’s Noosa hinterland property.

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