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# HOUSE & GARDEN

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**DESIGN CUES FROM CONTEMPORARY RURAL HOMES**

## *This is the life*

Escaping the constraints of the suburban block was a key factor for owners Anna Chisholm and Andrew Heine, who craved views and wide-open spaces in their ideal weekender. This property ticked all the boxes and now facilitates precious family time after a busy working week, as well as extended family get-togethers. "The boys love it when their cousins come to stay and the trundle beds come out," says Anna.

A photograph of a modern outdoor deck. On the left, a wicker chair with a red, white, and green striped cushion and a matching blanket sits on a wooden deck. A golden retriever dog is lying on the deck in the center. To the right, a large window looks out onto a lush green garden with a white pillar. A woven hat hangs on the wall behind the chair. The scene is bright and sunny, with green foliage in the foreground and background.

# *Make a wish*

For one Melbourne family, this Mornington Peninsula weekender is the realisation of a long-held dream come true.

STORY & STYLING JULIA GREEN ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB



**GARDEN** Charlie (left) and Sam play in a magnificent crabapple in front of the house. The property also boasts a citrus orchard and olive grove, various fruit trees and a 20-bed vegetable patch.

**FRONT VERANDAH** This western-facing verandah is a lovely spot for a glass of wine in the afternoon, notes owner Anna Chisholm. It's also the preferred haunt of golden retriever Maggie. Chairs, throw and cushions.

Bungalow Trading Co.  
Smart buy: Marmoset Found Laguna woven wall hanging, \$220, Bungalow Trading Co.  
For Where to Buy, see page 234.



**B**e careful what you wish for, cautions the oft-used phrase. But there's also something to be said for the power of creative visualisation. Back in the mid-1990s, when Anna Chisholm and Andrew Heine started dating, they would often travel to a friend's farm on the Mornington Peninsula, passing a gorgeous old country cottage en route. Only a glimpse of the property was possible through the trees but the couple admired its stately driveway, romantic verandah and proud position on a hill, and dreamed of one day owning a place just like it.

Fast-forward more than a decade, after their marriage and the birth of two children – Charlie, six, and Sam, four – and imagine the couple's delight when the house came onto the market at the end of 2011. Seizing the opportunity they made an offer before auction day and after some negotiation, the property was theirs.

"The house figured exactly as I had imagined in my dreams of what a country weekender would look like," says Anna, owner of Melbourne homewares retailer Bungalow Trading Co.

Nestled in the heart of the peninsula's wine-growing territory, with views of a neighbouring apple orchard and herds of grazing cows, the home offers a welcome respite from city life. Factor in idyllic open spaces where the children can roam, a pool, and easy access to wineries, restaurants and beaches, and it's clear this property has all the elements of the perfect holiday home.

"After a busy week it's great to get down here on a Friday evening, crank the fire and, once the kids are tucked into bed, open a bottle of wine and eat," says Anna. Fortunately, the house came with a >

'I DON'T FOLLOW A PARTICULAR TREND BUT SUBSCRIBE TO WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY.' ANNA

**KITCHEN/DINING** Morning light streams into this open-plan space, which features a butler's pantry and super-high benches. ("We love them because we're tall," says Anna.) The dining table was salvaged from a building site and restored. Dining chairs, Thonet. Rattan armchairs, Big Chair Living. Armadillo+Co rug, Bungalow Trading Co.

**LIVING/DECK** "Having the pool incorporated into the deck area makes it easy to keep an eye on swimming children," says Anna. Cushions, throw and beach bag, Bungalow Trading Co.

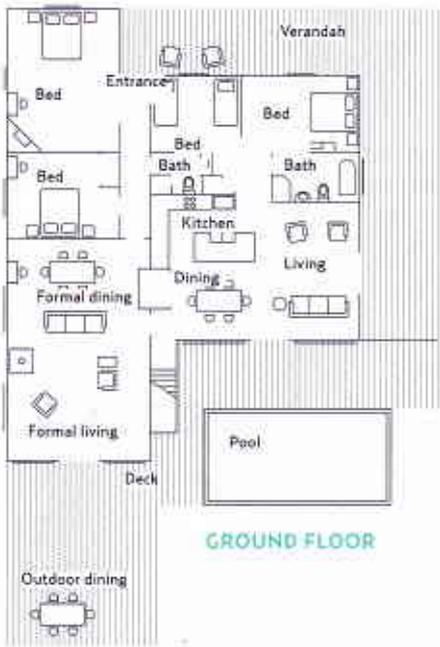
Designer buy: FBI sofa, from \$4200/three-seater, Pierre and Charlotte.

For Where to Buy, see page 234.

### *A little bit country*

Surrounded by market gardens, orchards, vineyards, artisanal food producers and flower farms, not to mention the nearby beaches, restaurants, day spas and Andrew's beloved golf course, this country location means the family is never short of places to visit. Yet it's also blissful to simply relax and drink in the rural ambience. "We are very good at hunkering down here," says Andrew. "It gets harder and harder to leave it every weekend."





'THE FORMAL LIVING ROOM IS OUR HUNKER-DOWN SPACE IN WINTER. IT'S ALWAYS BRIGHT AND WARM.' ANNA

**FORMAL LIVING** (above and opposite bottom left) Big windows and great views give this space its generous character. Floor lamp, Rose St Trading Company. Artworks by Neil Williams.

**GUESTROOM DETAIL** The cockatoo artwork over the mantelpiece was found at a local market. Ceramic pieces, all Bungalow Trading Co. **FORMAL DINING** With a table inherited from Anna's great-grandmother and chairs that belonged to her parents, this room connects five generations. "My mum chose the chair fabric, which I hated at the time but now love!" says Anna.

**Smart buy:** *Peonies No. 4* limited-edition print by Ali McNabney-Stevens, from \$150 (unframed), Greenhouse Interiors.

**BOYS' ROOM** Anna made the quilt covers from her husband's old shirts. Deer head, stools, toy dinosaurs, garland and rug, Bungalow Trading Co. **For Where to Buy, see page 234.**







◀ cook's kitchen, plus living and dining areas leading to an entertainer's deck, so the family enjoys an alfresco lifestyle in their downtime. Their weekend country retreats also involve seasonal cooking from their extensive vegetable patch and fruit trees. "I endeavour to pick fresh produce from the vegie patch for cook-ups," says Anna. "The view from the kitchen makes cooking and cleaning up much less of a chore."

Bedrooms are equipped for the region's unpredictable weather with layers of colourful linen, cosy quilts for inclement weather and rugs to warm the original floorboards. "This is a house for all seasons," says Anna. "We cater for the hot summer days by the pool, and cosy fires and steaming baths in winter."

The interior of her home combines a seamless sense of style and comfort ideally suited to life with a young family. "While I love to be on trend with new pieces, I always try and pair them up with my beloved collectables and heirlooms," says Anna. "I don't follow a particular trend but subscribe to what makes me happy: colourful, comfortable and not overly countrified tick my boxes."

Having waited years for the right property to turn up at a time when they could afford it, Anna and Andrew have spun new dreams around this home. "We hope to host weddings here for our sons in the future, to build a barn-style guest retreat, and to eventually relocate ourselves here on a full-time basis," says Anna. "This really is our forever home and it's been well worth the wait."



**Bungalow Trading Co, Caulfield South, Victoria; (03) 9597 9412 or [bungalowtradingco.com.au](http://bungalowtradingco.com.au).**

"I LOVE SLEEPING HERE. I LOVE MY BEDROOM AND THE COLOUR WE'VE INTRODUCED." ANNA

**GUEST BATHROOM** Anna painted the clawfoot bath a zingy yellow and it's now one of her favourite features. "While this is the guest bathroom, I find plenty of occasions to use it," she says. Grey towels, Country Road. Geometric towel, Greenhouse Interiors.

**MAIN BEDROOM** An antique French chandelier gives this room a whimsically romantic edge. Quilt cover, Country Road. Rug, Loom Rugs. Artwork by Barbara Kitallides.

**POOL** Andrew and Anna spend a lot of time out by the pool with their boys. Arrow wire table, Space To Create. Tray, Country Road. Planter pots, Pop & Scott. Outdoor dining table, Greg Hatton. Outdoor dining chairs, Jati Furniture.

**Designer buys:** Butterfly chairs, from \$395/each, Angelucci 20th Century. For Where to Buy, see page 234.

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