

INSIDE

INSPIRING HOMES WITH H

Celebrating 150 issue

We take a look at interiors over the decades and chat with our style squad

the art of white

Family homes that find the balance and how to choose the right paint



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Which cushion style are you? Find your perfect match



Julia Green's paint tips



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DUTCH DELIGHT



A family adapts their timeless Dutch aesthetic to suit an Australian approach to beachside living

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ON VERANDAH: HK LIVING 'MOROCCAN' STOOL, HOUSE OF ORANGE; HOUSEOFORANGESHOP.COM.AU; DINING AREA: 'MYLES' BENCH, 'MOROCCAN' WOODEN CHAIR AND WOVEN LEATHER RUG, BOTH HOUSE OF ORANGE, HOUSEOFORANGE.COM.AU; ARTWORK: KATRINA CARTER (KATRINACARTERART.COM); STORIE, STORIE.COM.AU

white
with
black

cheat sheet

Who lives here: Ursula van Schoonhoven, brand director of House Of Orange and HK Living, her husband Hans, co-director of House Of Orange, their daughters April, 15; and Nina, 10; plus Frankie, an English pointer-cross-Italian sheepdog.
Style of home: A rented 1980s three-bedroom, two-bathroom weatherboard cottage.



VERANDAH (opposite) Ursula and her husband Hans kick back with daughters April and Nina. **DINING AREA** Ursula describes the large white dining table from House Of Orange, called 'April' after her eldest daughter, as the "heart of the home".



The Netherlands forms a big part of Ursula van Schoonhoven's life. It's where her father was born, where she met her husband Hans – in the middle of a 10-year stint living and working in Amsterdam – and is the backbone of their business, House Of Orange, which specialises in furniture with a distinctly Dutch aesthetic.

Step inside their Edwardian house in Melbourne's inner-city Prahran – which, like a lot of Dutch houses, is a long-term rental – and you could almost be in Amsterdam with its gracious high ceilings, obligatory white walls and unadorned windows. "That's very much a Dutch phenomenon," says Ursula. "No-one closes their blinds, if they have them in the first place!"

When the couple decided to take on a weekender in Sorrento, on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, their signature style would follow them there, too. But, as St Kilda-born Ursula insists, it also needed to reflect its surroundings. "I can proudly say it has an Australian touch to it, too," she says. "It's important to embrace the environment you're in."

Ursula, what prompted you to look for a holiday house? The Mornington Peninsula is a huge market for our business. Over the years, Hans has made what seems like a million trips down there: quoting, installing furniture, giving advice. We decided it was time



EXTERIOR (top left) A white-and-grey banquette seat from House Of Orange doubles as a valuable storage spot.

DINING AREA "The table really forms the centre of the home," says Ursula. "A lot of living goes on around that table." She avoids a "cookie-cutter" look with mismatched white seats and wire chairs from HK Living. A bold Katrina Carter artwork brings drama and texture to the space.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING:
NATALIE JOHNSON PAINT COLOUR
MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

the palette

Warm neutral shades create a calming base, perfect to channel that Dutch vibe

1. 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior paint in Steamed Mushroom. \$62.50/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au
2. 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior paint in Road Ahead. \$62.50/4L, British Paints, as before.
3. 'Interior Expressions' low sheen acrylic paint in Magnolia Moonlight. \$74.90/4L, Haymes Paint, haymespaint.com.au.





KITCHEN (opposite, left) Nina sits under a beach-ready collection of hats and bags. Open shelving allows Ursula to display both treasured pieces and everyday items. **MAIN LIVING AREA (opposite, right & this page)** A wicker HK Living pendant light stays true to the coastal vibe of the home. Textural materials, including a luxe HK Living Icelandic sheepskin throw, adorn the daybed, which comes in handy for extra guests. The Love Warriors *Dogma* print (pictured right) from Norsu Interiors adds a feminine edge to the space, while an old sofa is brought back to life with a draped sheet, throw and cushions.



star performer

Hide worn-out flooring or soften a space with plenty of rugs. "I grew up with rugs and they're perfect for a beach house," says Ursula. Here, a House Of Orange bleached denim rug covers the floor.

we had something there, too. We wanted to put our stamp on it and it would be a platform to show how we pull together a look.

What appealed to you about this property? This house was a light, bright weatherboard with a great exterior: it had a front verandah and a deck on the back with gorgeous views of the surrounding area. Inside, it had good natural light, especially in the main living area thanks to the floor-to-ceiling windows, plus wooden floors, open-plan living and two bathrooms, which was essential with our two daughters and all their friends who come to stay!

What was your aim with the house? We wanted to have a crack at changing a space without an extensive renovation and on a budget. The major thing we did to freshen the house up was to paint it white. There's only so much you can do in a rental, but painting walls white is very much our thing.

Are white walls a bit of a thing in Dutch interiors? Dutch light is very different to here – it's quite muted. Plus there's a long, dark winter, so they bring the light in however they can. It's also why the Dutch pay so much attention to their interiors, because they have to spend a great deal of time in them!

Do you have a 'go-to' white that you used on the house? We've tried a lot of whites and a lot of them miss the mark because they are too cold, or have overtly pink or yellow undertones. Our favourite is Haymes Paint Magnolia Moonlight, which is a lovely pure, warm white.

You seem fond of using white with black and grey? Completely! It's also the palette we use in our work. It works well because you never get tired of it and it's easy to live with.

Are there any tricks to using white in an interior? A lot of people are scared to layer white on white, such as pairing white furniture with white walls. The key is getting the actual white tones right: they need to complement each other and be from the same 'family' of whites. And adding texture with rattan, wood, a wall-hanging or a rug prevents a white scheme looking sterile.

How does the house work for your family? We encourage our girls to make their friends feel welcome here, and there are two living areas – one is more of a teenage space, while we use the other one. We do like to hang out together, but kids want to do their own thing sometimes! We go down most weekends, as well as extended stays during the school holidays.

How would you sum up life in the house? Relaxed and filled with people, which is really the point of a beach house. It's lovely to have it as a retreat and I can't tell you how nice it is sometimes when there is no-one around but us, but most of the time it's there for people to come and share it with us. **ID**

Ursula and Hans loved the process of putting together this beach house so much that they've now moved onto another seaside home. For info on their furniture design business, visit houseoforange.com.au.

ART PRINT (ABOVE DAY BED): NORSU INTERIORS, NORSUCOM.AU
OPPOSITE: 'CLEA' COFFEE TABLE, HOUSE OF ORANGE, HOUSEOFORANGE.COM.AU

KITCHEN The kitchen island became more functional with the addition of a House Of Orange 'Eve' bar table. "The bench that was there was too high to use for anything," says Ursula. The table and stools transformed it into a casual eat-in spot. **LIVING AREA (opposite)** April, Nina and a friend enjoy expansive views over the treetops. Norsu Interiors prints are a contemporary addition to this space.

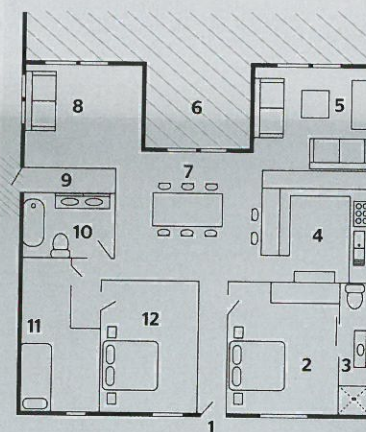


bright idea

Living in a rental means you can't get rid of bright downlights. One option is to ignore the downlights and put in pendant lights. Here, Ursula has placed a HK Living 'Workshop' light over the kitchen island.



HK LIVING TEAPOT, MUGS AND WOODEN BOWL, HOUSE OF ORANGE, HOUSEFORORANGE.COM.AU



- 1. Entry
- 2. Master bedroom
- 3. Ensuite
- 4. Kitchen
- 5. Main living area
- 6. Deck
- 7. Dining area
- 8. Living area
- 9. Laundry
- 10. Bathroom
- 11. Nina's bedroom
- 12. April's bedroom

"My style is loose and relaxed, with a lot of texture and personal touches. It doesn't lock into a particular genre"

URSULA VAN SCHOONHOVEN, HOMEOWNER





NINA'S BEDROOM (left) A 'Frankie' bunk bed from House Of Orange was a natural choice for accommodating the many friends that come to stay. The retro-style stool is from HK Living. **DECK** This area is where the family spends a majority of their time. "You walk through the hallway and out the doors and bang, there's that view," says Ursula. A House Of Orange table provides an outdoor dining option.



"Beach houses are supposed to be relaxed and a little undone. You don't want to replicate your main home"

URSULA VAN SCHOONHOVEN, HOMEOWNER

3 pendant lights

An elegant hanging lamp provides personality and functionality in living spaces

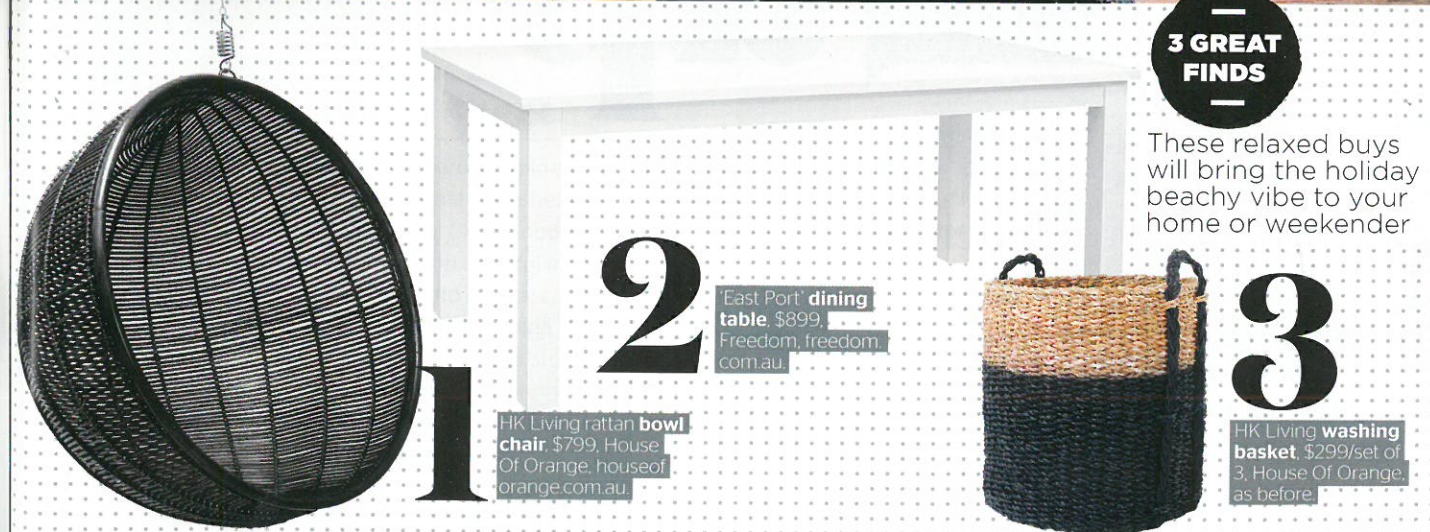
1. HK Living rattan hanging lamp, \$699, House Of Orange, houseoforange.com.au.
2. 'Foxfire' pendant light, from \$775, Inkster Maken, inksterprojects.com.
3. 'Ranarp' pendant light, \$29.99, IKEA, ikea.com.au.



ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: NATALIE JOHNSON, STOREBRIOR ARMCHAIR, HOUSE OF ORANGE, HOUSEOFORANGE.COM.AU

3 GREAT FINDS

These relaxed buys will bring the holiday beachy vibe to your home or weekender



1. HK Living rattan bowl chair, \$799, House Of Orange, houseoforange.com.au.

2. East Port dining table, \$899, Freedom, freedom.com.au.

3. HK Living washing basket, \$299/set of 3, House Of Orange, as before.