

NATURAL FIT

Layered interiors of rich brown, lush green and deepest black connect this Southern Highlands, NSW, retreat to its earthy farmland setting.

STORY *Rachel White* | STYLING *Jamee Deaves* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Simon Whitbread*

EXTERIOR The house is positioned at the edge of farmland, with fantastic views of the surrounding hills and pastures. Cladding in WOCA exterior wood oil in Black and finished with Cutek Extreme CD50 wood stabiliser. Hyundai 12kW solar panels in Black. Ziegler & Brown barbecue. White chairs, stylist's own. In the foreground, a black steel fire pit made from reused gas bottles, from Berrima Village Pottery, is surrounded by wood stumps fashioned from a neighbour's fallen gum tree.



Edward Rosier admits there are certain expectations when an architect decides to design their own home. “I really enjoyed the process,” he says. “But there is a pressure, more than likely self-imposed, to get things right.” When he decided to upgrade from a 50sqm apartment in Sydney’s Inner West to a 4000sqm site in the NSW Southern Highlands, Edward’s main objectives for his new home were twofold. Selecting a newly subdivided plot, his first goal was to create an energy-efficient country home facilitating a more relaxed pace of life with lots of time outdoors in the garden. The second was more of a balancing act. ▶



LIVING Walls painted Dulux Casper White Quarter. ‘Juno Dakota’ soft chair in Hunter Green Velvet, GlobeWest. Citta ‘Morandi’ handwoven linen cushion in Sultana, Ivy Lane. Kemlan ‘Celestial 900’ Freestanding slow combustion fireplace. Linea ‘Oslo’ coffee table in Midnight, GlobeWest. ‘Corsica’ rug in Agave, Armadillo. Assorted white vases, Black Blaze. **KITCHEN/LIVING** ‘Mojoe’ modular sofa in Brushed Buck, MCM House. Fritz Hansen ‘Night Owl’ table lamp, Cult. White vase, Mecque, with cherry blossoms from the property.

“It’s rewarding to see how much our friends and family love spending time here.” EDWARD ROSIER, OWNER & ARCHITECT



“A big part of the brief came from the most important client - my wife, Lisa,” says Edward. “I had some goals that I wanted to achieve architecturally speaking, but Lisa had a solid checklist of things she wanted in the house too.” A personal trainer, Lisa’s non-negotiables revolved around her love for cooking and entertaining. These included a butler’s pantry, spacious kitchen with an island bench and three bedrooms to accommodate friends and family.

After years of inner-city apartment living, Edward and Lisa, along with pooches Pepper and Pickles, were ready to embrace country living and wanted a home in sync with their new lifestyle.

“I really wanted to make a home that made our friends and family feel comfortable,” says Edward. “We wanted our home to be their home too, a place to get away from the city and relax.” With an appealing floor plan featuring two linked pavilions with a sunny northerly frontage, Edward and Lisa enlisted the help of interior designer Anna McMillan to bring their interior vision to life.

“We made the decision early to engage Anna to assist us with the interior finishes,” says Edward. “She was a great asset and captured perfectly how we wanted the interiors to feel.”

“Honestly, you couldn’t ask for a better brief,” says Anna. “It was all about connecting the interiors to the local environment. We worked hard to bring in a warm and natural palette that is cocooning and nourishing.”

Borrowing colours from the surrounding farmland terrain, Anna selected internal materials, fixtures and fittings in deep earthy tones to ground the light-filled living spaces. She chose finishes that would develop a patina with age, further anchoring the new building into its pastoral setting. “The house feels open and bright, but it also feels warm and intimate,” she says.

While Edward’s pitched-roof design and north-facing orientation expertly captures light and space, Anna’s interior styling tethers the home to the natural environment. The successful resolution of exterior and interior functions results in a sense of grandeur beyond the home’s relatively modest proportions. “Even though this is not a small home [by Sydney standards], it is small compared to a lot of homes being built around us,” says Edward. “I’m proud that the house feels so grand.” Anna agrees and says being open and connected to the sunny outdoors is what gives the home a beautiful warmth, both visually and physically. ▶

McMillan Design: mcmillandesign.com.au.

Somewhere Landscape Architects: somewhere.net.au.

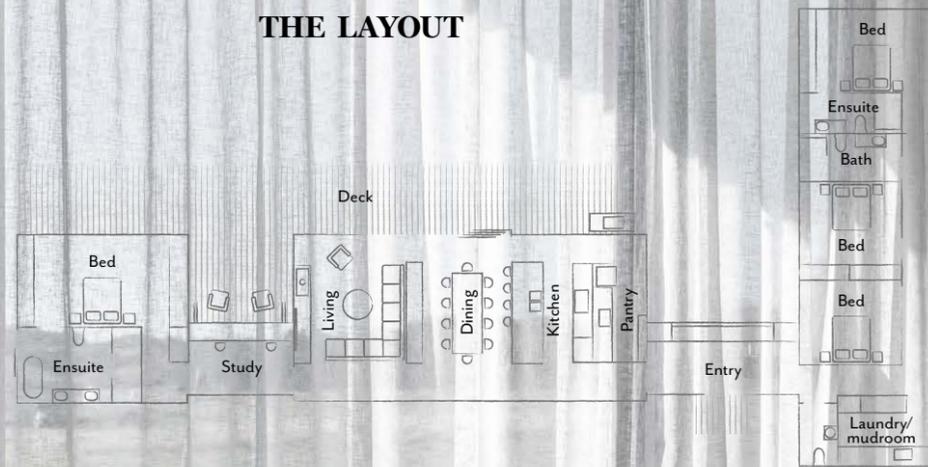
Thatcher Landscapes: [@thatcherlandscapes](https://www.instagram.com/thatcherlandscapes).



KITCHEN Polytec Woodmatt custom joinery in Florentine Walnut. Benchtop and splashback in Neolith ‘Zaha Stone’, CDK Stone. ‘Milli Pure Progressive’ sink mixer in Living Tumbled Brass, Reece. ‘About a Stool’ bar stools, Hay. ‘Highline’ pendant light in Black Powder Coat, Archier. *Seed 12* artwork by Berny Bacic (benchtop) and *Sitting Bull* artwork by Susanna Chen Chow (wall), both Siby Gallery. **DINING** ‘Toledo’ pendant lights, About Space. Linea ‘Oslo’ dining table and ‘Sketch Puddle’ dining chairs in Black Leather, both GlobeWest. Tom Dixon ‘Bone Bowl’, Mecque. *The Fall* artwork by Maritsa Micos, Siby Gallery. **MUDROOM** ‘Fez’ subway’ wall tiles in Warm, Di Lorenzo. Mid-century wall rack in Acorn, West Elm. Cushions, Ivy Lane.

BEDROOM Light-filtering curtains, Marlow & Finch. 'Samurai' wool carpet in Kawa, Bremworth. Bedding and cushions, L&M Home. **BATHROOM** 'Kyoto Mosaics' wall tiles in Pearl and 'Cementa' porcelain floor tiles in Grey, Surface Gallery. 'Terra' ceramic cylindrical wall light in Vanilla Bean, Lighting Collective. Zuster 'ISSY Halo III' vanity in American Oak, 'Milli Mood Edit' horizontal shower arm and shower head in Living Tumbled Brass, Kado 'Lussi MK2' heated towel rail in Brushed Gold and 'Roca In-Wash Inspira' toilet, all Reece.

THE LAYOUT



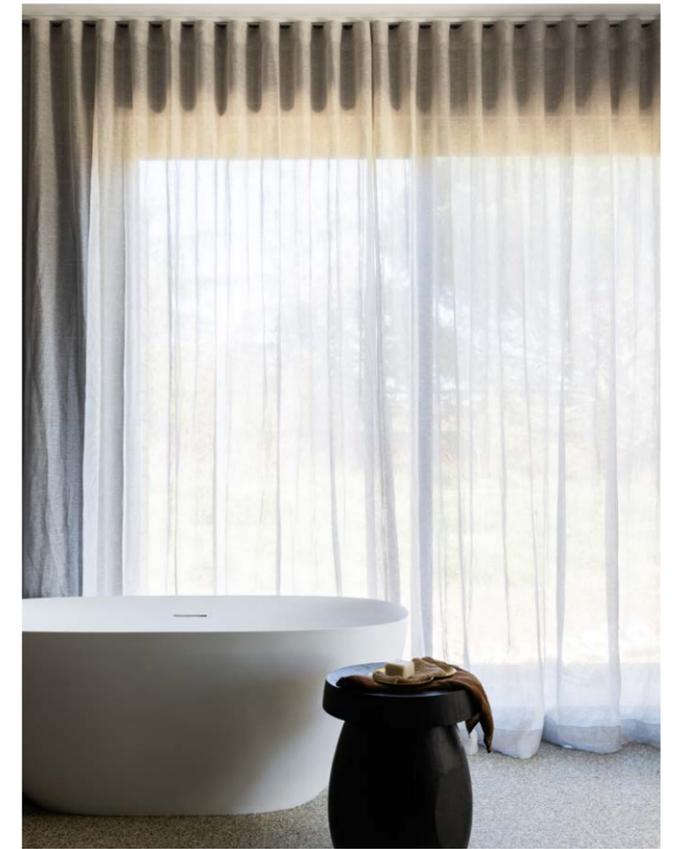
THIS IS THE LIFE

The home's interiors are kept comfortably temperate year-round, thanks to Edward's floorplan, which invites in winter sun while blocking the sun in summer. The heating system – powered by a 12kW solar system and a 13kW battery – is only needed in the early morning and evening in winter. Summer heat can be managed by opening windows designed to capture the breeze.



“The house feels wholesome and connected to its rural aspect.” ANNA MCMILLAN, INTERIOR DESIGNER

MAIN BEDROOM Cushions, L&M Home. Throw, Mecque. Bedside table, GlobeWest. Carpet, Bremworth. Joinery painted Dulux Casper White Quarter. Handles, Lo & Co. Seed Design wall light, Mondoluce. Vase, Montmartre Store. *Gust* artwork by Kate Cox, Siby Gallery. **ENSUITE** 'Kyoto' mosaics in Shark Skin and honed terrazzo floor tiles in 06, all Surface Gallery. 'ISSY ZI' shaving cabinet, Kado 'Lussi' basin and bath, 'Milli Pure' mixer, and 'ISSY Halo III' vanity, all Reece.



EXTERIOR The cladding, finished in WOCA exterior wood oil in Black, will silver with age and exposure to the elements. New plantings of silver birch, maple 'October Glory', crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia 'Natchez'*), tree germander (*Teucrium fruticans*) and snow pear (*Pyrus nivalis*) will flourish and visually soften the exterior over time, embedding the home into the landscape.

THE PALETTE

WOCA exterior wood oil in Black (exterior)

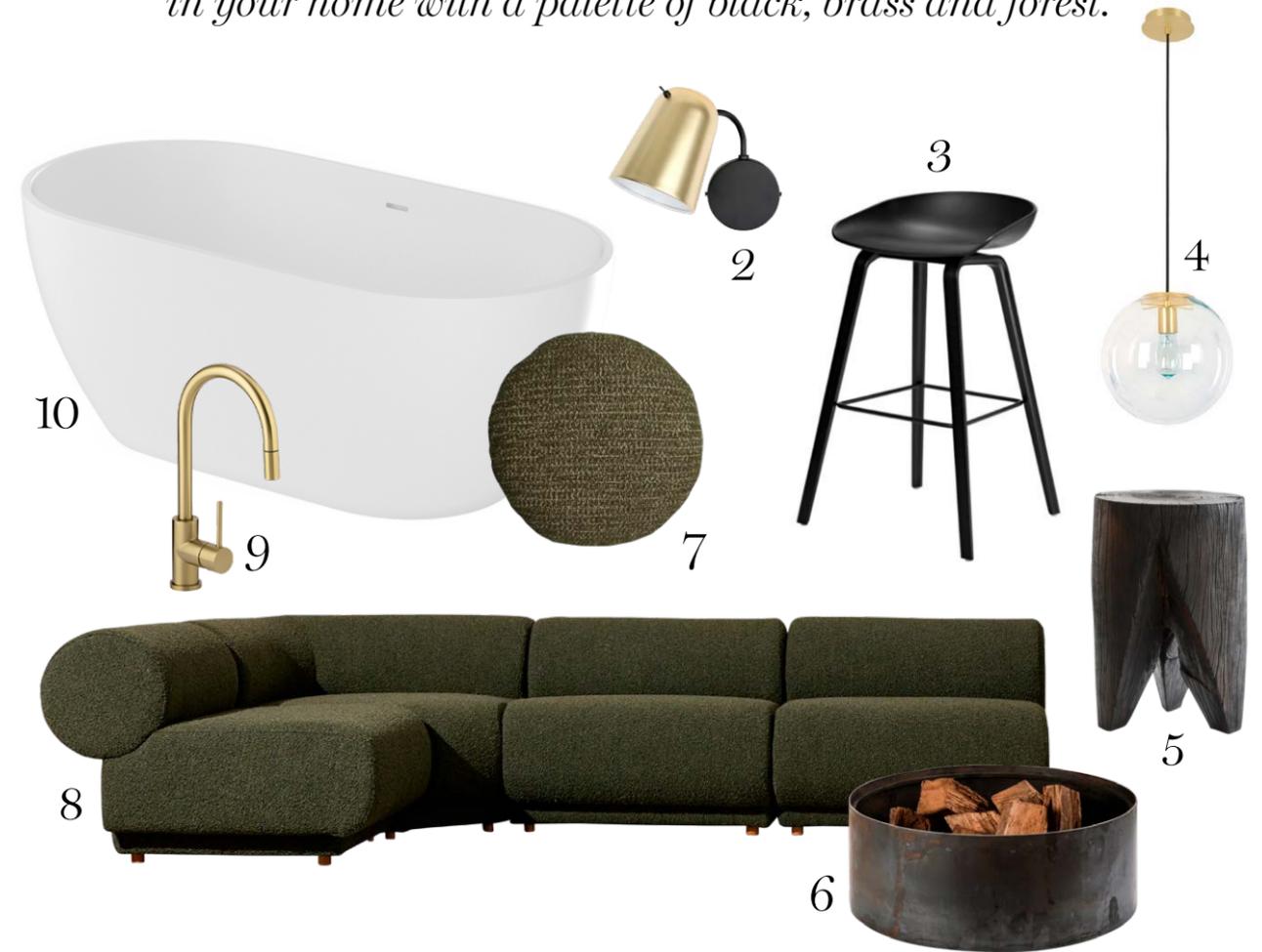
Dulux Casper White Quarter (interior walls)

Polytec Woodmatt in Florentine Walnut (kitchen joinery)



THE SOURCE

Create an air of subdued sophistication and calm in your home with a palette of black, brass and forest.



Produced by Andrea Healy. Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

1 'Bone' bowl, \$2250, Living Edge. 2 Seed Design 'Dobi' wall light in Brass and Black, \$170, Mondoluce. 3 Hay 'About A Stool' bar stool in Black, from \$550, The Wood Room. 4 'Marcel' pendant light in Clear/Brass (30cm), \$299, Beacon Lighting. 5 'Telegraph' stool, \$220, Five Mile Radius. 6 'Molly (Mel)Drum' fire pit, \$1730, Robert Plumb. 7 'Bowie' round cushion in Sage, \$200, Jordan. 8 'Roland' modular sofa in Green, from \$1995/module, Few & Far. 9 'Elysian' commercial pull-out kitchen mixer in Brushed Brass, \$549.90, ABI Interiors. 10 'Scala' bath in Matte White, \$2399.90, ABI Interiors. **H&G**