

AUSTRALIAN

TEA TIME A gift guide to high tea in style

HOUSE & GARDEN

THE BIG REVEAL NEW THREE BIRDS

Renovation *sensation*

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THE GOOD LIFE

Byron Bay has long held a special place in the heart of interior designer Justine Hugh-Jones and her family. Now, they have another reason to run to paradise.

STORY *Victoria Carey* | STYLING *Olga Lewis* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



The four-bedroom bungalow has stunning views across the Byron Bay hinterland. The garden was designed by Studio ReWild's Kirsty Kendall. Exterior painted Dulux Snowy Mountains; front door painted Dulux Sloane. **OPPOSITE** Justine and Paul Hugh-Jones love the slower pace of life in northern NSW. Getama daybed by Hans Wegner and Drawing 5 poster by Ronan Bouroullec, both from Living Edge. Maison Sarah Lavoine mirror from Bastille and Sons.

Justine's signature mix of vintage and design classics is evident in the living room. A vintage Scandinavian chair with heart detail sits alongside Arne Norell's 'Safari' chair, vintage sofa and Douglas Snelling lounge chair. India Mahdavi cushion on sofa. Ceramics from Tigmi Trading are arranged on a custom-made cane console in the corner. On the walls is a sconce from Angelucci 20th Century and a mirror, far right, was sourced from The Vault Sydney. The Moroccan photographic print leaning against the wall and the Tuareg mat are from Kulchi. Christina Scala ceramics top a coffee table by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh.

All it took was a cup of coffee to put Justine Hugh-Jones on the path to owning a house in the lush Byron Bay hinterland. But not exactly in the way you might think. "My husband Paul was very keen on buying a coffee plantation. He is so passionate about coffee," this UK-born interior designer - and committed tea drinker - tells me. "And I have a family of surfers, so we spent many years coming up to Byron for holidays. They always want to be close to the water but once I discovered the hinterland, I was hooked. I just yearned for the green space," says Justine, who is the founding principal of interior design firm Hugh-Jones Mackintosh.

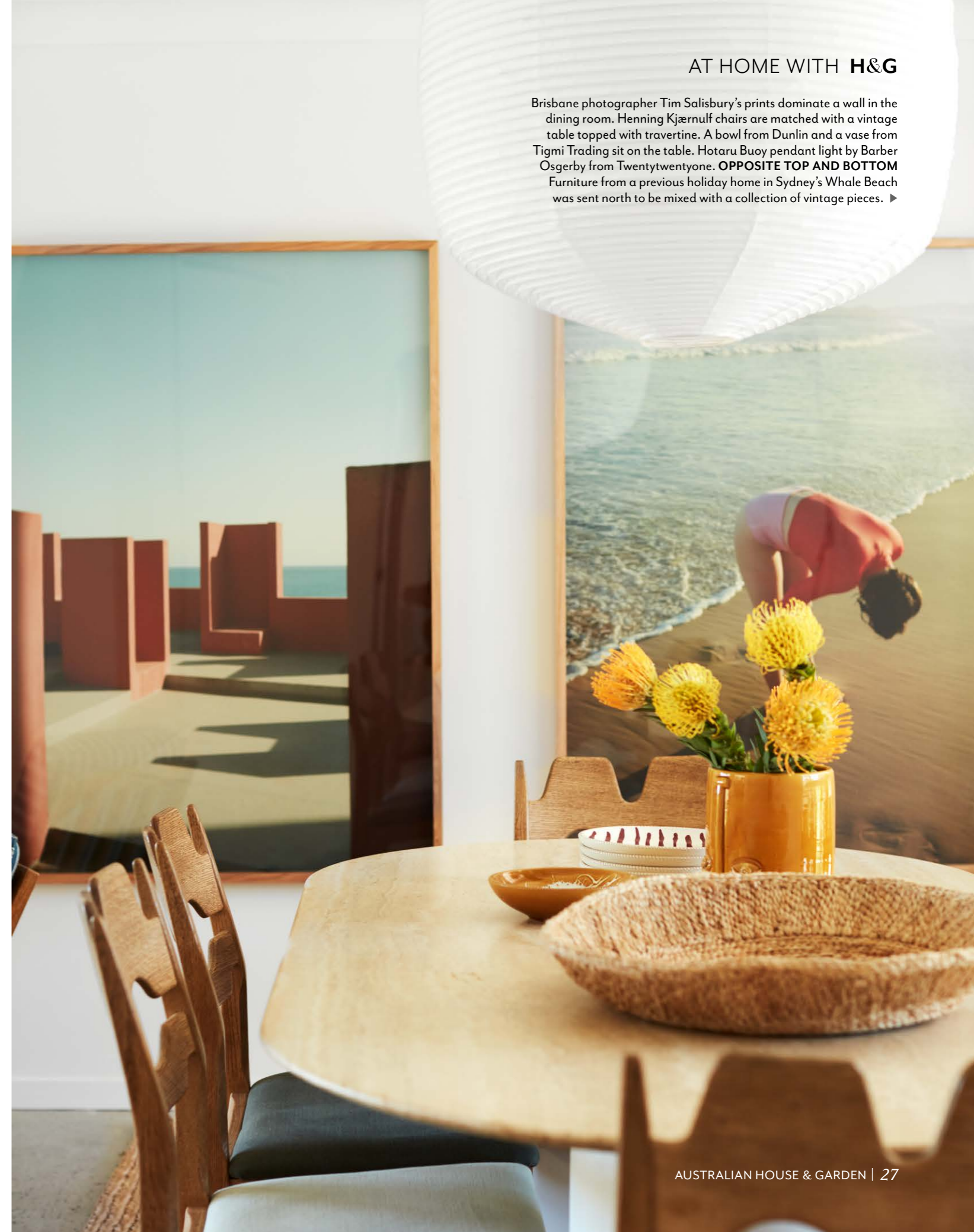
The couple began a search that lasted three years and saw them come close to buying a 20-hectare coffee plantation and a macadamia farm before settling on this property. "We jumped on a lot of planes to look at places. We originally wanted more land, but Paul and I realised it was a bit of an impractical dream while we were still living in Sydney," says Justine.



Brisbane photographer Tim Salisbury's prints dominate a wall in the dining room. Henning Kjærnulf chairs are matched with a vintage table topped with travertine. A bowl from Dunlin and a vase from Tigmi Trading sit on the table. Hotaru Buoy pendant light by Barber Osgerby from Twentytwentyone. **OPPOSITE TOP AND BOTTOM** Furniture from a previous holiday home in Sydney's Whale Beach was sent north to be mixed with a collection of vintage pieces. ▶



“Once I discovered the hinterland, I was hooked.
I just yearned for the green space.” JUSTINE HUGH-JONES





ABOVE The kitchen cupboards are from Ren Studio, who design new doors and drawers to front Ikea cabinetry. Benchtop and splashback tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. A Jim Moody artwork sits on a kitchen shelf and the stools are a vintage find. **THIS IMAGE** Steel-framed armchairs from Hope & May with a custom-made cushion in Kvadrat fabric. Vintage tiled coffee table, Becker Minty. Vintage stool. Abaca rug, International Floorcoverings. **OPPOSITE** Large windows flood the open-plan dining/living space with light. The vintage armchair is upholstered in fabric from Tigger Hall Design. An India Mahdavi bowl sits on a side table from Tigmi Trading. Walls painted Dulux Natural White.



In 2020, they finally found the right place - two hectares in the foothills of the Nightcap National Park, with everything on their list: stunning views, north facing, great potential for a garden, good surfing beaches nearby and only a short drive to the nearby towns of Mullumbimby, Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay. There was just one thing missing: the house was built of brick. "I really wanted a weatherboard home," she remembers ruefully. "But Paul said, 'You can easily transform it'."

Built about 20 years ago, the house already had a good floor plan, which meant expensive reconfiguration of the internal spaces and a time-consuming development application could be avoided. There was one delay they couldn't avoid though: Covid lockdown. "The trades in this area all come from Queensland so the border closures made things difficult," says Justine. But lockdown also gave the couple the opportunity to focus on the project. "It allowed us to finish the house," she says of this enforced, but very enjoyable, four-month stay.

Our conversation is littered with words like 'reuse', 'local' and 'sustainability'. Berecon, a Tweed Valley-based construction company, was engaged to play a major role in bringing this environmentally conscious vision to life. Solar panels were installed and water usage carefully considered as the property relies on tanks so drought-hardy plant selection was paramount.

Landscape architect Kirsty Kendall, from Studio ReWild in nearby Mullumbimby, was another key person on the project. "We spoke the same language," says Kirsty of the collaboration.

Known for her innovative use of native plants, Kirsty has applied her trademark style here, most notably around the pool area where clumps of red and orange kangaroo paw flourish.

These rich hues, also reflected in the fertile soil, influenced the interior colour scheme, particularly the tiles and red basin in one of the bathrooms. "The colour palette was inspired by the local red-clay soil and the bark of the eucalyptus trees," says Justine. "The red terrazzo and the lighter terracotta clay colours are all warm and earthy, which connected them to the site."

Local connections like these can also be seen in the works of artists like Byron Bay abstract painter Michael Cusack covering the walls, mixed with prints by Brisbane photographer Tim Salisbury. "Tim always photographs a lot of his friends and the images are very carefree. It appealed to me, having his work in my holiday house as it is all about spending time with family and friends," Justine says.

It's a place where she can easily imagine herself living full-time, shopping at farmer's markets and working in the garden before the heat of the sun hits. Paul, meanwhile, surfs each morning, driving along the road flanked with bright green paddocks dotted with Murray Grey cattle, before heading home for a flat white. "We both enjoy the slower pace of life in the country, and this home has shown me that we don't need a lot."

► *Hugh-Jones Mackintosh, Mosman, NSW; hughjonesmackintosh.com or [@hughjonesmackintosh](https://www.instagram.com/hughjonesmackintosh).*

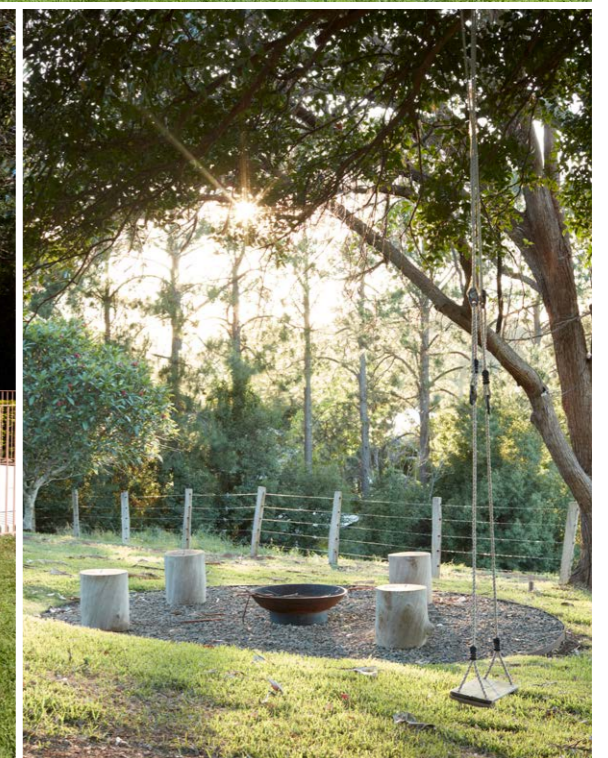
To book a stay at Hidden Byron, go to [@hiddenbyron](https://www.instagram.com/hiddenbyron).



Moroccan terracotta brick tiles, Bisanna. Doric basin, Meek Bathware. Yokato tapware, Brodware. Wall painted Dulux Recycled. **OPPOSITE TOP** A rattan console from Rudi Rocket sits under a window hung with Chinois woven bamboo blinds from Blinds by Peter Myer. Flynn wall sconce, Serena & Lily. Throw, LRNCE. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT** Concrete basin, Nood Co. Mosaic tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. Yokato tapware, Brodware. Walls painted Dulux Recycled. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT** A vintage chair sits in the corner of the bedroom. Wavy floor mirror, Composition by Office Elias. ▶

H&G AT HOME WITH

In the main bedroom, Chinois woven bamboo blinds from Blinds by Peter Myer. Flynn wall sconce with a wicker shade from Serena & Lily. Custom-made cushions in Pierre Frey 'Bora-Bora' in Multicolore. Bedlinen from Cultiver. **OPPOSITE TOP** At the back of the house, a permanent outdoor seating area was built. Daybed cushions in Sunbrella canvas in Fern. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT** The firepit seating area. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT** The pool was carefully sited by landscape architect Kirsty Kendall to ensure the views to the valley were not interrupted. ▶



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We originally wanted more land.” JUSTINE HUGH-JONES

Checked napkins from Bastille and Sons, natural linen napkins and tablecloth from Cultiver, vase from Tigmi Trading, striped dishes from Alex and Trahanas. The roof is constructed from eucalyptus poles. Il Fanale 'Borgo' ceiling light from LightCo. ▶

“We both enjoy the slower pace of life in the country and this home has shown me that we don’t need a lot.” JUSTINE HUGH-JONES



LIFE & STYLE

Justine Hugh-Jones on a few of her favourite things...



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“I’M PASSIONATE ABOUT COOKING AND AM CONSTANTLY BUYING COOKBOOKS THAT I READ FROM COVER TO COVER.”

FIRST HOME? My first home with Paul was an apartment in Hamburg, Germany. It had soaring ceilings, which I painted in different colours. Our first family home was a heritage-listed weatherboard cottage in Sydney that had an artist’s studio in the garden.

BUCKET-LIST DESTINATION? Egypt. A mythical trip down the river Nile cruising in a *dahabiya*, a traditional red-and-white sailed riverboat, visiting ancient temples and museums along the way.

DREAM CAR? I have always driven a Mini Cooper convertible, but my dream would be anything small and vintage in a gelato colour (5).

DREAM RESTAURANT TABLE? Anything hosted by the extraordinarily talented duo Astrid and Josh Lewis of Fleet restaurant in Brunswick Heads (1).

I LOVE TO COOK... I’m passionate about cooking and am constantly buying cookbooks that I read from cover to cover. I’m currently enjoying *Ferment for Good* by Sharon Flynn from The Fermentary. The benefits of ancient foods for the modern gut are enormous and it’s the slowest and oldest fast food known to man.

I’M INSPIRED BY THE DESIGN WORK OF... Ilse Crawford (6) has been a constant source of design inspiration throughout my

career. She has pioneered humanistic design in its real-life application to environments, objects and experiences.

FAVOURITE FRAGRANCE? Synthetic Jungle by Anne Flipo for Frederic Malle (7).

FAVOURITE ARTISTS? Ken Whisson, Robert Malherbe, Michael Cusack (4), Ildiko Kovacs, Kendal Murray and the recent discovery of the photographer Tim Salisbury whose work features throughout the house.

I LOVE A VASE FULL OF... Yellow and orange kangaroo paw (3), especially if I have grown them in my garden.

FAVOURITE MOVIE? *About Time*, a British movie about family, love and time travel directed by Richard Curtis. Tragically, I lost my sister when I was 17 and this movie always made me dream how time travel could one day reunite us.

I’M CURRENTLY READING... Sarah Winman’s *When God was a Rabbit* and *How To Live with Objects* by Monica Khemsurov and Jill Singer.

I AM COVETING... A Como Shambhala massage in Ubud, Bali (2).

I CAN’T LIVE WITHOUT... Art first and foremost, and then anything green as it’s the colour that most signifies growth. **H&G**

Photography by Kara Rosenlund (1) and Ian Finch (2).
Trovato artwork by Michael Cusack, Olsen Gallery (4)