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Adam Haddow

KITCHEN
bathroom &
DREAMS

The cohesive blend of Australian esprit and
is a triumph for the Sydney design studio

US west coast sensibilities in a San Francisco home
that masterminded the project long distance.

Words JUDY PASCOE Photography PRUE RUSCOE Styling OLGA LEWIS

Remote control



These pages, from left In the wonderfully open and airy living room a B&B Italia 'Camaleonda' sofa from Space takes centre stage, attended by two vintage rattan armchairs sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. 'Nalgona Chair 03' by Chris Wolston anchors a corner position near a leather credenza by BDDW. Pair of 'Un Beso En El Mar' marble side tables and 'Murici' side table in walnut from Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. Baxter 'Loren' coffee table from Space. Apparatus 'Cloud 37' pendant light. Commissioned bronze wall installation above fireplace by Bradley Sabin. Artworks from left, *Fire Chief* by Deborah Oropallo, and the other by Andrea Torres Balaguer. By the pool, Restoration Hardware sunloungers under a Paola Lenti 'Bistrò' dome-shaped umbrella give a resort feel.



This page, from top In the family room, a B&B Italia 'Lucrezia' modular sofa and 'Tobi-Ishi' coffee table from Space with & Tradition 'Little Petra' chairs from Cult on a vintage Tuareg rug sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. De La Espada 'Lianou' orange side table from Criteria. Vintage credenza sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. The kitchen's custom-stained rift-cut white oak timber joinery with Caprice White honed stone benchtop is spliced by two Apparatus 'Arrow' pendant lights. 'Giai' bar stools in leather from Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. **Opposite page** Christophe Delcourt 'YBU' table with Carl Hansen & Søn 'CH20 Elbow' chairs from Cult in the dining area under a Lindsey Adelman nine-light 'Branching Disc' pendant light. Terracotta bowl by Katarina Wells. Sculpture in white by Emil Alzamora under the clients' own wall sconce with custom shades by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh.



We all became accustomed to doing unlikely activities on Zoom during the pandemic but delivering a full renovation and furnishings via the video meeting app to a house on the other side of the world probably seemed a little implausible.

However for Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh, principals of Sydney-based Hugh-Jones Mackintosh design studio, once they had adapted to the radically different way of working it was full steam ahead. Then when they were finally able to visit the house in San Francisco after the two-year project was completed it was all they had hoped for and more. Most importantly, it was exactly what the client had ordered.

The process started with an unexpected phone call one day from an American family who were riding out the pandemic at their holiday house in Hawaii. "They had seen

our work on Instagram and decided they wanted an Australian aesthetic for their San Francisco home," explains Justine. "It was a very refreshing call to receive but I kept asking, 'Are you sure? We are on the other side of the world?'" she laughs. "We thought we needed a challenge but from day one it was a really delightful project and not challenging at all."

The clients were adamant they wanted a different look from their friends' houses that all had a traditional American, heavily layered approach created by well-established design names. "They wanted a lighter, more contemporary feel for their home – which is just our aesthetic," says Katrina.

Despite the distance separating them and the inability of the designers to make a site visit the clients placed complete trust in HJM. "We talk all the time about trust and how important it is," says Justine, "but this was real trust." »

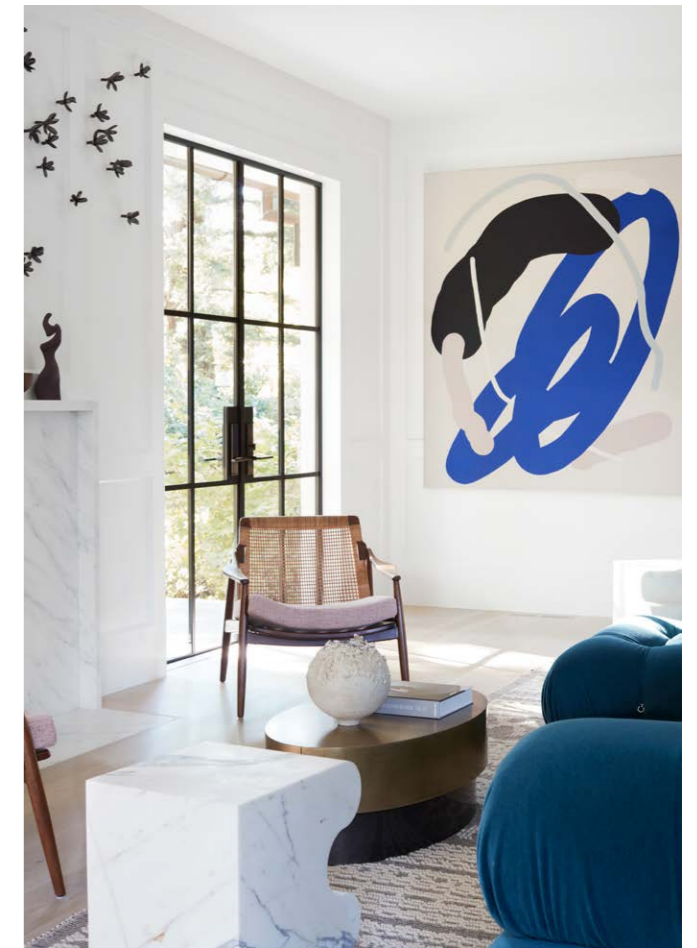
This page Looking through to the entry from the dining area. Christophe Delcourt 'YBU' dining table with Carl Hansen & Søn 'CH20 Elbow' chairs from Cult under a Lindsey Adelman nine-light 'Branching Disc' pendant light. Terracotta bowl by Katarina Wells. Vintage console by Angelo Mangiarotti sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. Gubi 'TS' ottoman on a 'Jardin' rug from La Manufacture Cogolin.



« Armed with floor plans, photographs and Facetime walk-throughs Justine and Katrina came to terms with the new working 'normal'. "We had weekly Zoom meetings and were very disciplined with our presentations and their feedback was also very organised. They were wonderful clients to work with – very receptive and respectful."

Architecturally the house was a blank canvas – with a vast number of enormous rooms and set in a sprawling and private 1.5-acre (0.6 hectares) block of land. One of the clients' main wishes was to bring the outdoors inside. With the house stripped back to the outer shell the designers specified new large window and door openings fitted with black-steel-framed glass. "The clients embraced that idea because they could see that it was going to transform the house architecturally," says Justine. "The windows increase the visibility both within the home and out to the garden, and the thin frames dissolve into the view." Eschewing curtains or blinds also avoided cluttering the threshold between indoors and out, allowing the dividing lines to blur.

Throughout the home the designers have employed an incredible lightness of touch with flashes of their signature whimsicality promoting a youthful and joyous mood. While the family's two daughters are still young, Justine and Katrina were mindful that their needs will change over time so functionality and flexibility of spaces was inherent in the design. While neutral tones predominate, most notably on walls and floors and in the >



This page, from top An Elliott Routledge artwork delivers a swirl of colour in the living room. Vintage armchair sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. Baxter 'Loren' oval coffee table and a matching pair of 'Un Beso En El Mar' marble side tables by Pietro Franceschini. Commissioned bronze wall installation above fireplace by Bradley Sabin. In the library and bar, two sculptural Fratelli Boffi wingback chairs provide a foil for the rounded Ligne Roset 'Pumpkin' chairs. 'Erdé' coffee table in travertine from Hugh-Jones Mackintosh and 'Archetype Lake' rug by Kelly Wearstler from The Rug Company. Artwork above fireplace by Lino Lago. Spaceman figure by Brendan Murphy.





This page Custom joinery by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh in the study painted in Benjamin Moore 'Mistral'. Desk by Hélène Aumont with Poltrona Frau 'Ginger' chair. Clients' own vintage lamp with custom shade by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. Vintage Beni M'rit rug sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. Laying Out artwork by Julie Blackmon. Opposite page, clockwise from top left The entry has Stahl+Band 'Reform' chairs and coffee table. In the family room a Studio Henry Wilson 'Surface Sconce' on a vintage credenza sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh with terracotta vessel from clients' collection and 'Architectural' vase by Julie Moon from Vessels + Sticks. The powder room has a custom vanity by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh in Calacatta Bella marble and Piet Boon by Cocoon tapware. Gubi wall mirror alongside a vintage wall sconce from Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. Vessel by Katarina Wells.



« pared-back kitchen, there are moments where saturated hues create a different mood. The clients' fondness for blue is expressed in a powerful teal – Benjamin Moore 'Newburg Green' – for the library/bar while an electric blue – Benjamin Moore 'Mistral' – appears in the study. In the living space, a plush blue velvet 'Camaleonda' sofa catches the eye, while sculptural navy Stahl+Band 'Reform' chairs at the front door are a talking point.

One of the highlights of the home is the glorious array of art. "The owners were on a bit of an art journey and they enjoyed procuring, understanding and embracing contemporary pieces," says Katrina. "They always asked our opinion and every selection was made in collaboration as we looked at whether it would work in the space aesthetically and proportionally," adds Justine.

There's a sprinkling of Australian connections throughout with art by Jonny Niesche and Robert Malherbe, lighting by Articolo, lamps by Studio Henry Wilson, and furniture such as the 'Cowrie' chairs by Made in Ratio. There are also ceramics by Katarina Wells and an 'Undara' bowl in Elba marble by Nick Rennie.

Katrina was on hand for the furniture installation early in 2022 but the first time both designers had a walk-through together was later that year. "To walk in to a home you've created and see it for the first time with all the details in front of you is an amazing experience," says Justine. She and Katrina mused over whether they would have done anything differently if they had been visiting the site regularly and agreed that they would make the same decisions. "We got it right for the client. They are so happy with the outcome. We nailed it for them." ■ hughjonesmackintosh.com



This page The main bedroom is washed with light from a vintage chandelier sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. &Tradition 'Fly' ottomans from Cult at the end of the bed. De La Espada 'Classon' credenza. India Mahdavi 'Don Giovanni' table lamp. Apparatus 'Swing' wall sconce. 'Coco' rug from The Rug Company. Artwork by Danielle Nelson Mourning. Society Limonta bed linen from Ondene. **Opposite page** Aren Bianco floor tiles from Onsite and Ait Manos 'Casa' wall tiles line the master ensuite. Boffi 'Sabbia' bath with Piet Boon by Cocoon tapware. Custom vanity by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh in Nestos Grey stone. 'Bishop' stool by India Mahdavi. Vintage sconce sourced by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh.



SIGNATURE STYLE
KEY PIECES

1 B&B Italia 'Husk' sofa, \$18,350, from Space. 2 '9-light Branching Disk' pendant light in brushed brass, approx. \$48,135, from Lindsey Adelman. 3 Nullabor Motel (2022) print by Bo Wong, \$2500, from Michael Reid Murrurundi. 4 Cédric Ragot 'Waterline II' occasional table, POA, from Roche Bobois Paris. 5 'Nalgona Dining Chair 01' armchair, made to order, by Chris Wolston.



SPEED READ

» Interior designers Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh, principals of Sydney studio Hugh-Jones Mackintosh, were approached by an American family to bring some Australian flair to the home they had just purchased in San Francisco. » Undaunted by the timing at the start of the pandemic and the reliance on Zoom, the designers created a new light, contemporary aesthetic for the expansive house overlaid with their signature whimsical style. » Adding steel-framed windows and doors helped to blur the lines between indoors and out which was high on the owners' wishlist. » An eclectic selection of contemporary art, including pieces by Australian artists, backdrops an effortless blend of high-style and low-key furniture pieces and rugs. » When the designers finally were able to inspect their work firsthand they were delighted with the outcome and, most importantly, so were the clients.