

AUSTRALIAN *Classic charm* 100+ PAGES OF FRESH TIMELESS HOMES

HOUSE & GARDEN

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Wanderlust AT HOME

Having lived around the globe, creative Anna Kennard puts down roots with her family in a welcoming home, referencing her love of travel.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Sophie Wilson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Kristina Šoljo*

Anna dressed by George George Style. Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox, using Rare Beauty and Sachajuan.

LIVING Anna Kennard, co-founder and director of Dusty Luxe, a vintage and antique furniture and homewares store, at home. Walls painted Dulux White Duck Quarter. Gubi 'Pacha' lounge chairs, Criteria. Jetmaster fireplace with surround and bench in Aren Bianco stone tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. Antique French confit pot and vintage artwork, Dusty Luxe. Rug, Kulchi.



EXTERIOR The house is newly built in a Mediterranean style with bougainvillea framing the archways. Landscaping by Paul Bangay. Terracotta paving, Aeria Country Floors. Terracotta pots, Parterre. Antique Biot pots, Parterre and Dusty Luxe. **HALLWAY** Copper, the family's Red Setter sits on a handwoven Abaca rug, International Floorcoverings. Vintage French console table, glass bottles and yellow confit pot, all Dusty Luxe. Artwork by Martial Cosyn, Ferris Wheel Gallery. 'Jalrez' hall rug, Halcyon Lake.

An 18-month sabbatical on Lake Annecy in Haute-Savoie, France, has provided endless inspiration for Anna Kennard, both in the design of her own home and in the creation of Sydney vintage and antiques business, Dusty Luxe.

Born in England and educated in Scotland, Anna spent years travelling to her parents' workplaces in Borneo, Libya, Yemen and Abu Dhabi as an "expat kid" before settling in Australia at the age of 23. Her upbringing certainly broadened her perspective, but the time spent in France was the most formative. While her three children attended the local school, Anna and husband Cameron spent their days learning French, exploring the lake and nearby mountains and, on weekends, fossicking in the local brocantes, vide-greniers and estate sales, developing a passion for French antiques.

Returning to Sydney, Anna co-founded Dusty Luxe with her sister-in-law and fellow Francophile, Jackie, offering a carefully curated selection of French vintage and antique furniture and objects, including armoires, parquetry tables, rush-seated chairs, confit pots, gilt mirrors and oil paintings. "These pieces complement any interior design style and provide warmth and personality, as well as a timeless aesthetic," she says. ▶



“Having travelled extensively, we’ve drawn inspiration from many places and our home is a testament to this eclectic tapestry of influences.” ANNA KENNARD, OWNER

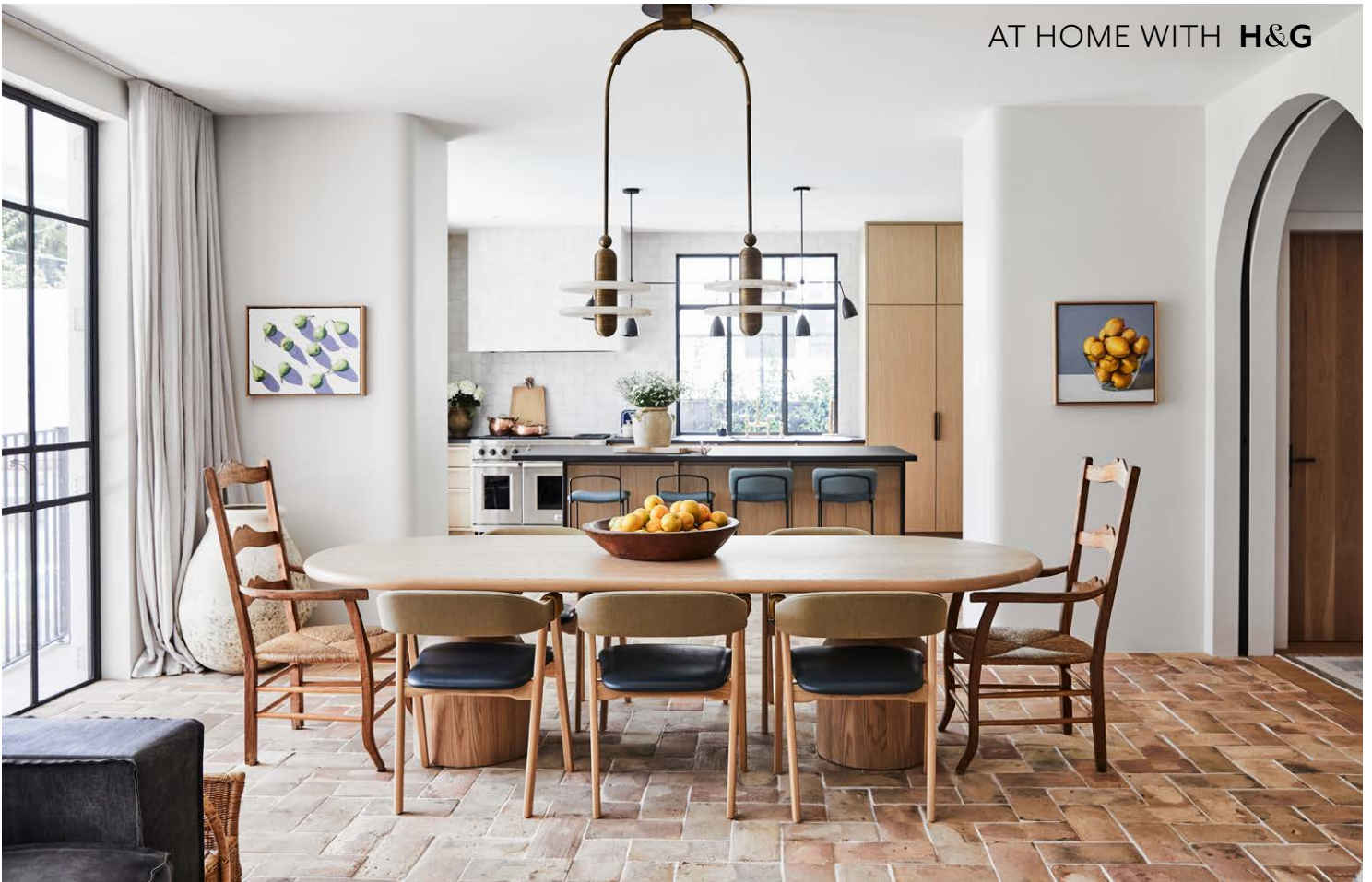


LIVING Gubi 'Pacha' lounge chairs with custom boucle upholstery, Fort Standard 'Cooperage' chairs, and Baxter 'Budapest' sofa, all Criteria. Faina 'Soniah' coffee tables, Tigmi Trading. Rug, Kulchi. Confit pots, vintage ladder, vintage oil painting, pedestal table, green vintage pitchers/vases, all Dusty Luxe. Anita Mertzlin cushion, Ferris Wheel Gallery. Jetmaster fireplace with surround and bench in Aren Bianco stone tiles, Onsite Supply+Design.





KITCHEN Walls painted Dulux White Duck Quarter. Joinery in TrueGrain 'Bouchon' veneer, Briggs Veneers. Benchtop in Montauk Black Slate, Bisanna. Splashback in Moroccan 'Casa' white glazed terracotta tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. Vintage Bentwood seat, French Biot pot, chopping board, copperware and cream confit pot, all Dusty Luxe. Artwork by Martial Cosyn, Ferris Wheel Gallery. 'Dita' bar stools, Grazia & Co. Apparatus 'Twig 5' pendant light, Criteria. Floor in 'Malina' recycled light terracotta tiles, Gather Co. **DINING** 'Double Bell' table, The Wood Room. Moroso 'Mathilda' dining chairs, Mobilia. Antique French oak carver chairs, and bowl on table, Dusty Luxe. Apparatus 'Median 2' pendant light, Criteria. Floor in 'Malina' recycled light terracotta tiles, Gather Co. *Pears and Shadow* artwork by Esther Eckley, Michael Reid Murrurundi. *Bowl of Lemons* artwork by Laura White. **KITCHEN VIGNETTE** Chopping board and cream confit pot, Dusty Luxe. Commissioned artwork by Bethany Saab.



Bursting with ideas for the perfect family home, Anna then turned her attention to the Sydney house they had purchased some years before their French sojourn. “The experience in Europe shaped us in more ways than we ever could have expected and naturally impacted the design choices for our home also,” she says.

While the couple loved the arts and crafts features of the Lower North Shore house, it had some serious water issues and the only solution was to demolish the original structure, excavate to address the problems and rebuild a more functional and contemporary home. Robert Weir of Weir Phillips Architects conceived a four-level house with five bedrooms, expansive living and entertaining spaces, a pool, tennis court and basement parking. Despite being a new build the home exudes an established charm, positioned in a peaceful location, close to the beach, bush walking tracks and the local shopping village. “It’s one of my favourite spots where the bush meets the sea and the sea meets the city. I’m very grateful to be in such a beautiful part of the world,” says Anna.

There is a distinct Mediterranean ambience to the interiors by Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh of boutique residential practice Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. The pair sourced exquisite furniture and finishes locally and internationally to bring the aesthetic to life. ►





KITCHEN Joinery in TrueGrain 'Bouchon', Briggs Veneers. Benchtop in Montauk Black Slate, Bisanna. Splashback in Moroccan 'Casa' white glazed terracotta tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. Antique French Bentwood seat, French Biot pot, chopping board, copperware and cream confit pot, all Dusty Luxe. Artwork by Martial Cosyn, Ferris Wheel Gallery. Perrin & Rowe tap, The English Tapware Company. 'Dita' bar stools, Grazia & Co. Apparatus 'Twig 5' pendant light, Criteria. Wolf oven, Winning Appliances. Floor in 'Malina' recycled light terracotta tiles, Gather Co.



H&G AT HOME WITH



EXTERIOR The black steel doors emphasise the Mediterranean style of the home. Doors from Skyrange painted Dulux 'Ferrodor' in Enoch Grey. Pots, Parterre and Dusty Luxe. **POOL** Tiles, Barefoot Living. Custom bench by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh upholstered in Dedar 'Strange Loves' outdoor fabric in Carrot Stick and Perennials 'Jake Stripe', South Pacific Fabrics. **OUTDOOR SHOWER** Moroccan glazed shower tiles, Barefoot Living. Outdoor shower and tap, Robert Plumb. 'Earth Light' scone, Anchor Ceramics. Pot with cactus, Garden Life.



“This included handmade light fittings, bespoke furniture and rugs from Morocco,” says Anna. “Their expertise extended to designing stunning joinery and the captivating fireplace, a focal point of the living room.”

Inspired by French architecture, Anna’s own design ethos favoured organic curves and natural textures, along with rendered interior walls, tumbled terracotta floor tiles and graceful arches.

One of the standout features is the flooring in the open-plan living, dining and kitchen area that utilises salvaged roof tiles in a beautiful, weathered terracotta from old dwellings in Serbia. “We hand-picked those with the warmest tones and repurposed them into floor tiles. It was a bit of a risk but it has turned out to be one of the highlights of our home,” she says.

The tiles are a prime example of Anna’s love for integrating historic pieces into modern settings to create “a home that is inviting, sustainable and filled with stories of adventures and passions”. She adds, “It just makes sense to give items a second life – which is what Dusty Luxe is about too – unique, timeless pieces with a story behind them.”



This seemingly effortless overlay of heritage and contemporary, rustic and sophisticated, is evident throughout Anna’s home. Take the art studio – one of her favourite spaces – where a New York-loft aesthetic prevails, a terracotta-tiled workbench and an antique French copper cauldron functioning as a stylish sink create the perfect mood for her forays into painting. This “haven for creativity” is also blessed with inspiring city views through tall arched windows, adding to its appeal.

However, quiet times are infrequent as Anna is an enthusiastic entertainer. “The tennis court is often the focus and we [also] use it for pickleball, basketball and other sports,” she says. The pizza oven is on high rotation for smoking meat for the barbecue as well as pizzas for a crowd, while the basement rumpus room is set up for table tennis tournaments and movie nights. “There’s something for everyone to enjoy,” Anna says. She also delights in hosting relaxed dinner parties and using her cherished antique etched French glasses for aperitifs.

“I love integrating elements from Dusty Luxe into our design narrative to add a personalised touch, enriching the aesthetic and creating a synergy between form ►

H&G AT HOME WITH

OUTDOOR DINING Roda 'Brick' extendable table, sourced in Italy. Chairs, Fermob. Wolf barbecue, Winning Appliances. Studio Expormim 'Oh' suspension lights, Ke-zu. Confit pot and ceramics, Dusty Luxe. **TENNIS COURT** There is a strong connection between the house and outdoor spaces. Landscaping by Paul Bangay.





and function and demonstrating how mixing old with new can be achieved successfully,” she adds.

Anna’s passion for vintage pieces is boundless. She says every item reminds her of the French regions she loves so much. Annual trips to France with Jackie and their families are a continuing opportunity to unearth finds for their Dusty Luxe shop in Artarmon, a space which is a constantly evolving treasure trove attracting homeowners as well as interior designers and stylists.

While she can always squeeze one more treasured vintage item into her home, Anna is now working on a country family property in Berry, NSW, and is looking forward to showcasing more finds in a rural setting.

“I think a home should be as distinctive and vibrant as the individuals who inhabit it,” she remarks. “Having travelled extensively we’ve drawn inspiration from many places and our home is a testament to this eclectic tapestry of influences. We cherish its uniqueness as it reflects the essence of us and our adventures.” ▶

Dusty Luxe: dustyluxe.com.au. *Hugh-Jones Mackintosh:* hughjonesmackintosh.com. *Weir Phillips Architects:* weirphillips.com.au. *Paul Bangay:* paulbangay.com.



MAIN BEDROOM B&B Italia bed, Space. Bedhead upholstered in 'Turkish Maze' fabric in Saffron, Tigger Hall Design. Bed linen, Cultiver. Ringvide 'Weave' bedside table, and Apparatus 'Cylinder' swing arm lamps, both Criteria. Curtains in Kohro 'Lucilla' linen in Marmo, Simple Studio. Cream confit pot on bedside table and rattan chair on balcony (opposite, top left), both Dusty Luxe. **STAIRWAY** Commissioned artwork of Anna's three children at the beach by Sophie Gralton. **ENSUITE** Walls painted Dulux Snowy Mountains Quarter. 'Sabbia' bath, Boffi. Perrin & Rowe tap, The English Tapware Company. Flooring in 'Jamila' terracotta tiles, Gather Co. Apparatus 'Talisman I' wall light, Criteria. Shower doors in fluted glass designed by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. Vintage French milking stool and cream confit pot, Dusty Luxe. **WALK-IN ROBE** Joinery painted Dulux Pale Green Tea. 'Libra' T-knobs, Noble Elements. &Tradition 'Little Petra' sheepskin chair, Cult.

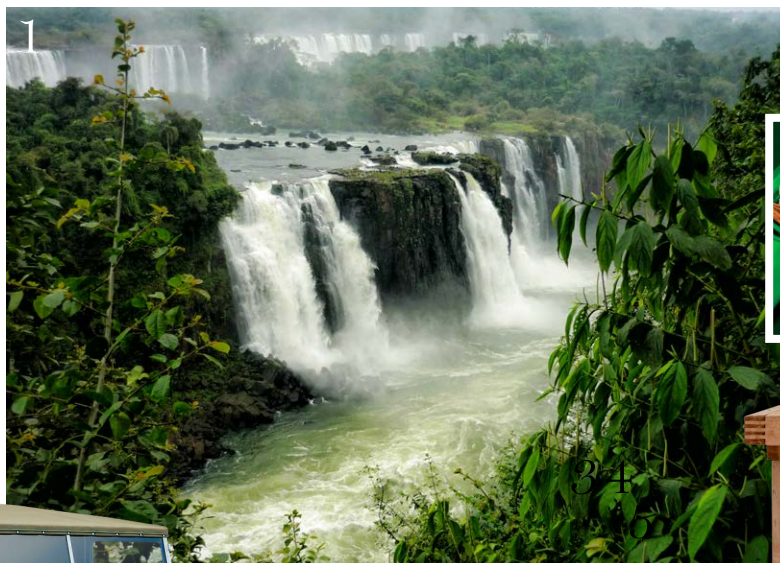
“I think a home should be as distinctive and vibrant as the individuals who inhabit it.”

ANNA KENNARD



LIFE & STYLE

Dusty Luxe business co-founder and curator of beautiful French antiques, Anna Kennard shares a few of her home, lifestyle and travel-related favourites.



"I'M SEARCHING FOR AN ETABLI, A VINTAGE RUSTIC FRENCH WORKBENCH."

YOUR FIRST HOME? My childhood home in Scotland holds a special place in my heart, and I still consider it home at times. However, our first real 'grown-up' home was in Bronte, where we bought a fibro cottage. Despite its eventual demolition for a rebuild, we cherished the time spent there, raising our three children. In 2016, we made the move to the North Shore to be closer to Cam's family, and we were excited for another renovation project after the success of our previous endeavour.

BUCKET LIST DESTINATION? I have a passion for adventurous holidays. In 2018, we embarked on an incredible journey to Brazil with the children. We explored the east coast, from Jericoacoara to Praia do Forte, Salvador, Trancoso and Rio de Janeiro, accompanied by friends. Revisiting South America is on my bucket list, with dreams of venturing into the Amazon rainforest, experiencing the Iguazú Falls (1) (which we missed during our last trip), and a cruise to the Galápagos Islands.

DREAM RESTAURANT TABLE? Armorica in Surry Hills is at the top of my list right now. I love a French bistro and it looks like an authentic Parisian brasserie. I'm looking forward to trying it.

YOUR DREAM CAR? An original 1948 Series I Classic Land Rover (5) to drive around our farm in Berry.

FAVOURITE ARTISTS/DESIGNERS? I'm thrilled to be receiving a painting by Alesandro Ljubicic this week! I love the beautiful commissioned piece by Sydney artist Sophie Gralton, featuring my children at the beach, proudly displayed in our stairwell. Additionally, I have a collection of pieces in my kitchen and hallway by Martial Cosyn, a French artist based in the Southern Highlands, sourced from Ferris Wheel Gallery in Bowral. Just as I support local artists, I also enjoy backing homegrown fashion brands, such as Alemais (4), Viktoria & Woods, and Rebecca Vallance.

FAVOURITE BOOK? *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid (3).

FAVOURITE FRAGRANCE? Maison Francis Kurkdjian Baccarat Rouge (6).

I LOVE A VASE FULL OF... I'm loving our quintessentially French confit pots (2) as they style so beautifully with a simple flower or foliage.

ON YOUR WISH LIST? I'm searching for an *etabli* (7) – a vintage rustic French workbench with a large vice – for our Berry farm project. I'm envisioning incorporating this piece into the design of our entrance.

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... my vintage pieces as they all hold a story, either from my travels or because they are pieces from Dusty Luxe that I fell in love with. **H&G**