

**DINING IN** *The functional dining table by The Wood Room serves as a second benchtop and caters to the family's changing needs. "As the legs are positioned on the outer edges, we can easily position a highchair or additional chairs on either end when entertaining," says homeowner Jennifer. Ceramic vases by Katarina Wells from Curatorial & Co on the table create a striking vignette.*

MAKEOVER  
BUDGET:  
\$27,000\*

## YIN AND YANG

THE WARM TEXTURES AND CLEAN LINES OF SCANDINAVIAN STYLE INSPIRED THE REDESIGN OF THREE KEY SPACES IN A RENOVATED SYDNEY TERRACE

Words *KAYLA WRATTEN* Photography *BRIGID ARNOTT*

"HINTS OF warmer OAKS WERE ADDED IN THE DINING TABLE TO OFFSET THE CABINETRY"

~ ALEXANDRA MASON, INTERIOR DESIGNER

The arrival of their daughter, Lilly, now three, was the push Jennifer and her husband Arash needed to move out of their tiny rental and "upsize our investment property into a family home," Jennifer tells. After an extensive renovation of their inner-west Sydney terrace and another addition to the family – baby boy, Ollie – the couple called in the experts to complete the design and styling process. "A contemporary renovation had already taken place," says interior designer Alexandra Mason, director of Studio AEM, who collaborated with Studio Gestalt to transform areas including the open-plan kitchen, dining and living spaces (opposite). "It formed a good, solid foundation, but it lacked warmth and colour, so we were engaged to help with the furnishing, lighting, and decoration elements." The dramatic black and white galley kitchen presented the designers with a blank canvas for modern furniture in daring textures, such as a velvet sofa and cane chairs. "The simplicity of Scandinavian design was used as a basis," says Alexandra. "The colour scheme was inspired by the subtlety of the neutral foundations and layering with hints of colour." The result is a minimalistic, hard-working space that's tailor-made for a growing family of four.



**BLACK BEAUTY** *A sea of black cabinetry (opposite) conceals bulky appliances and hidden shelving, creating pockets of storage while drawing attention to the feature lighting. "We added the pendant over the dining table to introduce a softer, moodier light source and add some interest in the ceiling," says Alexandra of the 'TR Bulb' pendant by Menu, a similar style to the Jordan lamp in the living room (page 180). On the benchtop, greenery and the Dreaming Beyond the Trees, Somewhere artwork by Ingrid Daniell welcome serene, cool hues. >*

\* COST ESTIMATE ONLY. DOES NOT INCLUDE TRADES

“BY INJECTING colours, tones and textures, WE BROUGHT WARMTH AND LIFE INTO THE SPACES” ~ WARREN AU, INTERIOR DESIGNER, STUDIO GESTALT



**TRIPLE THREAT** A trio of artworks from Fineprint Co “are fun, vibrant, and add a pop of colour and play through their loose watercolour style,” says Alexandra. The prints act as a conversation starter at dinner parties around the neutral table, styled here with native botanicals and surrounded by ‘Hoffmann’ dining chairs. “The cane in the chairs emphasises the quality of traditional craftsmanship,” says Alexandra, while the dark frame underscores the kitchen joinery. >



“THE SHEER CURTAINS ADD softness TO THE ROOM AND PROVIDE HINTS OF THE VIEW INTO THE COURTYARD”  
~ ALEXANDRA MASON, INTERIOR DESIGNER



**TIP THE SCALES** “Scale and proportion of furniture was important,” explains Alexandra, who introduced a Jordan ottoman (above) that plays double duty as coffee table and extra seating. “While maximising the seating areas we had to be mindful not to oversize the sofa and occasional chair.” Proving that contrast is key, a stone & Tradition side table from Cult is paired with a tactile rug from Armadillo and a Jordan sofa in deep green velvet. In the corner, a leather Poltrona Frau ‘Ming’s Heart’ armchair from Cult emulates Scandi design. 📌

## MINI-MAKEOVER CHEAT SHEET

### TIME FRAME

Seven months for the whole project.

### TOP TIP

“Work with different materials. Add opulence through velvets and warmer tones, then add some fun through sculptural elements,” says Alexandra.

### SOURCE BOOK

**INTERIOR DESIGN** Studio AEM, studioaem.com.au; Studio Gestalt, studiogestalt.com.au.  
**ARCHITECT** Mostaghim, mostaghim.com.au. **JOINERY** Beckton Joinery, becktonjoinery.com.au.