



PAINTERLY MOMENTS Every corner of the Melbourne home artist Lizzie shares with her husband, Matt, has been touched by a creative and stylish brush. One of the many stunning pieces in the home is Lizzie's portrait of her husband that hangs proudly above the dining table (this page). "I managed to capture him at one of the rare moments when he's resting," says Lizzie. An ever-creative Lizzie also designed the table - custom-made in American oak with a white powder-coated metal frame. The rawness of the leather chairs by Melbourne furniture designer Adam Lynch and cream ceramic vase from Goose provide balance in the eating zone. The home's updates now bring a calming flow from one end to the other as the couple's daughter Agnes (pictured opposite) makes her way down the long hallway, filled with light thanks to a new floor-to-ceiling window. The American oak panelled front door, with an antique brass handle from Designer Doorware, was custom designed by interior architect David Dubois. >

artistic
DOMAIN

A YOUNG FAMILY HAS CREATED THEIR DREAM HOME BY BRINGING
 A TOUCH OF PALMS SPRINGS TO THE HEART OF MELBOURNE
 STORY JACKIE BRYGEL STYLING EMMA O'MEARA PHOTOGRAPHY MICHELLE WILLIAMS

WE LOVE...
magic mix

Melding the softness of pastel hues with the glamour of metallic finishes may seem like a risky design move, but it's proved an inspired touch in Lizzie and Matt's home. In the kitchen, the powder-blue bar stools by Adam Lynch pay great style dividends when coupled with the copper statement pendants by David Derksen Design suspended above the island. "I just love this combination of the metal and the pastels," says Lizzie.

"THERE'S A LOT OF WHITE, BUT IT MEANS WE CAN *stamp* OUR OWN SIGNATURE ON THE HOME WITH *furniture* AND OTHER THINGS WE *collect*" ~ LIZZIE



Artist Lizzie finds beauty, and sometimes even a little glamour, in what were once everyday household items. To the portrait drawer and painter, there's far more than a sense of nostalgia about a '50s milk carton or a collection of vintage matchbooks gathered from around the globe. "They may not be worth anything, but to me they're priceless," she says. "They make me feel happy."

Certainly, there's a distinct sense of joy in the beautiful inner-Melbourne home Lizzie shares with her husband, Matt, and their three-year-old daughter, Agnes. Drenched in sunlight, with pretty pastels and shimmering metallic tones throughout, this is an abode that draws its design cues from Palms Springs modernist style. With Lizzie's delightful mix of treasured keepsakes sprinkled throughout, as well as her own works and those of other artists lining the walls, it's a characterful and surprisingly spacious contemporary abode on the most compact of blocks.

And yet it's a home, reveals Lizzie with a smile, that has been through quite a transformation. "When we first walked through the home it was still exactly as it had been with the original owners," she recalls. "It was an early '70s brown brick house with plenty of shag carpet, lino flooring and gold flock wallpaper. But it was in pristine condition, without even a single piece of wallpaper peeling."

Snapping up the property at their very first auction, the couple lived in the home just as it was for 18 months. "There was the fabulous bright pink and purple powder room and the magical wallpaper everywhere," says Lizzie. "But that was all part of the charm I fell in love with – the fact the house was just this perfectly preserved moment in time. I could see so much potential, but it wasn't the most practical home for a young family."

Eventually engaging interior architect David Dubois and builders KLE Building Group, the couple decided to give the home an airier, free-flowing layout by removing walls in the living areas and installing floor-to-ceiling windows and retractable glass doors. "I'm much more of a dreamer than my very logical and rational husband but coming from these different angles, we both saw what we could make of this glamorous yet outdated house," says Lizzie. >

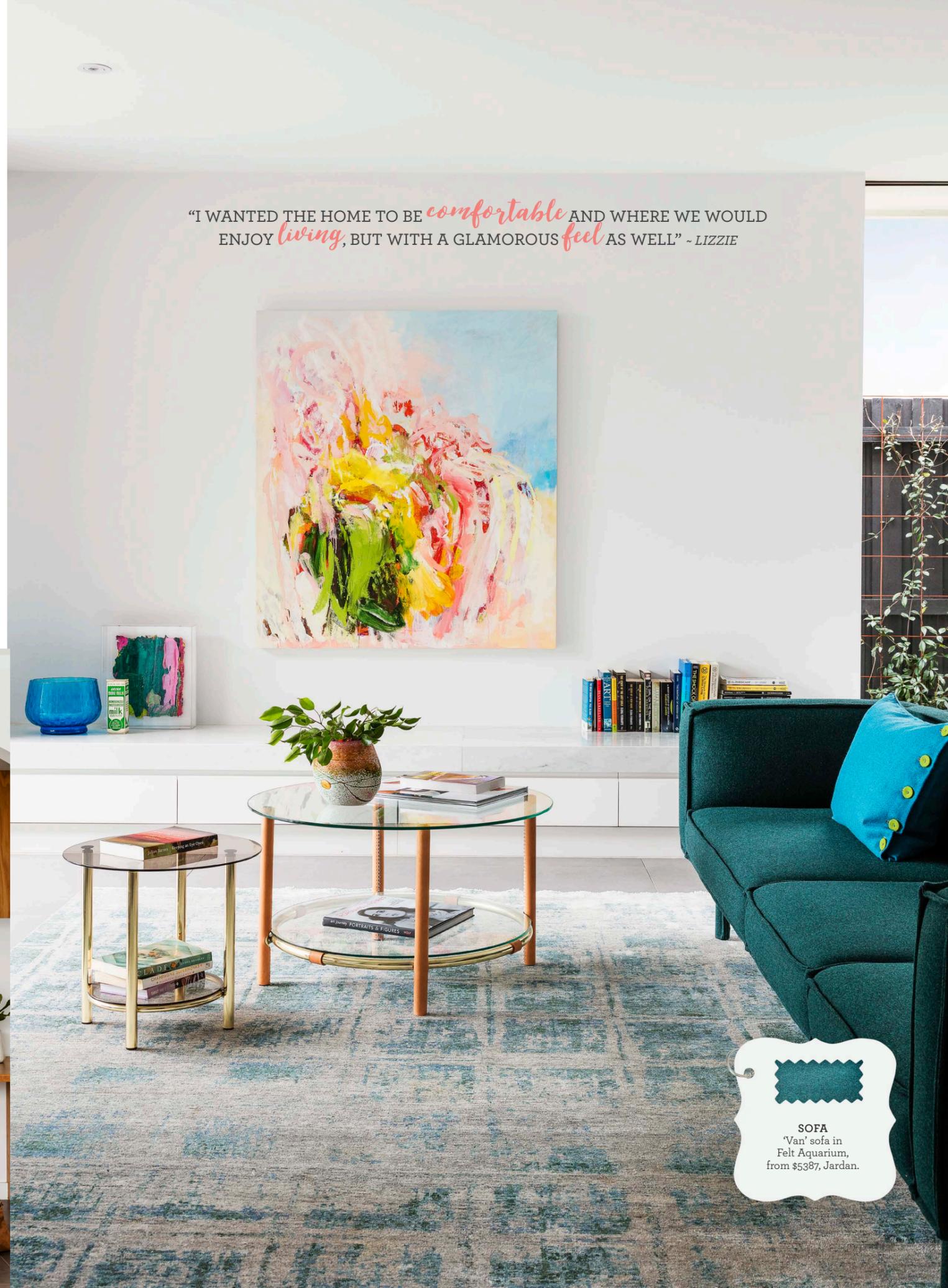
KITCHEN

As functional as it is picture-perfect, the sparkling new kitchen (opposite) is everything keen cook Lizzie could have hoped for. "It's such a pleasure to be in here," she says. "My favourite thing to make is a pork roast with my dad's famous crackle recipe." Lizzie carefully chose the slabs of white and grey Carrara marble for the benchtops, opting to have the stone sealed in a protective resin coating for fuss-free maintenance. On the splashback, matt subway-style tiles from Lifestyles Design Studio have been laid in a herringbone pattern for eye-catching appeal, while the joinery in 2-pac Dulux Lexicon Quarter Strength blends seamlessly into the sea of white. The kitchen is also another mini gallery of Lizzie's artworks.

the family room, especially on the Carrara marble bench seat framed with its innovative "door window". "Agnes and I often sit here with our books," says Lizzie. "It's such a lovely sunny spot and we have lots of herbs, as well as tomatoes, growing on the other side." A roomy Jordan modular 'Sky' sofa, accessorised with Jordan and Goose cushions and a throw from Adairs, does justice to the relaxation space. The circular coffee table in timeless American oak was another Jordan find. Lizzie also opted to have no carpet in the home, much to her husband Matt's initial surprise. "He couldn't understand it at first," she says, "but for some reason, I can't work out how the colour of carpet – even a neutral one – can go with everything. So we went for tiles, floorboards and lots of rugs." The couple found this soft-as-silk 'Old Yarn PomPom' rug at Loom Rugs.

FAMILY ROOM

Lizzie and Agnes (pictured left) love spending time together in



"I WANTED THE HOME TO BE *comfortable* AND WHERE WE WOULD ENJOY *living*, BUT WITH A GLAMOROUS *feel* AS WELL" - LIZZIE

< An outside balconette was enclosed to expand the kitchen space, and original archways in other rooms were retained, one of which now exquisitely frames the new study space off the sitting room. Sleek large-format concrete-look tiles and American oak flooring were laid throughout and the walls were painted a sharp white. A stunning new kitchen and new bathrooms were also added. Immersing herself in the renovation, Lizzie happily traversed Melbourne – with a then-baby Agnes in tow – in search of everything from the ideal door handles to sumptuous sofas.

For Lizzie, who gave up a law career to focus on her art, the home signals new promise and a wonderful family life ahead. Still, the homeowner finds herself thinking of what once was – and hopes the original owners would approve of the changes made. "I think they were ahead of their time and were trying to push the design edge," she says thoughtfully. "They had such a love for their home, as do we. I'd like to think we're treating it with the same respect."

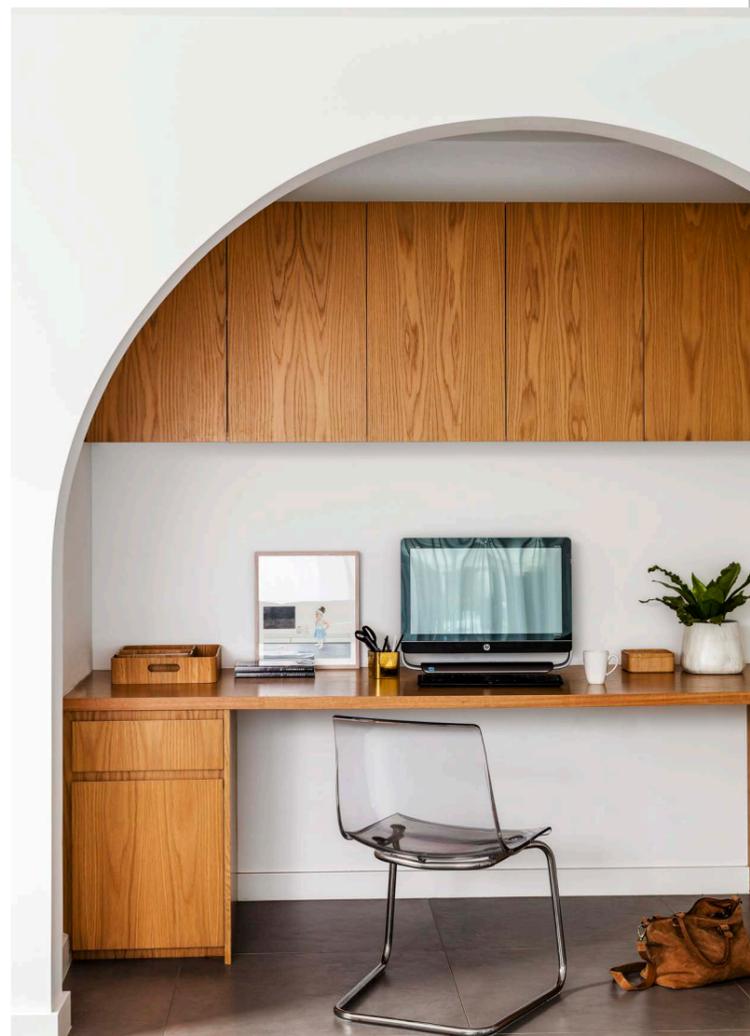
SITTING ROOM

"This is what we call the 'Green Room', and it's definitely my favourite," reveals Lizzie of the family's living area at the front of the home. A Jordan sofa and armchair in the deepest of teals – with cushions from Black Thread (opposite) and Bonnie And Neal (top) – have been teamed with a watery-hued silk rug from Hali. The smaller glass coffee table is a fabulous vintage piece that came with the home, and Lizzie worked together with furniture maker Adam Lynch to design its larger partner. The

vibrant Todd Hunter 'Above The Dove' painting by Scott Livesey Galleries is perfectly in line with the colour splashes not just in this room but the entire home. "I do feel this painting somehow brings everything together," says Lizzie.

STUDY NOOK

Tucked away in a corner of the sitting room, the study nook (right) features an abundance of built-in storage behind American oak veneer joinery doors. An Ikea 'Tobias' chair works well with the room's timeless aesthetic. >



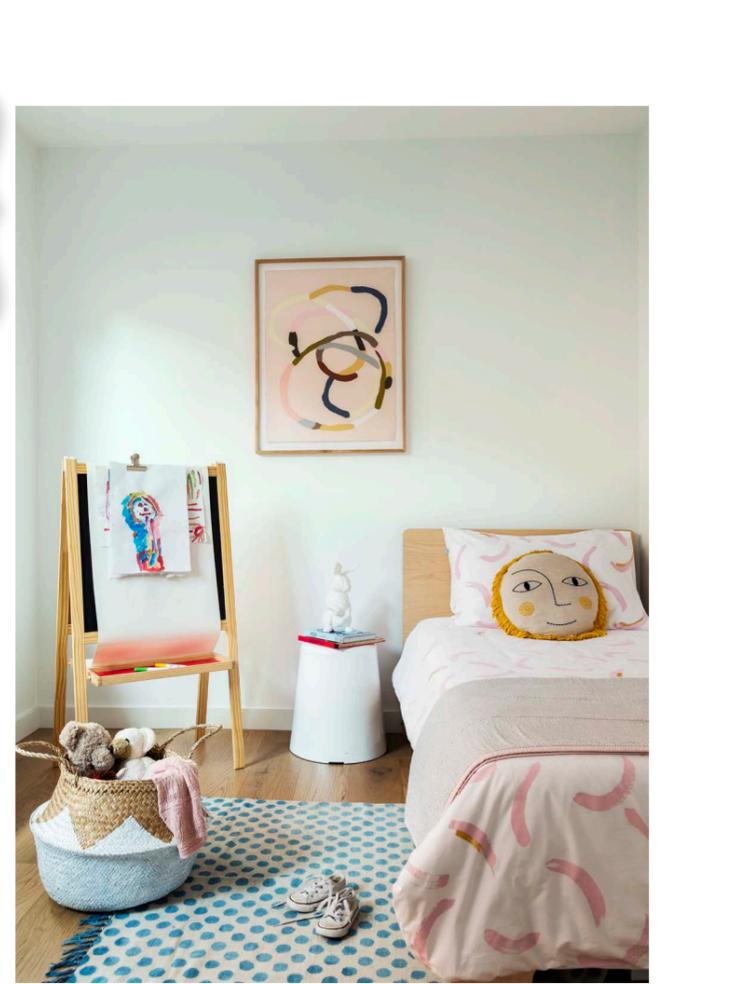
SOFA
 'Van' sofa in Felt Aquarium, from \$5387, Jordan.



FLOORING
American oak
engineered floorboards,
from \$125/sqm,
Eco Timber Group.



PAINT
‘Wash & Wear’
in Lexicon Quarter,
\$71.90/4L, Dulux.



“IT WAS *important* TO US TO BE ABLE
TO CREATE A HOME WITH THAT *perfect*
INDOOR-OUTDOOR FEEL” ~ LIZZIE

MAIN BEDROOM
Floaty sheer drapes set a tranquil scene in Lizzie and Matt’s bedroom (opposite & top), which opens directly to its own private Palms Springs-style garden - complete with a variety of cactus plants. “I love the light, airy and glamorous style of the homes in Palms Springs,” says Lizzie. “They just give you the feeling of blue skies and warm summer days.” Lizzie designed the custom-made American oak bedhead (above), which features built-in shelving along with Louis Poulsen ‘AJ’ reading lamps from Made In Design. The bed has been dressed in Jordan linen, while a framed Eugenia Loli collage and an Emily Ferretti painting hang above.

from Feliz Home, quirky Gorman cushion, and super-cute Langdon polka dot floor rug from Goose all bring a sense of playfulness to the space. But there’s no contest as to what Agnes’s favourite addition is - the blackboard and easel from Ikea. “Not a day goes by when she isn’t drawing or painting,” says Lizzie.

BATHROOM
An elegant monochrome palette is the foundation of the family bathroom (right). A delicate trio of opaque ‘Black Shadows’ pendant lights by Dan Yeffett and Lucie Koldova for Brokis illuminate the full-length, marble-topped vanity. On the adjoining wall, subway-style tiles laid in a herringbone pattern provide the classic but contemporary backdrop for a freestanding ‘Clearwater’ bath from Reece. A framed Caitlin Shearer print brings an additional note of personality to the washroom, as does a Sage And Clare towel. >

(OPPOSITE) OUTDOOR CUSHIONS LANGDON FROM GOOSE. (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) BELLY BASKET FAZEK. ARTWORK (THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT) ‘PINK DIAMOND’ BY KIRRA JAMISON FROM SOPHIE GANNON GALLERY



SOURCE BOOK

INSIDE STORY

LIZZIE & MATT'S HOME

Who lives here?

Lizzie, an artist [www.lizziedennis.com]; her husband, Matt, founder of Made Group; and their three-year-old daughter, Agnes (pictured with Lizzie).

What are your top tips for making a smaller space feel larger?

Lizzie: "Lots of white. I also think one of the best things David did for us was designing the floor-to-ceiling doors and windows - they make everything seem bigger."

Best advice for a happy marriage during a renovation?

"Compromise is super-important and remembering that it is your family's home. Everyone needs to be happy and comfortable living in it, so everyone needs to have input."

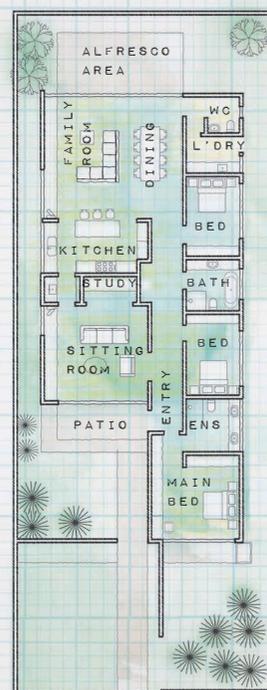


ALFRESCO AREA
Black, steel-framed glass doors completely open one side of the family room to a leafy alfresco area (above) - ideal for entertaining in the warmer

months of the year. Lizzie, here enjoying some afternoon tea with Matt and Agnes, found the white 'Fuse' round table by Manutti and 'Iris' Softline chairs all at Cosh Living.

PLANS

GROUND FLOOR



CONTACTS

Interior architect
David Dubois,
Dubois: Building Design
& Interior Architecture,
(03) 9686 9071,
dubois.com.au.

Builder
KLE Building Group,
(03) 9429 4757,
klebuildinggroup.com.au.

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