





wners Tonci and Rebecca Mardesic say that one of the main things that attracted them to this two-bedroom home in Melbourne's south-west was the open-plan kitchen/dining/living area and its connection – both visual and physical – to the lush back garden.

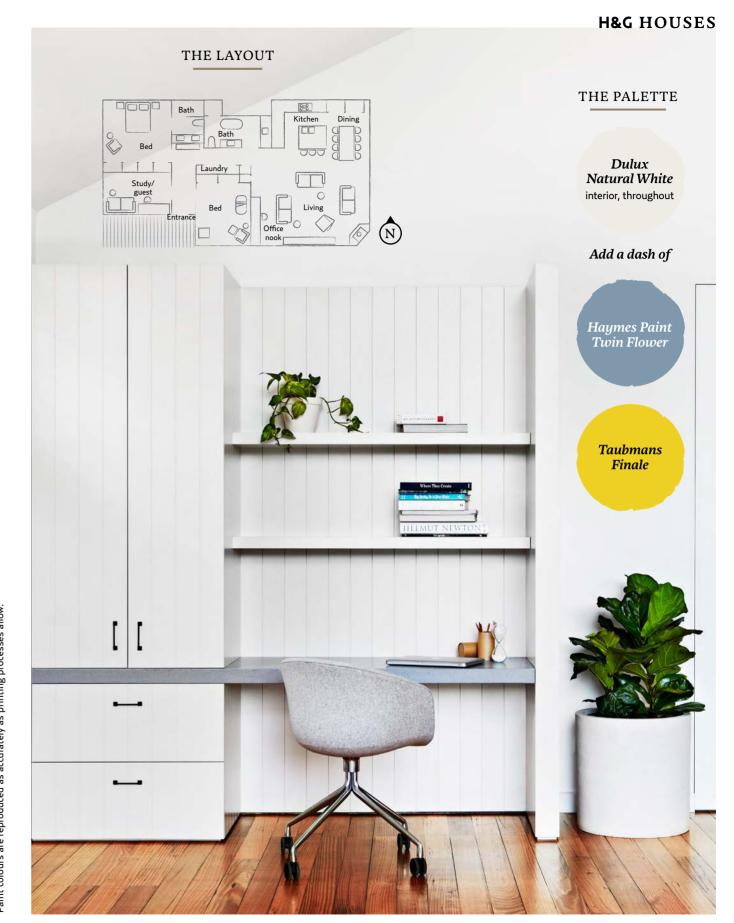
The sandstone Federation-style house was built in 2000 by the previous owner to replace a weatherboard cottage. When the Mardesics bought the house in 2012, it was decorated with a Balinese theme – dark timber cabinetry, purple feature walls and greyish-pink tiles in the bathrooms.

In 2013, having lived in the house for a year, Tonci and Rebecca decided it was time to make their mark on the property and asked Terri Shannon of Bloom Interior Design & Decoration to improve the layout and freshen up the interior. "We wanted the house to feel brighter and more natural," says Rebecca. "We loved the structure as it was but we thought we could make better use of some of the spaces."

The front door opens to an L-shaped hall that leads past a study, their two-year-old son Roko's bedroom, the main bedroom and main bathroom before opening up to the bright and airy open-plan kitchen/dining/living area. Here, floor-to-ceiling glass doors give access to the garden, the centrepiece of which is a mature palm tree. "The palm tree is home to several families of rainbow lorikeets and is perfectly positioned to shade the backyard from afternoon sun," says Rebecca.

In the kitchen, extra storage was top of the wish list. "Previously, the benches were too low to be used comfortably and all the storage was beneath them so ▶











'Having so much storage is wonderful. The house feels clean and uncluttered – even with a toddler!' Rebecca

MAIN BATHROOM / The same vertical joinery detailing is used throughout the home for visual harmony. Wall tiles, Lifestiles. Floor tiles, Signorino Tile Gallery. Pitti quartz-composite benchtop, Stone Italiana. Tapware, Astra Walker. ROKO'S ROOM / A chocolate freckle-like rug from The Rug Establishment is a fun textural element in Roko's room. Cot, Baby Bunting. Charlecote wallpaper, Elliott Clarke. Custom-made pendant light, Bloomingdales Lighting. Print, Castle and Things. Floor lamp, Cult. Smart buy: Sven armchair, \$950, and footstool, \$385. Meizai.

LAUNDRY / Concertina doors in the hallway conceal a small but perfectly formed laundry. Washing machine, LG. Baskets, Bloom & Co. Tapware, Astra Walker. Joinery, Werribee Joinery & Cabinet Works.

MAIN BEDROOM / Exbury Star wallpaper, Elliott Clarke. Bed, armchair and side table, all Jardan. Bedhead upholstered in Unique Fabrics Grange. Bedside table, Zuster. Wall light, Dunlin. Custom-made pendant light, Bloomingdales Lighting. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 188.

