

Contemporary hits

When a small renovation turned into a major project in this Sydney home, interior designer Chloe Matters came on board to help modernise it while maintaining the timeless style. *Turn over the page to see more.* →

STYLISH / INSPIRATIONAL / CLEVER

CHLOE MATTERS

S O F T

M O D E R N

S T Y L E

A late start in the renovation process couldn't stop interior designer Chloe Matters from creating a comfortable and modern family home in Sydney



Welcome sight Graceful curves greet guests of this family home in Sydney's eastern suburbs. The soft arches of the Ben and Aja Blanc mirror, Matters + Made 'Mimi' console and front door from Steel Door add warmth to the entrance. Touches of timber in the Tigmi Trading bench and Precision Flooring in colour Bistre soften the white-and-black scheme. Artwork by Indivi Sutton, Saint Cloche. →

photography alan jensen styling anna delprat words brittany smith

THE RENOVATION WAS ALREADY IN full swing when Sydney homeowner Sandra contacted Chloe Matters to take over the design side of her project. The reno was only intended to be a small refresh but blossomed into major work, with builders from Jcorp Construction at the helm. But that special interior design perspective was needed and so Chloe worked her magic. Joining a process that was already in progress wasn't easy, but in the end it made all the difference.

OPENING UP Many structural changes were needed in the downstairs areas. A wall was removed to create an open-plan design in the kitchen, dining and living space. To maintain structural integrity after these changes, beams were installed in the ceiling. And when it came to materials, marble was key. Sandra preferred grey and white veining, so that was used in many rooms, with different types of marble creating a point of difference while still being conducive to continuity throughout.

DEEP FEELINGS Chloe approached this task just like any other. "I like to create an emotional response and a physical response," she explains. "I do that with textures and tones which add a layer of depth to the space." Luckily, that ethos worked a treat because, with many of the bones in the home already established, it was tactile decor that helped to soften the interiors. "I had to find the balance between what I'd inherited and what we were trying to create," says Chloe.

UNIVERSAL APPEAL The look was also a balancing act between modern touches and timeless style. "The brief was for a modern house that could potentially sell in two years," says Chloe. "Something that appeals to the masses but would feel comfortable now." Modern elements are found in the sleek lines and neutral tones of the home while textured layers in the furniture ensured that, once sold and the decor removed, the space could translate to any lifestyle. Whether listed or loved, Sandra, her husband Julian, daughter Lili and pet Shih Tzu Cavalier Sparkles feel infinitely at home in their abode. 🍷



meet the designer

Chloe Matters, founder of Matters + Made.
mattersandmade.com | @chloematters

Right fit The AO table from Matters + Made with chairs from Tigmi Trading are perfect for large gatherings. Custom plaster bench seat with custom cushion in Designs of the Time 'Djurumin' fabric, from James Dunlop Textiles. Black bowl and African Zulu pot, Tow and Line. Ochre Chalice sculpture by Karlien Van Rooyen, Curatorial + Co. Jug, vessel and balloon ceramic bowl from Spence & Lyda. Articolo pendant from EST Lighting. **Team effort** Chloe (pictured left) is pleased with the teamwork that made this project a success. "I'm proud of the way we worked with the client and builder."



how to soften a modern style

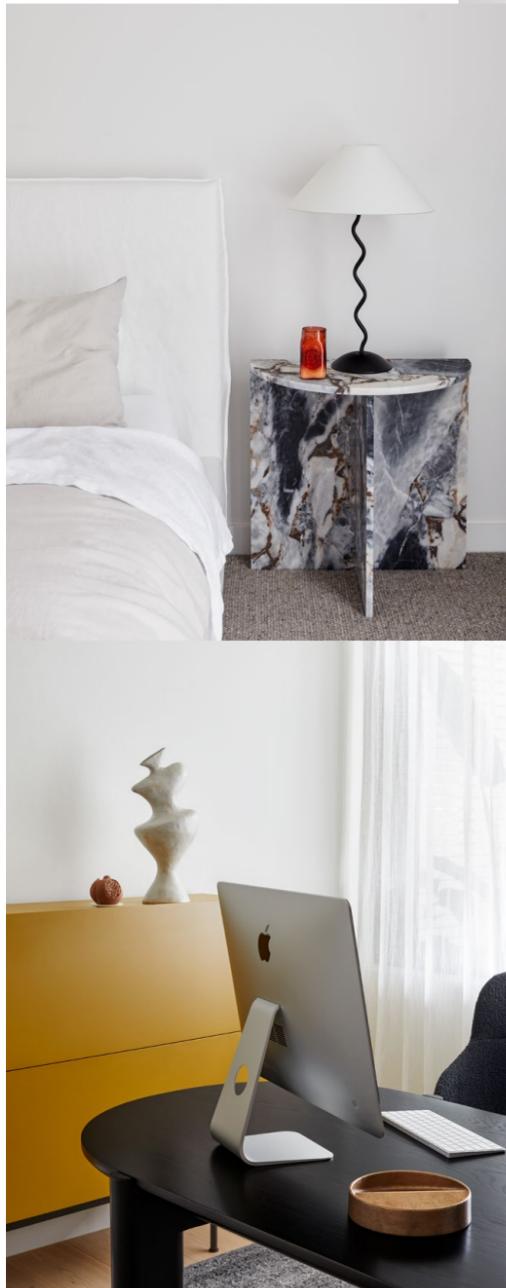
1 Decorate with items that features natural materials, lashings of texture and organic shapes. From there, you can add pops of colour to build up and further develop the desired palette.

2 Brighter isn't always better, at least when it comes to lighting. Soft, warm light can create ambience and atmosphere whereas direct, overhead lighting can look cold and, worse, unflattering.

3 Bring the outside in by introducing nature as much as possible. Decorate with potted plants, utilise natural stone and timber and aim for an abundance of natural light.



Bold type Carrara marble from Surface Gallery is the hero of this kitchen, creating a dramatic and organic pattern. Wall lights, Ross Gardam. *Curve and Angle* vase and *Holding Up* vase by Bettina Willner, Saint Cloche. Sanctuary *Polyhymnia III* vessel by Ella Bendrups, Saint Cloche. Timber Board, Tow and Line. **Soft edge** The living room is filled with curved edges, from the Madeleine Blanchfield coffee table to The Z sofa from Matters + Made. Soda side table in Blue, James Richardson Furniture. Miller lounge chair, District. Talik velvet cushion in Fawn, Cultiver. Terracotta vase by Ella Bendrups, Saint Cloche. Scrap table by Heerenhuis and Balloon Glass Vase 04 by Louise Roe, Spence & Lyda. Marc Catchall in Black Marble, MCM House. ->



style tip When decorating a home you hope to resell, add personal preferences in the decor while keeping the bones of the structure universally appealing to maximise potential interest

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT **Scalloped touches** La Luna side table in Calacatta Nero from En Gold adds showstopping flair, complemented by the scalloped lines of the McMullin & Co lamp. Linen duvet set and flat sheet, Cultiver. Cellar Feels candle, Curionoir. **Raise me up** The stairwell continues the black, white and timber palette of the entranceway with art by Ben Mazey, C. Gallery, Sophie Nolan ceramic stool and an Apparatus pendant light from Criteria. **Brain power** Simple finishes win out in the study. Desk and chair, Jardan. Yellow unit, Space with Sophie Nolan ceramic vessel and Pomegranate in Scented Terracotta, Santa Maria Novella, on top. Vide Poche Rond in Bronze, Henry Wilson. OPPOSITE **Rest and relaxation** Bed, King. Bedside table, Blu Dot. *The Green River II* and *Golden*, by Indivi Sutton, Saint Cloche. Eagle sculpture by Humble Matter, Curatorial & Co. Pinch Derome table lamp in Ash, Spence & Lyda. Linen sheet set with pillowcases in Fawn and Cedar Stripe and Chambray bedcover, Cultiver. →



Private oasis Carrara marble from Surface Gallery reappears in the bathroom, surrounding the showstopping Sentosa bath from Candana. Articolo 'Fizi Ball' wall sconce from Est Lighting. Baxter 'Nepal' armchair, Space. Eleanor vase in Sage, McMullin & Co. *Queen Albertina* sculpture by Tracey Lamb, Curatorial & Co.

shop it! A mix of textures adds interest to a soothing neutral palette



ARTIST TO WATCH

1 Fizi wall sconce, from \$1900, Articolo Lighting. **2** Simon James Design 'Miller' lounge chair, from \$2809, District. **3** *The Green River II* artwork by Indivi Sutton, \$2800, Saint Cloche. **4** Percy table lamp, \$379, McMullin & Co. **5** Superchoice night stand, \$1095, Blu Dot. **6** Andes wool rug in Charcoal (3x4m), \$3885, Armadillo. **7** Balloon vase by Louise Roe, \$495, Spence & Lyda. **8** Organic coffee table, from \$4550 for small, Madeleine Blanchfield Architects. **9** Pure Linen bath towel in Forest, \$85, Cultiver. **10** Byredo 'Gypsy Water' body wash, \$70, and body lotion, \$86, Mecca. **11** Luxury velvet cushion in Tobacco, \$79, Aura Home. **12** Baxter 'Nepal' armchair, \$5015, Space. **13** Smeg 60cm 'Diamond Series' dishwasher, \$1690, Harvey Norman. **14** Miniforms 'Soda' blown-glass side table, from \$2295, James Richardson Furniture. **15** Eleanor vase, \$159, McMullin & Co.

still-life styling andrea healy



Colours and finishes
FROM LEFT Calacatta marble, POA, CDK Stone. Aubade Sheer Vapour roman blind, from \$57, Blinds Online by Tuiss. Hycraft 'Chatsworth' carpet in Dutchess, \$87 per m², Choices Flooring. Wash&Wear paint in Natural White, \$91.90 for 4L, Dulux.