

These pages The informal living area enjoys panoramic views of the landscape. Walls and ceiling in French lime plaster painted Dulux Opononi. Jurassic French limestone floor tiles from Barefoot Living. Curtains in Bruder 'Aty' linen in Natural from Style Revolutionary. Jade Customs sofas in Rose Tarlow 'Bodie' linen in Cactus from Tigger Hall Design. Artisan rug and custom coffee table by Penman Brown. Carl Hansen & Søn 'Easy' chair from Cult. Armchairs in Pierre Frey 'Chenille Igor' in Clematite from Milgate. Antique side tables from Graham Geddes Antiques.



THE

Words STEPHANIE HOPE Photography ANSON SMART

GREAT

ESCAPE

Rustic simplicity meets polished refinement in this country farmhouse, where weekends are a mix of family connection and quiet contemplation.

This page In the dining zone is an Apparatus 'Lariat' pendant light from Criteria. French farmhouse dining table from 1stDibs. French vintage chairs from CoffeyHallett. Artwork by Joe Henry Baker from Freeman Gallery. 'Chawan I' vase by Melody Emi Brunton from Hake Gallery. **Opposite page** (from top) The staircase is lined with raw European oak from EuroStyle Floors, while Champagne French limestone treads from Barefoot Living lead down to the cellar. Custom wainscoting from Intrim Mouldings. // In the formal lounge, Jade Customs sofa in Alhambra Fabrics 'Etna' in Gibello 16 from Elliott Clarke Textiles. Jade Customs ottoman in Cloth & Print Co mohair in #796 from Ascraft. Artisan rug by Penman Brown. Baxter 'Himba' armchairs by Roberto Lazzeroni from Space. Resin side table by Henryk Studio from Freeman Gallery. Baxter 'Dune' side table by Draga & Aurel from Space. Artwork in corner by Hugh McCarthy from M Contemporary. // 'Conical' lights in Bronze from Studio Henry Wilson. Stone table by Tom Butterworth from Hake. Sanayi313 armchair from Freeman Gallery. Artworks by William Versace (at left) and Morgan Stokes, both from Curatorial+Co.

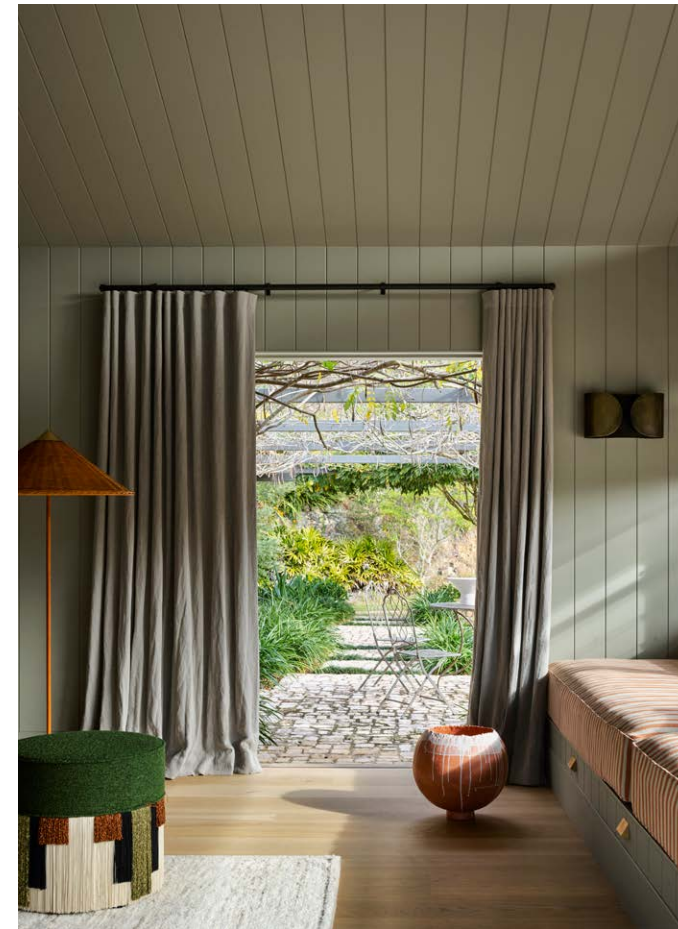


Sitting in an idyllic position bordering Strickland State Forest on the NSW Central Coast, Winden Estate is a sprawling country home belonging to a neurosurgeon and his family. A quick 90-minute drive from Sydney, the 10-hectare property encompasses established orchards, rolling paddocks and leafy bushland, its elevated position giving access to scenic vistas at every turn. And central to it all, a striking farmhouse accommodates the family of six.

Pre-renovation, the house felt a little lacklustre. The interiors were drab and dated, with stained timber floors, random colour selections and a timber-laminate kitchen right out of the 1980s. Megan Brown of Penman Brown Interior Design was tasked with its transformation, which spanned two years and involved gutting and reimagining the building inside and out. The wish was for multiple living spaces where the family could spend time alone and together, a large kitchen to cater for a crowd, and separate sleeping quarters away from the communal areas. "The owners envisioned a French-inspired 'generational' farmhouse that was intrinsically connected to and reflective of the location's dramatic landscape," says Megan. "By blending traditional French farmhouse style with a minimal modernist aesthetic, we were able to create a home that is robust, refined and detailed."

It all starts at the solid timber front door, made from reclaimed wharf piers, which opens to an expansive entry wrapped in rough >





« plastered walls. A pathway of French bricks laid in a herringbone pattern is set within the oak floors, taking the place of a rug and setting the tone for the interior scheme to come. A hallway to the left leads to four bedrooms for the couple's children and guests, each one a restful haven of grasscloth wallpapers, whimsical window furnishings and upholstered bedheads. There's also a media room, bathroom and laundry down this end of the house, making it a self-contained wing with direct access to the landscaped gardens.

Veering off to the right, a study and main-bedroom suite gives the owners their privacy. Custom wainscoting lends traditional classicism while sleek brass wall sconces speak to the present, and a custom chaise is positioned by the window to take in the lush tree canopy. The adjoining ensuite resembles a Roman grotto, with its French limestone walls and floors, veiny marble plinth and 'Lantern' wall sconce.

At the rear, a vast open-plan space houses a generous kitchen and butler's pantry, dining zone, formal lounge and informal living area, with room to spare. Sliding doors open to an alfresco entertaining zone that offers panoramic views of the spectacular valley beyond.

Designed by Provincial Kitchens, the kitchen features the high-quality bespoke joinery that the company is known for, painted a deep, dark green, which varies in shade depending on the time of day. Brass mesh inserts, antique-mirror splashbacks and a dramatic custom stone-clad hearth specified by Penman Brown give a rustic finish. "The earthy tones and natural organic textures reflect the distinctive Australian landscape around us and add so much character," say the owners. "The kitchen is a place to congregate and prepare a meal in, where we bake cookies and juice fresh fruit from the orchard." »



This page (top left and bottom) In the guest bedroom, Phillip Jeffries 'Blossom' wallpaper in Taupe from The Textile Company. Jade Customs bedhead in Pierre Frey 'Chenille Igor' fabric in Tilleul from Milgate. Bed end in Lizzo 'Royal Flax' fabric in Albert from Westbury Textiles. Artisan rug and custom side table by Penman Brown. 'S+H' pendant from Anna Charlesworth. 'Tubi' wall sconces from Articolo Studios. French vintage wardrobe from 1st Dibs. Curtains in Bruder 'Aty' fabric from Style Revolutionary. Vintage artwork and French farm chair from The Vault Sydney.

Opposite page (and this page, top right) VJ panels in the media room are painted French Green by Porter's Paints. Joinery in European Oak timber veneer from Briggs Veneers. Tobia Scarpa 'Foglio' sconces from Lumfardo. 'Conical' bronze wall lights from Studio Henry Wilson. Door handles from Designer Hardware. Bench seat cushions and sofa in 'Endless Summer' linen in Tangerine from Boyac. Coffee table from Bib'n Brace. Blue 'Cepe' stool and 'Etno' pouf from Freeman Gallery. Artisan rug by Penman Brown. Curtains in Bruder 'Loule' fabric in Marino from Style Revolutionary. Gubi '9602' floor lamp from Cult. Vessel on floor by Katarina Wells from Curatorial+Co. Artwork by Eleftheria Vlavianos from M Contemporary.



This page (and opposite, bottom) The main bedroom features a Jade Customs bedhead in Designs of the Time 'Baldemar' fabric from James Dunlop Textiles. Bed end in Pierre Frey 'Pyla' fabric from Milgate. 'Leaf' sconces from Daniel Boddam. Custom bedside and Artisan rug by Penman Brown. &Tradition 'Wulff' chair from Cult. Jade Customs chaise in Mokum 'Alpaca' velvet from James Dunlop Textiles. Curtains in Nicola Lawrence Textiles 'Pukka Print' from Elliott Clarke. 'Urban Natural Weave' Roman blinds from Peter Meyer Blinds. Side tables from Graham Geddes Antiques. Ceramic by Katarina Wells from Curatorial+Co.
Opposite page French Jurassic sandstone wall and floor tiles from Barefoot Living define the ensuite. Plinth in Terrassa Raya marble from CDK Stone. 'Lantern' wall sconce from Apparatus. 'Victoria' bath from DADOquartz. E15 'Backenzahn' stool from Living Edge. Artwork by Indivi Sutton from Saint Cloche.



« Penman Brown used colour to dictate the mood in each space. Neutral creams, greys and whites bring tranquillity to the living zones; bold burgundy in the study capitalises on the southern light and adds a moody, atmospheric feel; a soft green in the media room creates a fresh, barn-like vibe; and the kitchen's deep green joinery reflects the surrounding trees. "Every colour and finish had to be derived from the natural environment and feel connected to the earth and [the home's] surrounds," says Megan, "to render the interior a backdrop to the exterior."

Indeed, the biggest success of this project lies in the smallest details: the precise thickness of the wainscoting; the hand-printed floral light shades that almost blend into the wall; the discreet wall cabinet with sliding doors to disguise the TV; and the millimetre-perfect draping of the Apparatus pendant in the dining area – every surface, material and fixture adds up to a layered, authentic scheme that feels as though it's always been there. "Throughout, roughly plastered walls and ceilings imbue emotive depth, complemented by the suppleness of European oak doors, floors and joinery," says Megan. "Velvety imported French limestone and understated marbles – Jurassic in size and nature – exaggerate volume, manipulate scale and 'float' finer details. Patinaed bronze, emotive wallpapers and reclaimed French tiles soften spaces. Contemporary modernist light fittings add elegance and a refined classicism. The result is transportive... inviting guests to immerse themselves in the beauty of the landscape."

And the family agree wholeheartedly. "Being here brings us immense peace and serenity," says the owner. "My head and my heart have a sense of calm which I haven't felt for decades." ■
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STYLING: CLAIRE DELMAR (ENSUITE)

These pages Landscaping and pool by Costata Landscape Design. French Jurassic pavers and Croatian stone wall cladding in Cream from Barefoot Living. 'Architect' outdoor sunlounges from Coco Republic. Custom table by Bib'n Brace. Gubi 'Tropique' dining chairs from Cult. Custom cushions in Rose Tarlow 'Bodie' stonewashed linen in Cactus from Tigger Hall Design.



SPEED READ

» A Sydney neurosurgeon and his family purchased this sprawling six-bedroom home set in 10 hectares on the NSW Central Coast as a weekend escape from the city. » Designer Megan Brown from Penman Brown Interior Design gave the entire home a much-needed refresh, transforming it from a lacklustre 1980s structure to an earthy, minimalist retreat with a pan-European influence. » Key materials included imported French limestone tiles, European oak flooring and French lime plaster on the walls and ceilings, softened with linen curtains, textured wallpapers and fabrics from the likes of Milgate, Elliott Clarke and Tigger Hall Design. » Light fittings from renowned international studios, such as Gubi, Apparatus and Tobia Scarpa, as well as local designers Henry Wilson, Articolo Studios and Anna Charlesworth, make a statement in each space. » The end result is a home that embraces its bush surrounds while adopting a timeless French farmhouse feel that will last for generations.

5
SIGNATURE STYLE
KEY PIECES



1 Aerin 'Brenta' large double articulating sconce, \$3290, The Montauk Lighting Co. 2 Eadie Lifestyle 'Luca' linen cushion in Natural, \$109, Domayne. 3 'Sea Spray' sandy raku vessel by Katarina Wells, \$950, Curatorial+Co. 4 'Alba' dining chair in Sand/Oak, \$3100, Tigmi Trading. 5 'Skyler' round outdoor dining table, \$1799, Harvey Norman.

