

# Herald Sun home

**plus**  
Teamwork  
brings terrific  
results for one  
renovating pair  
P16



**room  
makeover**

**A FRESH  
TAKE ON  
OPEN-AIR  
BATHING**  
P20



**make it**

**END PAPER  
TRAILS IN  
FOUR EASY  
STEPS**  
P30

**CUP  
of me**

**METRICON'S ASCOT:  
JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT**

**INSIDE** Exploring our fastest-growing zone P







Talent and trust make for a productive partnership – and a gorgeous home

Words **ELIZA HOPE**

Photography **MARK TAYLOR**

**W**hen Lara Jenkin met Carolyn Burns-McCrave in 1998, at the interior-design firm they both worked at – Lara in administration and Carolyn as an interior designer – it was the start of a close friendship.

So years later, when Lara and her husband, Travis, decided to renovate their two-bedroom 1950s cottage in Melbourne's east, Carolyn was a natural choice to design the project.

Carolyn's brief included everything, right down to the home's furniture and accessories.

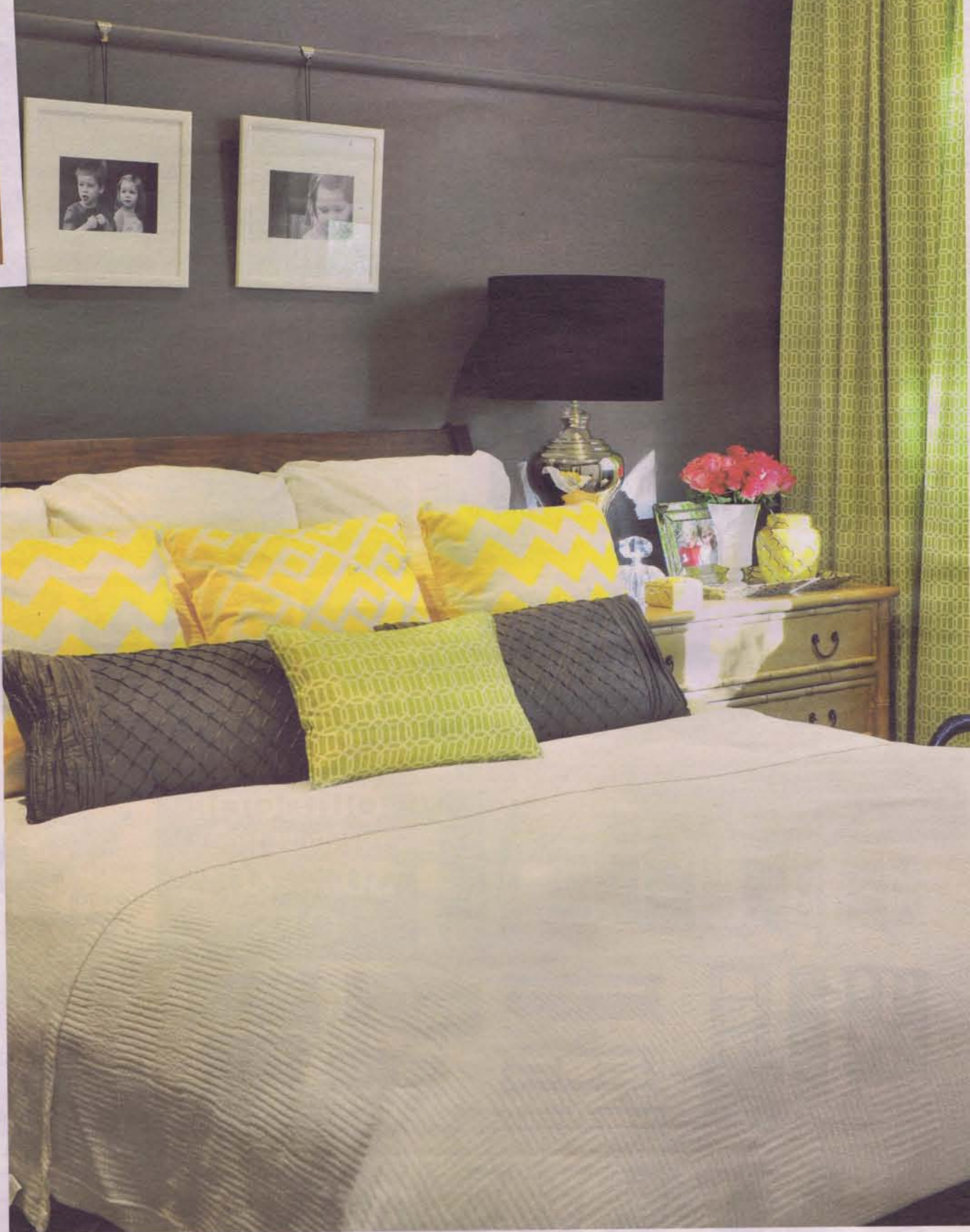
"Because we had worked together for so many years and were good friends, Carolyn knew what I liked – she just knew – and I trusted her implicitly," Lara says.

This faith gave Carolyn, who now runs her own interior-design company, Retail Therapy Interior Design, the opportunity to transform the house into a beautiful, light-filled, four-bedroom home.

The house now has ample space for the couple, their children, Alexander, 10, and Grace, 8, and dog, Pyper. ➤

Right Opulent glamour: the main bedroom mixes charcoal walls with beautiful soft furnishings Above An instant colour fix

# Perfect match



**(HIDDEN)  
HARBOUR**  
MORNINGTON PENINSULA

FOR A LIMITED TIME DEVELOPER'S SALE  
**Land from \$199,000!**

Park-front Terraces from: **\$399,000** *New Release*

House & Land from: ~~\$479,500~~ **\$454,000**





The renovation was planned in two stages, and completed during a five-year period.

"I really only wanted an extra bedroom and bathroom, but Carolyn convinced me otherwise," Lara explains. "She is very good at knowing what families will need later on down the track."

A new living room, main bedroom, bathroom and rumpus room, as well as a west-facing deck, were first on the list.

The second stage, completed two years ago, involved creating a study and adding a north-facing entertaining zone to the deck.

The second stage also included refitting the kitchen with fabulous mirror-clad cupboards (an excellent way to open a small space) and stone benchtops.

"We also replaced the splashback with a window, which made a huge impact in this space, flooding the kitchen with light and creating a great view," Carolyn says.

**"Carolyn made sure the finishes, colours and details reflected our taste"**

LARA JENKIN

Carefully selected, minimal furnishings mean there's no clutter, giving special pieces, such as the stunning Moooi paper lamp in the formal sitting room, the space they deserve. ➔



Far left The comfortable and cosy living area brings unity to the open-plan zone Above Dramatic furnishings in the formal sitting room create a sense of occasion Left A gorgeous arrangement of interesting objects Below The home's traditional exterior



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT OUR SALES OFFICE  
138 CLIPPER QUAY, SAFETY BEACH VIC 3936  
OPEN SAT - THURS 10AM - 4PM  
DISPLAY AND SPEC HOMES OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2PM - 3PM  
Call Jules on 0401 255 555 | [discoverhiddenharbour.com.au](http://discoverhiddenharbour.com.au)

**foxwood** Eureka  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT





### Love it!

Bold graphics and cheery pinks bring feminine sophistication to young Grace's bedroom.



The elegant sitting room has soothing, olive-green walls and cushions, and an ottoman covered to match the dramatic Osborne & Little Quinta wallpaper in the neighbouring hallway.

Carolyn's attention to detail really shines here, as she has successfully introduced contemporary elements – while still respecting the home's 1950s feel.

"It is a welcoming space, full of beautiful pieces with a deliberate mix of texture, pattern, colour and scale," Carolyn says of the sitting room.

The living and dining rooms are all about comfort, space and light. The sunken living area, alcove seat and bulkheads are thoughtful design elements, creating clear zones without compromising flow.

One challenge Carolyn faced was convincing Lara and Travis to go with a rich, dark-charcoal colour (Duhux's Raku) in the main bedroom. The couple love it now, but at the time, Lara was hesitant.

"Even as the paint was going on the walls, I was unsure, but once it was done, I totally got it," Lara says.

The drama of the dark walls continues into the study, with dazzling Imperial Trellis wallpaper, by Kelly Wearstler

for Schumacher. Other astute additions are a cantilevered desk and an enormous pendant light.

"We wanted this to be a masculine space – nothing floral or fluffy," Carolyn says.

Wallpaper is also used to great effect in Grace's bedroom. Although predominantly pretty pink, a funky floral pattern gives this room a more grown-up, graphic edge.

In the main bathroom, panelled timber, oversized framed mirrors, a claw-foot bath, and limestone-look benchtops with chrome edging are classic and elegant with a touch of glamour.

Leadlight windows, a gift from Lara's mother, are another highlight.

This wonderful home, and the content family that inhabits it, show just how successful mixing business with friendship can be.

"We really appreciate the way Carolyn made sure the finishes, colours and details reflected our taste and style," Lara says. 🏠



**Retail Therapy Interior Design**  
Phone 0425 801 130 or see  
[www.retailtherapyid.com.au](http://www.retailtherapyid.com.au)





## Postscript with Lara Jenkin

### Favourite place to relax?

I love the formal sitting room because it's calm, elegant and kid free. I also love spending time in the study, which has great views to the back yard, has access to the deck and is papered in my favourite Kelly Wearstler pattern.

### Favourite piece of furniture?

The Moooi paper floor lamp was a real investment that we will always treasure. The scale and shape really appeal to me and it's a great talking point with guests.

### Where do the kids spend their time?

In the family room and study. I can keep my eye on them from the kitchen, and there's loads of room for them to spread out and play with their friends.

### Favourite shops for homewares or furniture?

The homewares shop tends to come to me! Carolyn is always on the lookout for pieces and sends them through when she finds something she thinks I'll like. And she's usually right.

### Would you do anything differently if you could start the renovation again?

No, I think we'd do it the same way again. Starting with a master plan that we could do in two stages really helped keep it manageable.

### Any tips for aspiring renovators?

Engage a professional who understands your style and family dynamic. Keep an open mind and see what a fresh pair of eyes and expert knowledge can bring to your project.

Above A spacious family zone opens out to the newly expanded deck area Left This study has a delightfully distracting view Right An inviting space to curl up with a book, beneath the gentle glow of a Moooi paper lamp Above right In the luxurious family bathroom, pretty leadlight windows add a softening touch Top right Many of this home's furnishings and accessories were sourced by Carolyn

