

This page An ideal spot to enjoy a coffee or read a book, this breakout area adjacent to the living room is furnished with a Hans J. Wegner 'Circle' chair with 'Sereno Stripe' fabric by Kelly Wearstler, 'Le Club' armchair from Poliform and a Hommés Studio 'Picasso' occasional table. Ceramic on table from Bastard Ceramics. Wall sculpture from clients' collection. Sculpture (on floor) by Peter D. Cole. Custom rug from Whitecliffe Imports. **Opposite page** The house was designed by Edition Office architects in a modernist style with curvaceous concrete contours. It nestles into the landscape designed by Eckersley Garden Architecture.

Rhyme and reason



Simone Haag brings an international sensibility to a home in a very Australian setting, creating a lyrical and sophisticated domain for the family who lives there.



Words JUDY PASCOE Photography LILLIE THOMPSON



Interior designer Simone Haag confesses that she often makes things difficult for herself. But the end result of her sometimes unconventional choices is well worth the angst.

In the case of this spectacular home in Melbourne's Kew, the result of a collaboration between architects Edition Office and interior designers Flack Studio, Simone was engaged for the furnishings, art, lighting and textiles. Faced with a house of curves her inspired move was to follow the arcs of the walls and joinery with bespoke curved rugs. Not as easy as just plonking down a rectangular rug, as delays to joinery and templates caused a few tense moments leading up to the handover date. However, it all worked out perfectly and the contoured rugs are just one of the many remarkable features in this home.

Working with her longstanding and adventurous clients, Simone pushed the envelope at every turn. "It wasn't their first rodeo," she says, "We've worked together on multiple residences and they are very trusting and experienced, so they enjoyed the process."

Returning from a stint overseas and purchasing the property while it was still in the building phase meant that the family – which includes five offspring – were able to rework the floor plan with the architect and developer, combining what were originally two townhouses to create one bespoke residence. "The owners call this their grown-up house," says Simone. "Their children are older, so it wasn't about having a playroom or such, but rather about the choices they could make to suit a couple."

Situated in an "A-grade Melbourne" location on an escarpment with views to a curve in the Yarra River, the house is part of a large development that includes premium apartments nestled into a lush landscape by Eckersley Garden Architecture. In an area known for its modernist homes, the development echoes the ethos with its curved concrete structures and »



This page The colour palette of cream, camel and black with pops of electric blue is continued throughout the house. The sofa is a Patricia Urquiola for Moroso design that the clients already owned. 'Sequoia' sheepskin poufs from Great Dane. 'Chain' carved stool from Jayson Home. 'Koishi' coffee table from Poliform. Inès Bressand 'Lebone' floor lamp from Studio ALM. Le Berre Vevaud 'Barth Stool Les Intemporels Blue' from The Invisible Collection. B&B Italia 'Jack' shelving system from Space. Custom contoured rug from Whitecliffe Imports. On coffee table: black ceramic (left) by Caro Pattle and ceramic by Angela Hayes.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left In the study, a Sammode Studio 'G25' wall light arcs across a custom desk and shelving by Lost Profile Studio and a Herman Miller 'Eames' executive chair from Living Edge. Harbro custom chair upholstered in Pollack 'Current' fabric in Bronze Age. Art is by Lorraine Kabbindi White. Ceramic is by Alexandra Standen from This is No Fantasy. In the basement lobby is a custom 'Strella' table clad in bronze ceramic tiles by Simone Haag for Studio Brand. AYTM 'Arcus' mirror from Design Stuff. Behind the sofa is a print by John Olsen and a 'Fool Moon' wall light from Ke-Zu. Sofa cushions in fabrics by Harbro in Métaphores 'Olympie' in Dune and de Le Cuona 'Spitfire' in Canyon. Ceramics behind sofa from Lawson-Fenning.



« mid-century influences. The four-level home has living, dining and kitchen on the top floor with the master suite and guest bedroom on the floor below. The children's bedrooms, a study, gym and games room occupy two semi-subterranean levels.

Simone's design inspiration for the interior was sparked initially by an Alice Wormald artwork in camel and electric blue hues. "I thought it would be perfect for the house but the client didn't love it straight away so did not buy it," says Simone. "But that artwork set us off on a journey and the colour palette – of cream, camel and black with pops of electric blue – stuck."

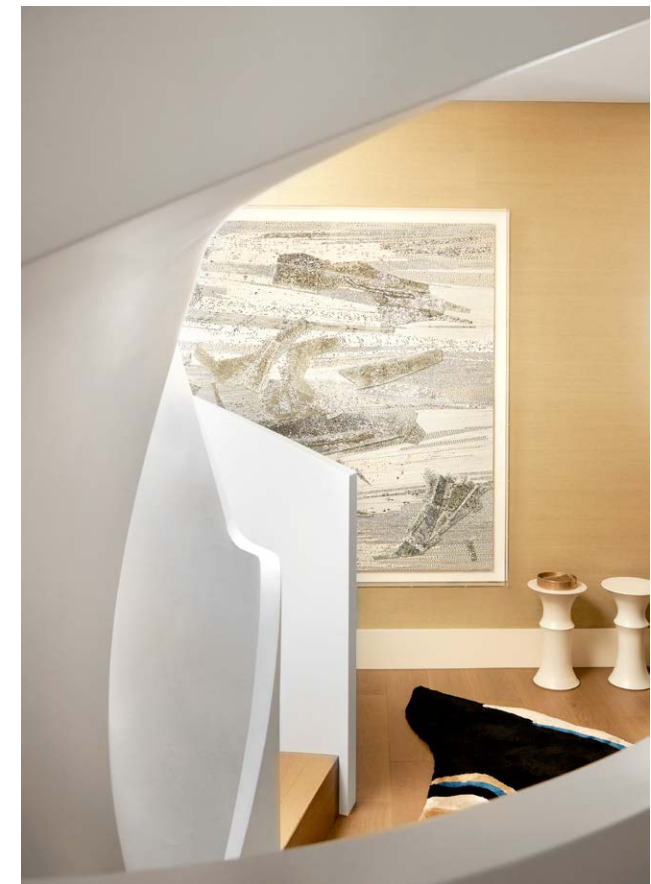
Another of Simone's visionary ideas was to sheathe the main bedroom in tonal camel and tan carpet and

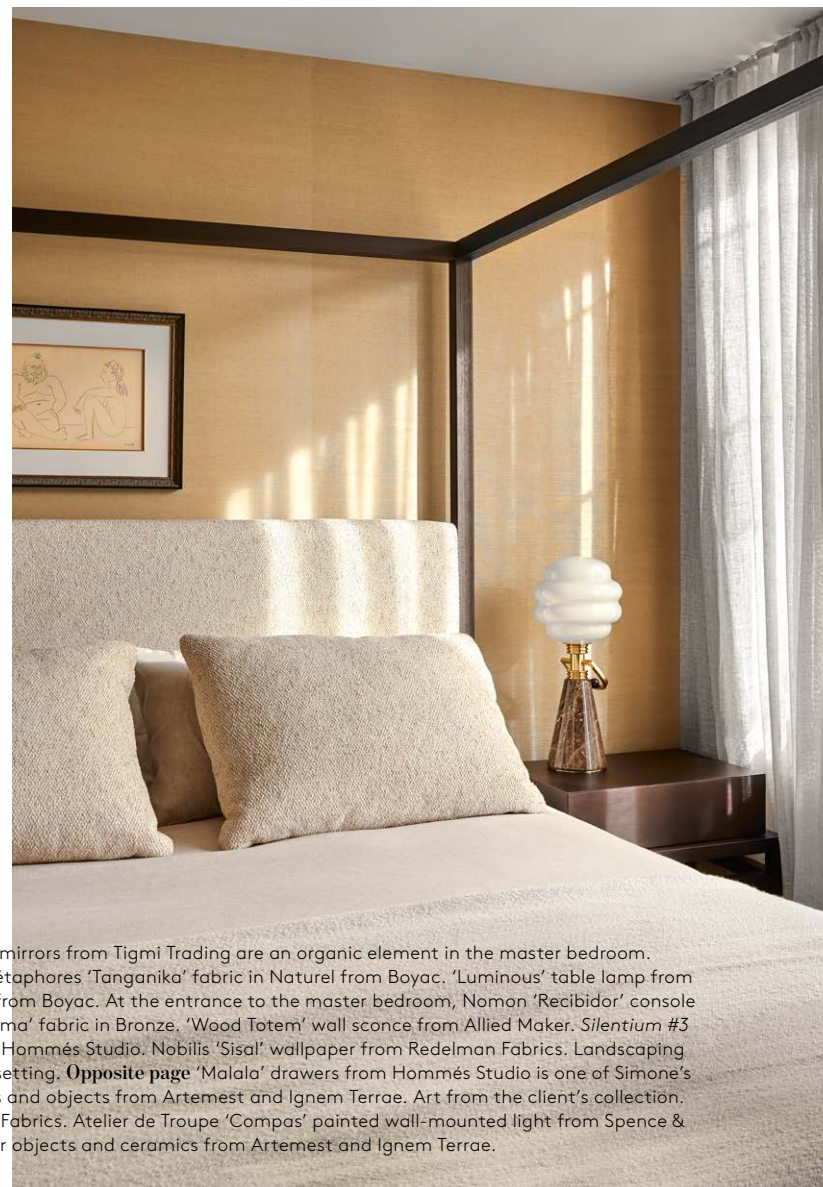
wallpaper so that it all blended in from the floor to the walls. "It was one of those decisions – you think you've made the right choice but you walk in with your hands over your eyes thinking, was this right? And it was!"

It is completely in keeping with the mood of the home that is elegant and considered and exudes a very European sensibility despite its location. "In terms of the site context and landscape it couldn't be more Australian," says Simone, "but once you walk in, you could be in Paris or Belgium."

With surprises around every corner thanks to the curvature of the architecture, "the house keeps revealing itself", says Simone – rather like the origami-like rugs that are one of its signature features. »

These pages, clockwise from left Minotti 'Linha' dining table from De De Ce with Foggia 'Spisolini' chairs from Fred International. Apparatus 'Talisman 14' pendant light from Criteria. 'Paris Opera' series print by Bill Henson. Custom rug by Simone Haag. On table, a trio of Zlata Kornilova sculptures from Garde at one end and an Arteriors tray from Boyd Blue. Other sculptures and objects from the clients' collection. Arflex 'Orfeo' bar stools from Space. Kitchen design by Flack Studio with Arabescato marble and custom Boffi tapware. The master bedroom lobby was designed by Simone to make a statement. Artwork by Galia Gluckman against the Nobilis 'Sisal' wallpaper from Redelman Fabrics. 'Combo' rug from Hommés Studio. Alison Frith ceramic plinths from Marz Designs.





This page, clockwise from top left Vincent Vauban 'Argonaute' ceramic mirrors from Tigmi Trading are an organic element in the master bedroom. Maxalto 'Alcova' bed and 'Thronos' bedside table from Space. Bedhead in Métaphores 'Tanganika' fabric in Naturel from Boyac. 'Luminous' table lamp from Hommés Studio. Bedlinen from Sheet Society. Print by Picasso. Linen sheers from Boyac. At the entrance to the master bedroom, Nomon 'Recibidor' console from Pad and 'Reeno' mini bench seat from Grazia&Co in Métaphores 'Panama' fabric in Bronze. 'Wood Totem' wall sconce from Allied Maker. *Silentium #3* print by Joseph McGlennon from Sophie Gannon Gallery. 'Combo' rug from Hommés Studio. Nobilis 'Sisal' wallpaper from Redelman Fabrics. Landscaping by Eckersley Garden Architecture places the house in a distinctly Australian setting. **Opposite page** 'Malala' drawers from Hommés Studio is one of Simone's favourite pieces in the home. Large 'Tula' vase from Papaya; other ceramics and objects from Artemest and Ignem Terrae. Art from the client's collection. Arne Jacobsen 'Egg' chair and ottoman in Nobilis 'Blizzard' from Redelman Fabrics. Atelier de Troupe 'Compas' painted wall-mounted light from Spence & Lyda. Wall sculpture by Greg Penn from Otomys. Other objects and ceramics from Artemest and Ignem Terrae.



« Eclectic but not experimental, this is a refined and graceful home but the assured mix of unexpected furniture choices is a conversation starter. For Simone, a chest of drawers in the master bedroom is her personal favourite. Sourced from Hommés Studio in Portugal the 'Malala' is "pearlescent, marbled, like a burl, but baby blue and looks fabulous against the tan". Not being able to see it except in a picture did not deter Simone from making the bold choice and "once it was in the space it was 10 times better than I could have imagined or designed! It is one of my favourite pieces, the way it steps up and down and creates these styling moments – it was a real win!"

For the client, the Christophe Delcourt 'TIL' console in the living room is especially captivating. "Putting the console behind the sofa is quite an American look and the client loved the idea as she saw it as her stage or opportunity to create beautiful vignettes with flowers and books," says Simone. Elsewhere, a selection of artworks by the likes of John Olsen, Bill Henson and Joseph McGlennon, and sculptural furniture including Fogia 'Spisolini' dining chairs, a Lara Bohinc 'Profiterole' occasional table and Apparatus lighting capture attention.

The look is highly curated but warm and welcoming for the family. The client is rapt. "I've always loved Simone's eye for detail. I think she's incredibly intuitive. She has the ability to reveal parts of your personality in an interior without you even knowing they exist."

"I love being at home, pottering around. I'd never leave if it was possible. I'm pretty blown away when I walk into the home to be honest. I sometimes can't believe it's mine." | simonebaag.com.au; flackstudio.com.au; edition-office.com; e-ga.com.au



SPEED READ

» Interior designer Simone Haag was part of a 'dream team' comprising architects Edition Office, interior designers Flack Studio and landscapers Eckersley Garden Architecture who collaborated on a premium residential development in Melbourne's Kew, including this bespoke house for a family of seven. » With views to the Yarra River the modernist-inspired four-level house is endowed with sinuous curves which lent itself to some adventurous interior design, including curved rugs which follow the arcs of the walls and joinery. » While the landscaped setting is very Australian the home and its furniture selections espouse an international sensibility with pieces from Hommés Studio in Portugal among the standouts within a sophisticated colour palette of cream, camel and black with shots of electric blue.



1 *Dance of Bliss XVI sculpture* by Greg Penn, \$1600, from Otomys. 2 *'Avalon'* wool and cashmere **throw** in Écru/Gris Foncé, \$2490, from Hermès. 3 *Eden 'Fool Moon'* **wall lamp**, POA, from Ke-Zu. 4 *'Argonaute'* ceramic **mirror** by Vincent Vauban, \$1795, from Tigmi Trading. 5 *'Reeno'* **occasional chair**, POA, from Grazia&Co.

This page, clockwise from top left Travertine tiles line the floor in the bathroom with vanity and walls swathed in Arabescato marble. Custom Boffi tapware. Linde Freya Tangelder 'Windows of Bo Bardi - Butter' stool from Criteria and towels from Ondene. Ceramics from the client's collection. In the guest bedroom, is a 'Scrunch' table lamp from CB2 on an 'Amara' round-leg bedside table from GlobeWest. *Mountain Study - Pink Sky* print by Carla Hananiah from Edwina Corlette Gallery. Bedlinen from Sheet Society. **Opposite page** Arflex 'Alba' shelving from Space with ceramics by Jane McKenzie, Artemest, Ignem Terrae and from the client's collection. Plant from The Plant Society. Fogia 'Spisolini' chair from Fred International on a custom rug by Simone Haag.