

# indie cool

When architect David Weir designed and built his home, the two things he valued most were practical design and an **easy suburban lifestyle**

**Smart design**  
Architect David Weir designed his home to use passive temperature control with 1.2m eaves on the northern side to keep out the summer sun and allow the winter sun to extend about 3m into the house. His partner Zac, pictured, sourced council pavers and pots from family and friends to give the courtyard personality. →

writer & styling ama flanders | photography angelita bonetti



**Take a leaf**

David designed the kitchen to satiate Zac's passion for cooking. Cabinetry in a gum leaf shade was chosen to match the fossil-filled benchtop and add warmth to the space. The splashback is powdercoated steel, making it a great magnetic whiteboard.

PARED BACK BUT PACKED WITH PERSONALITY. That's the look and feel of this small home on a hidden block of land in the vibey suburb of North Perth. Owner and architect David Weir and partner Zac Carboon wanted a home that took its cue from the idealised view of suburban living – think the backyard, unlocked doors and space to move, but only as much space as you need. So, they sought out a tucked-away block – a former rear garden of a street-front home with right-of-way access – where neighbours wave over the fence. "It's a bit cheesy, but when we first started looking I was enamoured with the whole 'Melbourne, indie, backstreet, laneway, street art' thing. So, we went looking for a block that wasn't necessarily on a street, but had a bit of interest about it," David says.

While David has designed a lot of renovations, add-ons and some small bars and cafes for friends, this was his first house from the ground up. The house is a huge rectangle with X-Bond floors – a water-based, cement-like overlay – that extend throughout, even into the shower, while above is off-form concrete punctuated with bakelite pendant lights that drop down to break up the space. Six jarrah-framed glass panels include three sliding doors that open up the entire front of the house to a courtyard. The rear wall has no windows, while the eastern and western sides have high-set picture windows that open to capture breezes. "There are no cornices, no skirting boards – just nice sharp lines," David says. →



*bare bulb pendants give a warehouse-style vibe*

**Laidback living**

Hendricks the Kerry Blue terrier loves the indoor-outdoor lifestyle of the home and is free to roam about thanks to the low-maintenance design.

**Easy breezy**

While the southern wall has no windows to capture Perth's famous south-westerly, the high-set picture windows allow in plenty of breeze. David and Zac don't have any aircon and were comfortable with the natural breeze and commercial fans last summer.

**who lives here?**

Architect David Weir, his partner Zac Carboon and their Kerry Blue terrier Handoko. [Davidweirarchitects.com](http://Davidweirarchitects.com)

**1 Home design** "We just wanted to make it simple. Houses are for living in and not showing off," David says. Furniture and objects throughout the home have been found or passed down to David and Zac, who both love preloved pieces with a real story or nostalgia.

**2 Green ethos** "Something that I keep working on is the attitude to eco, where you don't force a new way of living on people, but just make sensible decisions from the get-go. Basic things like where windows are positioned, where your sunlight and breezes come from, and what kind of materials you use."



**Hello sunshine**

In the bedroom, a 2m picture window ensures morning light hits the bright yellow built-in wardrobe as a wake-up call for David and Zac. →

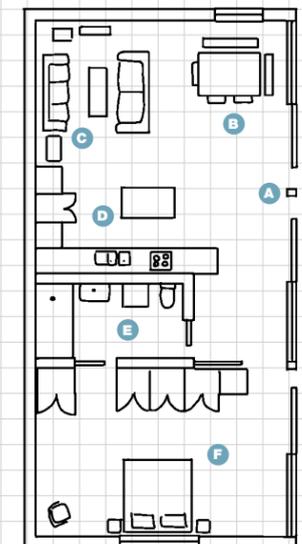


While the house is pared back, it certainly isn't clinical or cold. And while it has an industrial feel to it, you couldn't classify it as that. David and Zac have chosen materials with a story and texture to cut the modernity of the structure and give it an identity of its own. "You can see in the concrete where the guys have dropped a nail and you can see on the floor where someone has screed it by hand – there is motion and waves. And there are jarrah doors at the front rather than aluminium. So, there is heart and texture and warmth, which I think is incredibly important," David says.

Adding to the relaxed feel is the use of colour. Gum-leaf-green cabinetry in the kitchen plays down the industrial feel of the space. In the bathroom/laundry, bright blue cabinetry is a play on traditional wetroom hues. A yellow wardrobe in the bedroom is the ultimate wake-up colour. "The sun comes through the window and punches on to the wardrobe and lights up the room – it's a joy to wake up in there," David says.

David and Zac share the philosophy of a house only needing to be big enough for its intended use. And, the couple certainly live by their philosophy. Their home consists of one 90-sq-m room, with the addition of a bedroom and bathroom. "If Zac is in the bedroom watching TV and I'm out in the living area, it's still too big – we have to call to each other," David says. "You wouldn't think the house is only 13m long, but it is. The windows open out to the breezes and the trees – it makes the house feel huge." ❏

floorplan *alice gleadow*



**KEY**  
**A** Entrance  
**B** Dining  
**C** Living room  
**D** Kitchen  
**E** Bathroom / Laundry  
**F** Bedroom



**Colour code**  
The neutral floors and walls are broken by strong colours in cabinetry and furnishings, such as these funky yellow Naoshima stools from S&M Mobilia.



**PAINTS**  
**WALLS** Dulux Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology in **Lexicon Half**, \$74.95 for 4L.  
**LAUNDRY** Dulux Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology in **Blue Sail**, \$85.95 for 4L.

LEXICON HALF  
BLUE SAIL

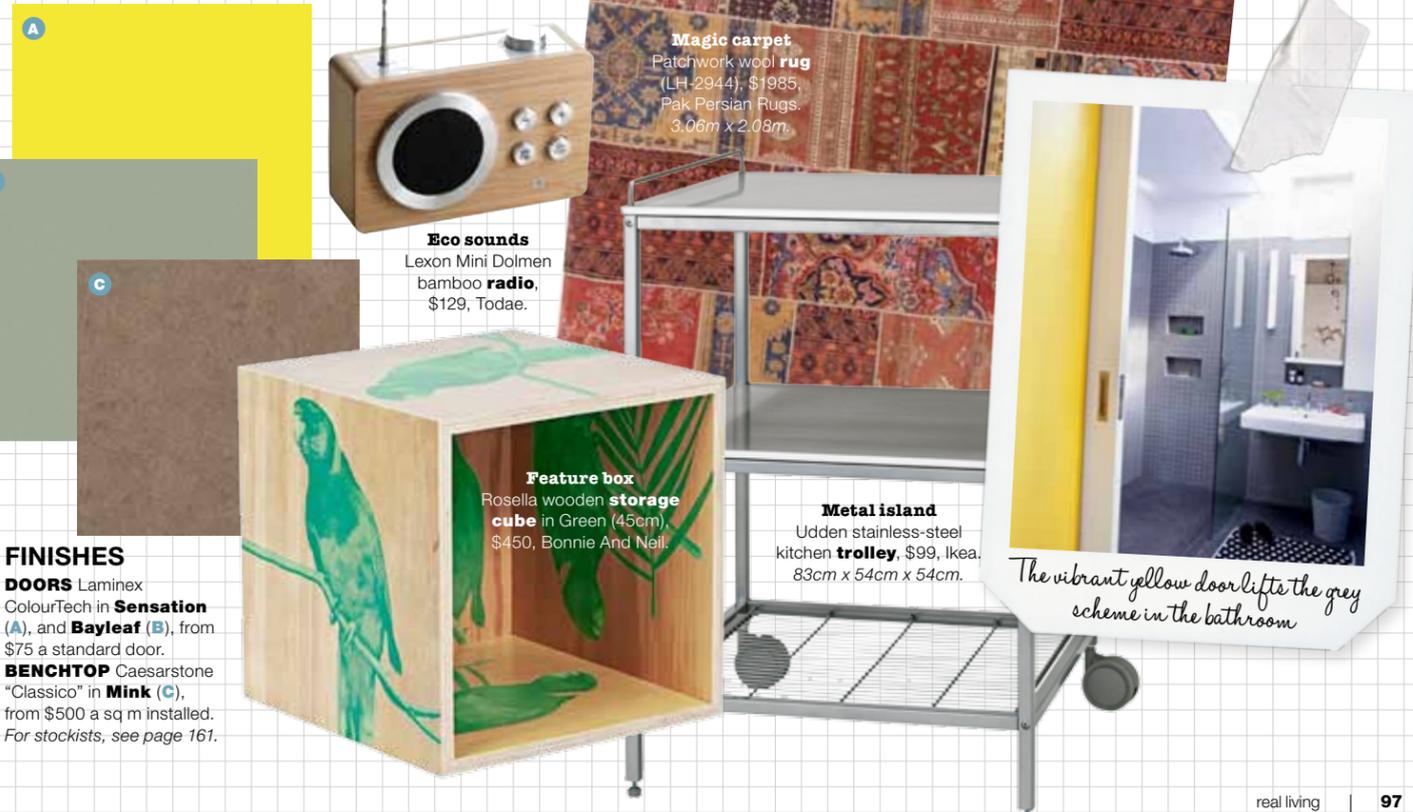
**Lightbulb moment**  
Muuto "E27 Socket" light in Black, \$129, Nordic Fusion.

**Milk maid**  
Spun milking stool in Custard Yellow, \$550, Workshopped. Made from high-grade steel and recycled wood.

**Continental style**  
Frenchie 2.5-seat sofa in Scooter fabric in Highlighter, \$699, Freedom. 1.71m x 90cm x 80cm.

**Form & function**  
David loves this *Mess Time* sculpture by Christopher Yue on the wall. It adds a bit of quirky functional sculpture to the bedroom.

**DAVID'S MOODBOARD** Contemporary architecture punctuated with colour & vintage finds



**Magic carpet**  
Patchwork wool rug (LH-2944), \$1985, Pak Persian Rugs. 3.06m x 2.08m.

**Eco sounds**  
Lexon Mini Dolmen bamboo radio, \$129, Todaye.

**Feature box**  
Rosella wooden storage cube in Green (45cm), \$450, Bonnie And Neil.

**Metal island**  
Udden stainless-steel kitchen trolley, \$99, Ikea. 83cm x 54cm x 54cm.

The vibrant yellow door lifts the grey scheme in the bathroom

**FINISHES**  
**DOORS** Laminex ColourTech in **Sensation (A)**, and **Bayleaf (B)**, from \$75 a standard door.  
**BENCHTOP** Caesarstone "Classico" in **Mink (C)**, from \$500 a sq m installed. For stockists, see page 161.

photography angelita bonetti (lifestyle shots) | still-life styling tahnee carroll