



~a homemaker's tale from start to finish~

FOLLOW INTERIOR STYLIST AIMEE AND BUILDER FRANK AS THEY
CREATE THEIR NEW FAMILY HOME FROM THE GROUND UP

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HOME BEAUTIFUL FIRST met interior stylist Aimee Tarulli, her builder husband, Frank, and their baby son, Leo, back in 2014, when their first family home was featured in that year's September issue. Fast forward three years. Leo is now four, he has a little sister, Rosie, two, and the young family is about to embark on their next big journey – the construction of their second home on a vacant parcel of land in bayside Melbourne. “We’ll be going from a compact townhouse to a two-storey family house,” reveals Aimee. “We’re not going to know ourselves, having so much more space!”

We’ll be following the family’s journey over the next few months in the pages of *HB*, as well as on our newly launched video web series *From House To Home Beautiful*, where you can watch their new home take shape from the ground up. Whatever unfolds, one thing is certain – the home is sure to hold a very special place in the family’s heart. “I have a feeling this house will be one we’re going to find very hard to ever leave behind,” says Aimee.

While building and renovating is always a challenge, Aimee and Frank have more practice than most; Frank co-owns Thomas Archer Homes, and Aimee is the company’s interior stylist. Along with Frank’s business partner Matt Daly, they have combined their talents to create beautiful display homes. See their latest project over the page and learn how they take inspiration from modern family living.



WHERE WE MET THEM We were first introduced to Aimee and Frank a few years ago when they appeared in *Home Beautiful* and showcased their newly renovated townhouse in Melbourne (above).



SHOW TIME

SEE HOW AIMEE AND FRANK HAVE TRANSFORMED A THOMAS ARCHER HOMES' DISPLAY HOME INTO A MODERN FAMILY LIVING SPACE



Aimee and Frank Tarulli and Matt Daly's know-how and decorating nous is showcased in the stylish yet family-friendly 'Neville Residence', one of Thomas Archer Homes' display homes, just 30 minutes outside of Melbourne. "We really wanted this home to be a reflection of the way a modern family would live and use the space," explains Aimee. "The design was carefully considered to allow a connection between the shared spaces, and to also give separate areas for a family of varying ages. The finishes have been selected to give a big wow-factor while keeping the budget affordable." Here, Aimee and Frank walk us through the show home, to explain how they designed living zones with easy functionality and a welcoming sense of style at their core.

"I LOVE *helping* PEOPLE TRANSFORM THEIR HOMES – IT'S THE *chance* TO GET ALL THE PUZZLE PIECES *working* TOGETHER" ~ AIMEE

KITCHEN "This kitchen really is the heart of the home," says Aimee. "It's large and open-plan and the island has been kept free of a sink so the room is the perfect space for entertaining." For the splashback (opposite), Aimee opted for marble mosaic tiles from Beaumont Tiles. "This is a more affordable way to get a big impact from a marble finish," she says. To bring a sense of drama to the kitchen, overhead joinery in Laminex Domain Riven was selected, contrasting with the 2-pac cabinetry in Dulux Casper White Half. Lit by a trio of Muuto 'Grain' pendants from Huset, the island – in Caesarstone Raw Concrete – lends organic appeal. The state-of-the-art black stainless-steel, 712-litre French-door LG fridge (right) with its door-in-door panel adds to the contemporary feel.

FAMILY ROOM Taking full advantage of the lush garden outlook, the open-plan living area (above) is made for laid-back family time. A comfy 'Harvey' sofa and 'Ivy' coffee table from Grazia & Co is joined by a Jardan 'Wilfred' chair. The sleek Globe West 'Loft 2' entertainment unit was chosen for its compartmentalised versatility, while the Halcyon Lake rug amps up the room's comfort factor. >



ARTWORK (TOP) KERRY ARMSTRONG



GROUND FLOOR Aimee has filled the entire home with a collection of timeless furnishings. “I don’t tend to follow the latest trends, or go for anything too crazy or out there,” she says. Walls painted in Dulux Casper White Half provide a neutral backdrop throughout the house, while Storey Floors engineered oak flooring in Cloud grounds the downstairs (above). “We always advise clients to invest in good-quality flooring like this,” says Aimee. “It has such a beautiful natural finish and helps soften the stronger elements in the home.”

“MY PERSONAL STYLE IS
FAIRLY *minimal* BUT WITH
A SOPHISTICATED USE OF *colour*
AND A BIT OF A *playful* EDGE” ~ AIMEE

STUDY An evocative piece by artist Ali McNabney-Stevens entitled ‘Moving Study’ claims pride of place in – surprise! – the study (left). The functional space is anchored by a custom desk with deep drawers in Laminex Domain Riven, teamed with a GlobeWest ‘Charlotte’ chair in Woven Putty and an iconic ‘Eggcup’ stool by Mark Tuckey.

FORMAL LIVING The formal living room at the front of the home is, says Aimee, “the perfect place to steal some quiet time with a good book” (opposite). The powdery hues of the Bent Design Studio ‘Freddy’ sofa in Cloud (from Huset) works in harmony with the Freedom ‘Orissa’ rug and a Harpers Project marble coffee table, all injecting a sense of elegance. The Sketch ‘Duo Bookshelf’ from Clickon Furniture keeps the focus on favourite collectables while adding an element of fun.

ARTWORK (TOP) KERRY ARMSTRONG



the interior stylist



AIMEE'S FIVE TIPS TO
MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

- 1 When building or renovating, consider your furniture plan right at the initial design phase. A room that's too large or small may be difficult to style.
- 2 Choose materials that you really love and that also will reflect your personal style.
- 3 Select your finishes with practicality in mind. For example, you can keep rooms clutter-free with space-saving solutions inside your cabinets. Look to Blum for a range of functional drawer fittings.
- 4 Resist the temptation to buy new everything. A true home should tell the story of its owners and include a collection of pieces collected throughout their journey.
- 5 Invest in good kitchen design. A great layout that works for your family, and quality appliances, such as the LG fridge used in this display home, will make life easier in the long run. >



ENTRY The home's clever design ideas really begin to unfold when you step inside the front door. "When you walk in, you're met with a soaring void that spans up to the first floor," says Aimee. "The sense of height and scale this brings to the home gives it impact." Aimee is also an advocate of contemporary art, such as this bold abstract piece in the entry – a limited-edition 'Share A Sky' print by Kerry Armstrong. "It's the perfect complement to the home's architectural features and stronger colours," she says. The eye-catching replica Lindsey Adelman 'Bubble 7' chandelier from Lucretia Lighting suspended above the void becomes a brilliant first impression and talking point.

"WE BOTH *share* A REAL LOVE FOR WHAT WE DO, AND WE CAN *always* FALL BACK ON EACH OTHER FOR *ideas* AND GUIDANCE" ~ FRANK

MAIN BEDROOM Sheer floaty linen drapes by Lynch's Window Fashions infuse the main bedroom with a tranquil vibe (below & opposite). Adding to the feel of a five-star hotel in the roomy parents' retreat is the partially open ensuite (below). "Stained cedar battens separate the two rooms and give the bedroom a very luxurious feel," says Aimee. In the ensuite, a sculptural 'Aura 1800' freestanding bath from Caroma embodies the entire home's pared-back but contemporary style, as do the oversized concrete-look porcelain tiles from Beaumont Tiles. "They give the bathroom a real sense of luxury," says Aimee. In a cosy corner, a black velvet 'Coco' lounge chair and a 'Suki' side table, both from Clickon Furniture, make a stylish double act, but it's the oversized 'Mont Kip' artwork by Kerry Armstrong that packs a characterful punch above the bed.



The builder



FRANK'S FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR BUILDER WHEN DESIGNING YOUR DREAM HOME

- 1 How can the design best capture the orientation of the block to allow optimum natural light and the most aesthetically pleasing outlook?
- 2 Realistically, will the design meet the set budget, or will compromises need to be made?
- 3 Will each area within the house adequately cater for the way the home will be used?
- 4 How will the family grow into the house in years to come? For example, will spaces designed to suit a toddler later still suit a teenager needing their own zone?
- 5 Will the home be a true reflection of its owners' personal style? **hb**