

THE *hygge* EFFECT

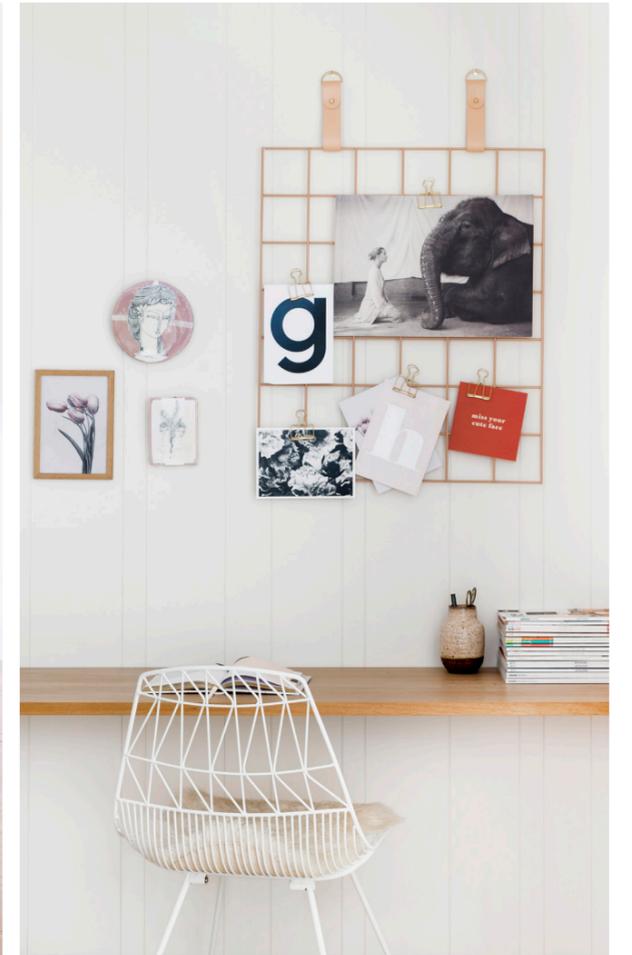
A calm, cosy feel pervades this Sunshine Coast home – layered in muted, creamy tones and accented with a touch of brushed gold and blush.

PHOTOGRAPHY MINDI COOKE / WORDS + STYLING KYLIE JACKES





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 "The 'Tuscan Dawn' island
 benchtop in the kitchen is my favourite
 feature in the house."



Even in winter, it rarely gets bitterly cold on Queensland's Sunshine Coast – yet when designing her home, Hailey McGinty wanted to evoke a sense of *hygge* (Danish for 'cosiness' and comfort) often associated with cool-climate Scandinavian interiors. "I wanted it to feel like a warm hug when you walked through the door," she reflects. The key to creating such a look into the subtropics was a cohesive palette of finishes with gentle tones and textures that imbue softness and comfort, in every room.

With a love of interiors and innovation, Hailey McGinty and partner Glenn Wilkinson were also keen to create an entirely different feel to their previous home, where black featured heavily – inside and out. "From the outset, I called this place, 'The White House'. But during the design phase, it actually became more cream, and I managed to sneak in quite a bit of pink," says Hailey, who's also the founder of lifestyle and interiors company H&G Designs.

After enlisting the expertise of architectural designer Danuza Rogers, the concept for the exterior became 'Palm Springs' – with timber-look aluminium walls and breeze-block features, injecting a modernist vibe. To

maximise the compact, narrow block, the house was designed over two floors – rooms for guests on the lower level; the kitchen, living room and master bedroom on the upper floor; plus a spiral staircase leading to a rooftop alfresco area overlooking a nearby canal.

Inside, the kitchen set the tone for the surrounding spaces. "I like trying out new materials, and when I was choosing the benchtop, the latest Caesarstone colours had just come out. I fell in love with a shade called 'Tuscan Dawn'. The moment I saw it, I knew it was 'it,'" says Hailey. The finish carries from the kitchen to the bathroom vanities, and through to a custom console Glenn made for the entry, using offcuts.

As the true heart of the home, it was also important that the kitchen felt very open and inviting, which Hailey admits was a challenge while working with such a compact floor area. The solution was to forgo overhead cabinets in favour of a hidden walk-in pantry, and create a feature splashback that ran to the ceiling. The Rockcote 'Marrakesh' render in a custom colour forms a stunning textural backdrop – not only to the kitchen, but also to the adjoined living area, where accessories and furnishings collect the dreamy beige and blush tones. >

KITCHEN The kitchen feels like a seamless extension of the adjoining living areas: The central island, topped in 'Tuscan Dawn' Caesarstone, teams with OZ Design barstools to form a casual spot to eat. To achieve the desired look, Hailey had the tops of the original stools reupholstered in leather-look Warwick fabric.

On the wall – a two-tier leather-strap shelf by H&G Designs creates a space to display greenery and OMMO kitchenware.

STUDY NOOK Glenn created a multifunctional study nook using an H&G grid board and floating blackbutt timber.



COSY LIVING Texture is also abundant in the living area, with the leather sofa from Freedom adorned in cushions and a blush throw from Adairs. Hailey and Glenn created their own custom pieces, including a coffee table inlaid with glass and Caesarstone, and a suede magazine holder. Chair from Adairs; prints on the wall from Etsy; rugs from Armadillo&Co and The Rug Collection.

CALIFORNIA VIBES Modern, minimalist breeze-blocks and timber details are teamed with simple succulents and pebbles to channel the 'Palm Springs' vibe. To reduce maintenance, the couple opted for an innovative product called Knotwood – aluminium boards which evoke the look and feel of genuine timber. "We opted for the colour, iroko, which tied in with our scheme, while adding warmth to the minimalist façade."



Cozy space

MASTER BEDROOM Simple and serene, the bed is dressed in layers of linen from Cultiver; a bedskirt from House of Baltic Linen; and cushions from various places, including Città and Sea Tribe. Below the window, a comfy bench seat is adorned in cushions from Adairs. Art prints from Norsu Interiors and Blacklist; trio of Menu pendants from Designstuff; leather-strap shelf from H&G Designs.



< The couple's familiarity with the building industry and tools inspired a swathe of bespoke elements: The upper balustrade was custom-fabricated in perforated aluminium that was anodised for a soft-gold look – tying in with the brushed, rose gold tapware. Cupboards and drawers feature H&G suede-strap handles, while bed-sides are flanked by H&G leather-strap shelves. And to save time and money, Hailey and Glenn laid the white-washed blackbutt timber floor themselves, having family help out when installing the textural Easycraft random profile wall panels.

Thrilled with the result, the couple couldn't be happier with their "creamy-white house".

"Because it's just Glenn and I, everything we need is on one main level. So it's really easy living, and has ended up feeling quite cosy and pretty," says Hailey. What could be better?



GUEST BEDROOM Natural sunlight teamed with a dreamy colour palette makes the guestroom glow. On the wall, Cass Deller 'Cast' and 'Sundance' prints (available through H&G Designs) sit atop a gold 'ledge' shelf, also from H&G Designs. Easycraft walls painted in Dulux 'Parchment Paper' colour add texture, as does the luxurious bed topped in linen and cushions from Adairs, Kate & Kate, Norsu, and H&G Designs.

ROOFTOP (PICTURED OPPOSITE PAGE) A sofa from the Outdoor Furniture Specialists, topped with cushions from Adairs, sets a stylish tone for rooftop alfresco entertaining.



POSITIONED ON A NARROW BLOCK OF LAND, HAILEY AND GLENN HAVE MADE USE OF EVERY SQUARE METRE WITH A ROOFTOP BALCONY.

COLOUR PALETTE



Style
TO STEAL

Embrace your inner hygge this winter with these warming finds with a Scandinavian design influence.

PENDANT LIGHTS Menu 'Tied' pendants in white, taupe and carbon \$160 each theminimalist.com.au / **PRINT** 'Cast' print (30 x 40cm) \$50 handgdesigns.com / **STRAP SIDE TABLE** H&G Designs strap side table in mushroom suede \$190 handgdesigns.com / **CUSHION** Città 'Mural' hand woven cotton cushion cover \$69.90 cittadesign.com / **GRINDERS** Menu 'Norm' bottle grinder 2-pack \$139.95 huntingforgeorge.com / **MIRROR** Middle of Nowhere 'Mira' round mirror in rust (45cm diameter) \$209 lifeinteriors.com.au / **COFFEE TABLE** James Lane 'Daintree' coffee table with marble top in chalk \$599 jameslane.com.au / **ARMCHAIR** Home Republic 'Plantation' chair in ash \$699.99 adairs.com.au / **RUG** Armadillo&Co 'Sherpa Weave' rug in sand (1.7 x 2.4m) \$1,140 lifeinteriors.com.au / **BLUSH CUSHION** Weave Home 'Zoe' velvet cushion in blush \$79.95 norsu.com.au / **TABLE LAMP** Menu 'JWDA' concrete lamp \$430 arrivalhall.com.au / **POT** Tuscan Path 'Elementary' terracotta pot (28cm) \$19.05 bunnings.com.au