

IN THE PRESS REAL LIVING

UBABUB'S OWNERS NATASHA & DANIEL DUMAIS'S
MID-CENTURY MODERN HOME



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How do you gauge intelligent design? If it's the ability to stand the test of time, then this 1950s-designed modernist home in Heathmont, Vic, surrounded by a sprawling garden planted at its inception, fits the category. "We love the space, the serenity, we feel as though we are living in the time," homeowner Tash Dumais says. "And it's due to the really good design by the architect builder, who had a vision of what the house would be like once the surrounding trees grew."

When Tash and her husband Daniel first stepped into the vertical weatherboarded, set on one-third of an acre, eight years ago they were immediately attracted to the awe-inspiring views of the garden, the light flooding through the expansive windows and the sense of space. It helped that the era of the home also tied in with their love of mid-century design.

However, they still considered making a few changes, but not until they had lived in the house for a year in order to get a feel for it. "This was sound advice from good friends," Tash recalls. And it was a year later that the couple decided to simply renovate the kitchen and the bathroom, with the focus on improving the design using complementary fixtures and fittings. Other than that, many +



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Modern & Timeless

A light, airy and spacious modernist home surrounded by a magnificent garden ticks all the boxes for a young family.

Sense of space

This 1950s Melbourne house is a light, bright family home

Who lives here?

Ubabub nursery products directors, Natasha (Tash) and Daniel Dumais; children, Bianca, 4, and Sabine, 1; and Labrador Milo, 8.

Ubabub.com; Magneticdesign.com.au

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1. Zero to hero When decorating your home, choose a hero piece for each room and build around it, Tash suggests.

2. Mix it up “Don’t be afraid to mix and match old and new pieces.”

3. Happy marriage Embrace colour and texture for a vibrant and interesting home.

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However they still considered making a few changes, but not until they had lived in the house for a year in order to get a feel for it. “This was sound advice from good friends,” Tash recalls. And it was a year later the couple decided to simply renovate the kitchen and the bathroom, with the focus on improving the design using complementary fixtures and finishings. Other than that, many original features remained including the dramatic timber-slatted feature ceiling in the living area, which gives the room a sense of space, scale, warmth and texture.

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Once the renovations took place, the couple brought their design nous to the interior. “The design and decoration of the home has been inspired by the beauty of the space itself, and my love of design and beautiful pieces,” Tash explains. “My design approach is quite intuitive. I’ve got a pretty keen eye for what I like and dislike – and can hunt it down from a mile away!”

The exterior was painted in a custom-tinted grey, based on Dulux “Fauna” but imbued with more warmth, and the interior in Dulux “Arctic White”. The deliberately neutral colour scheme was selected to offset and complement the view through the myriad windows of the lush natural greens, browns and greys of the foilage outside. A splash of colour in artwork, posters and furniture pieces added a sense of vibrancy, warmth and energy to what has now become a family home, with the additions of young daughters Bianca and Sabine – and Labrador Milo, of course. The subtle complementary changes to the property have no doubt enhanced it’s timeless appeal. It continues to be a case of intelligent design. Top marks!

Who you know

The beauty of parents owning a nursery furniture store is the kids can test the products! Sabine sleeps in Ubabub’s “Nifty Clear” cot, inspired by mid-century modern design.

Sleep tight

A modern-look cot that converts to a toddler’s bed. Clear sides to easily check on bubba. Pod Cot, \$1899 (plus \$199 for the optional bed conversion) ubabub.com.