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Architecture power couple Jeremy Bull and Tess Glasson's home in Sydney's

HOME FRONT

Bondi Junction embraces the highs and lows of family life over eight levels



"Irregular collections around a classic table – what could be better?" says Bull of the mix of chairs around the Eero Saarinen tulip table.

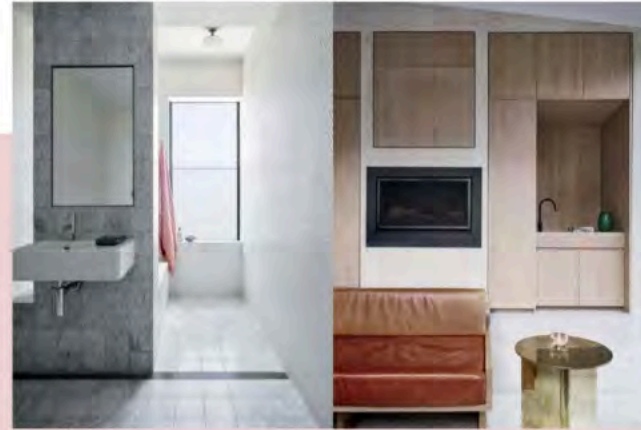
Work-life balance at Jeremy Bull and Tess Glasson's home has flown out the window completely. "Work-life integration is more our thing," says Bull. The principal architect at Alexander & Co and his wife, PR and marketing director at the same practice, have spent the past seven years in a perpetual state of design as they renovated their Bondi Junction home in three stages. For the Sydney-based couple, the project was all about carving out a sense of perfect imperfection for themselves, their four boys (twins aged nine, and a six- and four-year old) and pet

dog. Within the geometric framework, the question of where the workday starts and ends doesn't really come up. "The divisions aren't clear, nor do we usually need them to be. We are quite happy just doing what we do," Bull says.

They bought the terrace house in 2010 when the twins were newborns, and Bull says it was a real "doer-upper". Glasson loved the location: "Walking distance to everything – that's what's important to our family." The second renovation took place in 2014, and the latest extension was in winter 2018. Glasson says each new renovation has unfolded with each son. "Our home has grown



“ULTIMATELY, THE KIDS ARE ABSOLUTELY OBLIVIOUS TO THE DESIGN. BUT MAYBE TAKING THE IDEAS FOR GRANTED IS THE WHOLE POINT”



LUXE FAMILY LIFE

PLAY

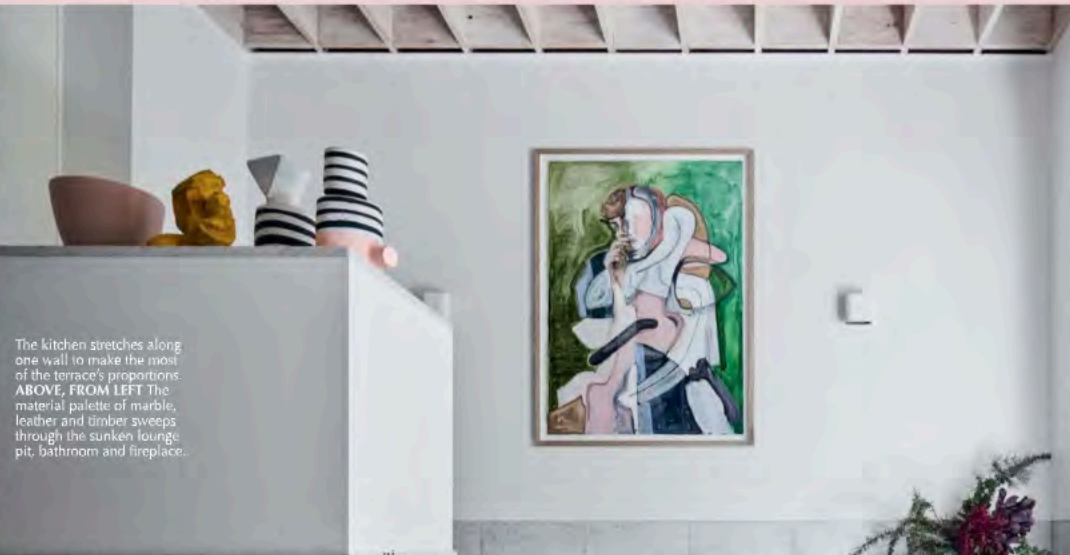
“We’ve given our big boys permission to turn their loft space into a soccer field, which has meant they respect the rest of the house rules (most days anyway) ... and our little boys are super creative – they love to find nooks and rooms and outdoor areas to call their own.”

MESS

“Beautiful, built-in joinery is so important. As long as everything is put away in its place at the end of the day, we are all happy!”

COLOUR

“We love colour ... sophisticated and muted. We like to collect furniture pieces that are beautiful and timeless and also do the work they need to. Our art collection is a mix of materials and artists that we’ve bought over the course of our lives together and before we met.”



The kitchen stretches along one wall to make the most of the terrace's proportions. ABOVE, FROM LEFT The material palette of marble, leather and timber sweeps through the sunken lounge pit, bathroom and fireplace.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANSON SMART STYLING BY CLARE DELMAR TEXT BY ANNA MCCOKE

with us. It's so specific to our needs, which makes living in it more special.”

Living within the design that consumed them, surrounded by tailored geometries and an edited materiality, architecture has absorbed into every day. Bull and Glasson eschewed the usual open-plan design in favour of an unorthodox arrangement of irregular spaces scaling eight-level changes. The flexible floor plan is constantly adapting to the will of both parents and kids. “The house is full of noise and movement,” says Bull. “It oscillates between football field and sanctuary and everything in between.”

Now her favourite feature, Glasson needed convincing over the sunken lounge pit. “I love the connection it brings to our backyard and it's the perfect place for the six

of us to sit together and hang out,” she says. In the kitchen, it was her idea to forgo an island bench to gain a peaceful “white space” (which doubles as a handball court).

Bull describes the aesthetics as, “Scando wabi-sabi, if there is such a thing.” The couple filled the space with furniture they find beautiful and functional. Their art collection adds life. “They are all super-special pieces that still make me feel something every time I look at them,” says Glasson. With their four boys, Bull concedes there are times when the vision and reality don't align. “But, really, I love how lived-in it all is,” he says. “There is a poem I gave my mother about 35 years ago about handprints on the walls and how they will fade and be missed one day – I guess I feel the same way.”