



ABOVE The sofa, orange chair by Yngve Ekström, rug and artworks made the trip from Sydney. The Noblett sideboard and bookshelves were then picked up in the Adelaide Hills; the vintage sofa and coffee table were eBay finds; while the vintage nest of tables came from One Small Room in Croydon. Brian's mum made the cushions from fabric he picked up on his travels to Indigenous communities.

LEFT The playroom door is flanked by Pandanus Fish Trap by Lorna Jin-gubrarrangunja, an Eames LCW chair and paintings by Phillip Watkins and Mantua James Nangala.

You get the sense that Brian Parkes is still pinching himself. Less than two years ago, the 41-year-old director of the JamFactory and his wife Imogen Landau, 36, a freelance graphic designer, were

living in a two-bedroom apartment in Sydney's Surry Hills with a toddler and a second baby on the way.

While they enjoyed their inner-city lifestyle and rewarding careers, they had entered a new life stage and realised it was time for a change. They decided to move interstate rather than to Sydney's outer suburbs.

When Adelaide's JamFactory advertised for a new director in late 2009, Brian saw an opportunity to bring his experience in contemporary art and design to a nationally renowned, unique organisation. He applied, and won the role, knowing only two things about Adelaide: it gets very hot and the food is great.

Now, just under a year since he and Imogen moved with kids Luca, 3, and Mara, 18 months, into the family's dream home in Adelaide's southern foothills, Brian is filled with enthusiasm, not only

Brian loves the airy home, while son Luca likes the fact that toy cars go fast on the Mintaro slate floors. The mid-century dining table and chairs have found the perfect new home; the wood panelling and cabinetry are all original.



SIMPLY PERFECT

A 'home among the gum trees' is a welcome change of pace for this design-driven family

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for their new home, but also for their new town.

“When we catch up with old colleagues and friends they ask, ‘Adelaide? Why Adelaide?’” the former Sydneysider says with a wide grin. “And we say ‘Because it’s great!’ We’re unofficial ambassadors for this city.

“We just love where we are now,” he says. “We still can’t believe that we get to live in this architecturally designed home, surrounded by gums, only seven-and-a-half minutes from the beach and within cycling distance of work. You can achieve that in this town.

“We sit out here on the deck with a glass of wine, listening to the birds and watching the sun set over the water, and it just doesn’t get much better.”

Designed circa 1960 by “controversial local modernist architect” John S. Chappel, the cleverly conceived vintage-modern home was ahead of its time, boasting many of the features that savvy homebuilders seek now: separate wings for children and adults; space-saving built-ins; plentiful windows enabling effective cross-ventilation while capitalising on available light and stunning views; subtle aesthetics using local stone and timber; and – the jewel in this humble crown – a large internal courtyard with a vine-covered pergola that maximises the warming winter sun and cools the home in summer.

ABOVE The deck is the perfect place to sit and take in the surrounding bushland and the sea views beyond.

RIGHT Brian and Imogen commissioned local designer and JamFactory studio tenant John Quan to design and make their home office desk “to seem as if it had always been there”. The built-in bookcase is original, and two vintage Eames office chairs were sourced on eBay.



SPACE CHANGE OF PACE

“I love the movement of light through the day and the incredible sense of space and affinity with the seasons”



THIS PAGE The grapevine in the courtyard is “an incredible marker of the seasons”. Queenslander Alexander Lotersztain’s ‘Lerod’ chairs are easy to clean and dry quickly.

SPACE CHANGE OF PACE



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With their love of all-things modernist and their collection of mid-century modern furniture and contemporary and indigenous Australian art, the home looks like it has been specifically designed to fit the couple's brief. It was love at first sight for Brian, but it became a case of 'true love never runs smooth'.

Imogen explains that, on arriving in Adelaide, they rented a home in Walkerville. An architecturally designed, 1960s modernist home. "We found it so liveable that we Googled '1960s' and 'architect' and 'modern' to find something similar, and this home popped up," she says. "We drove out to see it via Mitcham, through the winding back roads, so it took ages to get there and felt so far away from everything."

The couple knew nothing about the area and, with the house going to auction only six days later, the pressure was on to make a quick decision. To complicate matters, Imogen had only just commenced driving lessons, so the home's location seemed potentially isolating. After "some very late, very anxious nights" the house was passed in at auction, buying the couple time to explore the area, negotiate the price and settle into their decision.

And they couldn't be happier. Far from feeling isolated, the family has embraced a new sense of community with neighbours who have become great friends. While Brian loves the "movement of light through the day and the incredible sense of space and affinity with the seasons", Imogen says it's "the little things" that make this house their perfect home. "It all works so well," she says. "Things are well-considered, in the right place, at the right height, and we can see the kids playing from almost every room."

"I've always talked about how good design can make you feel better," Brian says. "Living in this house, in this town, at this stage in our lives, has actually made us all happier people."

ABOVE Imogen and Mara prepare lunch in the kitchen, which overlooks the courtyard.

ABOVE RIGHT Mara and Luca play on a vintage bed made by Schulim Krimper for Imogen's grandparents. "It was my Dad's bed when he was a boy and he really wanted us to have it for Luca's room. It was freighted down from Sydney, together with the antique rocking horse in the playroom [see p106]," Imogen says. "It's lovely to have these connections with my family here in the house."

RIGHT The master bedroom features a painting by Clara Matjandatjpi (Wubukwubuk) and chair by designer Khai Liew.

