

FINDERS KEEPERS

A couple with a nose for the
extraordinary turn their talents
to an unexpected discovery.

WORDS
Holly Jean Brooker

PHOTOGRAPHY
Alice Veysey





STACEY PYNE HAS A MYSTERIOUS TALENT FOR FINDING treasure, even when she isn't looking. It's this innate ability to stumble across great riches that led to the discovery of her family's dream home.

Stacey and her husband Jake had just finished a renovation on a Mount Maunganui pad, a project that had been all-consuming. Having invested years into the revamp, it felt like their forever home and seemed the ultimate fit. Stacey says she'd believed they'd stay put for the foreseeable future: "I'd poured my heart and soul into it." But a random online search was to change her mind.

"If I'm completely honest, I think I had been feeling a little itchy because our project was complete; I was ready to work on styling a new space," recalls Stacey. "When I came across this house, I knew almost straight away that things were going to change." ▷

ENTRANCE Meet the Pynes: Stacey, Jake and their children Milla, Hayes and Ari. **KITCHEN** The large chef's kitchen is ideal for this couple, who regularly entertain, and includes open shelving that showcases their collectables. Extending into the living area, its cypress accents and oak flooring create a calming Scandinavian vibe. Above a timber cabinet in this zone is one of Jake's "controversial" taxidermy finds.



"It was so perfect for us in so many ways, it was almost as though it had been designed and built with us in mind."



That they did, and very quickly. Within just a few weeks, the Pynes found themselves moving their possessions into a new abode, ready to make it their own. In a refreshing change of pace, the year-old home didn't require renovating, just an injection of style to give it an edge. "It was so perfect for us in so many ways, it was almost as though it had been designed and built with us in mind," says Stacey. "I was very excited to move in our bits and pieces and make it our own."

To be fair, it'd be hard for someone not to fall in love with the Lawson-cypress-clad home designed by architect Will Tatton. Located near the Mount's surf beach, it has five bedrooms, two bathrooms and a theatre-like TV room with a bar. A staircase framed by a floor-to-ceiling window that highlights the established pohutukawa and puriri outside floats upstairs to the second storey, where the bedrooms seem to sit among the treetops. >

LIVING AREA "I love the concrete hippo that lives on top of our piano - we found it at Flotsam & Jetsam," says Stacey. But the charcoal Tufty-Time couch by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia "is probably my favourite thing in our house. We also love the swing seat from Nest." Meals are served at a Timothy John Splay table from Paper Plane, with Osso chairs by Mattiazzi from Simon James Design.



CORNER STORE In this nook Stacey mixed new artworks with old, including a “sunflower girls” print she found tucked down the back of her grandmother’s washing machine. “I layered some plant life in there, as well as an odd roaring tiger, a crying clown, a former doctors’ surgery lamp and lockers that have been around since our kids were little.”



Indeed, the home's tranquil setting provides the ideal environment for relaxing, as well as enjoying time with family and friends. Not that these two are known to rest on their laurels. Stacey and Jake own streetwear label Lower, women's basics brand Five Each and men's lifestyle brand On & On. Throw in their handful of Thanks retail stores and online vintage store Dusty, and it's fair to say they're as busy as it gets.

"I'm a full-time mum to our children," says Stacey, "but I also started a little side business a couple of years ago named Dusty, which was an extension of my love for creating beautiful spaces." It's proved a great excuse to pursue her passion for op shops, garage sales and treasure hunting, allowing her to pass on many of the retro collectables she digs up.

The couple's eye for quirky finds is evident throughout the home. Each has their own obsession. For Stacey, its greenery, >

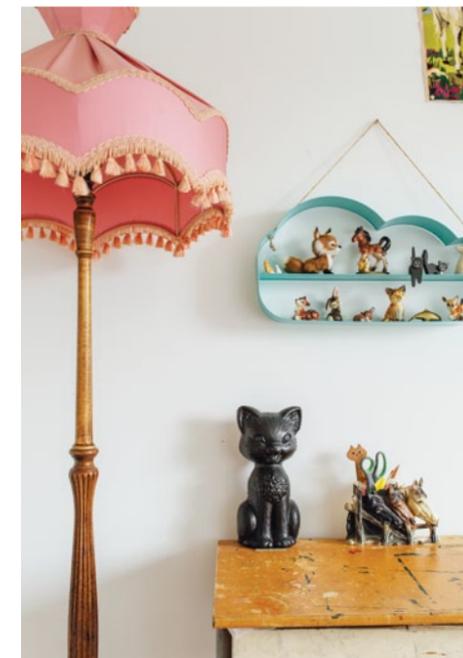
BATHROOMS Overlooking the garden, the upstairs ensuite (top) – accessed through a walk-in wardrobe – and main bathroom have an industrial feel. The freestanding bath was so heavy it had to be lifted into position with a crane.

MASTER SUITE Flourishing bursts of green freshen up the couple's bedroom; Stacey says she's big on Kmart for its affordable planters. Loving the leafy branches outside their space, the couple opted not to have curtains or blinds.



"The house has a gallery-like feel; it makes our things look even better than they did in our previous home."

“We’ve always been very playful with our home styling and don’t take it too seriously.”



hearts, animals and pretty pink pieces, whereas Jake has a hankering for the odd bit of taxidermy and anything to do with his favourite sport, fishing. “I’ve had so much fun working in a new space and creating somewhere that I just love to be,” says Stacey, who likes to mix vintage and contemporary pieces. “The house has a gallery-like feel; it makes our things look even better than they did in our previous home.”

The new house is open, bright and spacious, and this time, self-confessed hoarder Stacey says things will be different. “I’m trying to keep things more simple and not so cluttered. I really filled up our last home, which was fun, but I want to try something different this time around. Although it does seem to be getting busier and busier – once a collector always a collector, right?”

KIDS’ BEDROOMS Vintage pieces pepper the children’s spaces, where designer bed linen clashes in the best possible way with handcrafted coverings. Stacey says the kids are really benefiting from the new home’s beachy location. “We’ve been going on family bike rides and walks since moving here, down the boardwalk to the Mount or into town for dinner – the kids love it. Jake and the boys have also been loving walking down to go fishing off the rocks.”



EXTERIOR “This house feels like a tree house,” says Stacey. “In fact, there’s a little door in our ensuite that was built with the idea of making a rope bridge across to the actual tree house outside – illegal, but fun!” The kids enjoy climbing the trees and playing soccer on the back lawn and basketball out the front; they even have a skateboard ramp.

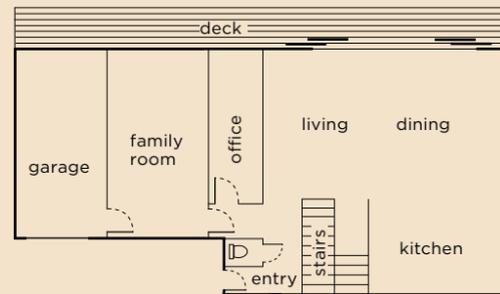
AT A GLANCE

The project: Clothing designers and retailers Stacey and Jake Pyne styled this five-bedroom Mt Maunganui house to suit themselves and their children Milla (11), Hayes (9) and Ari (7).

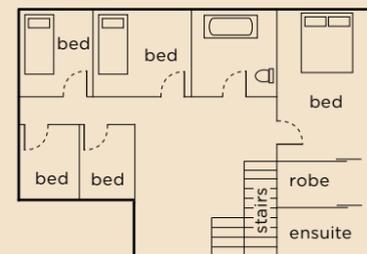
Stacey, what’s your style mantra? We’ve always been very playful with our home styling and don’t take it too seriously – in our old house we had a swing in the lounge and walls for the kids to write on.

What do you love about your outdoor area? It’s a bit like a secret garden. In downtown the Mount, where a lot of homes have little or no backyard, you just don’t expect it to be there. It’ll be amazing over summer for long afternoons spent outdoors and barbecues with mates.

Ground floor



First floor



DESIGN DETAILS

Vintage and modern become firm friends in a scheme in which the number-one rule is that each piece is beloved.



TOP, FROM LEFT Wall in Resene Half Rice Cake, resene.co.nz. *Sunkissed* photographic print by Hilde Mork, \$139, paperplanestore.com. Antique shark print, \$15, flotsamandjetsam.co.nz. Dome Basket pendant light, \$249, freedomfurniture.co.nz. **MIDDLE, FROM LEFT** Custom Splay table by Timothy John, POA, paperplanestore.com. Tiger jug by Quail Ceramics, \$55, ikoiko.co.nz. Ceramic planter by Gidon Bing, \$65, garden-objects.com. Osso chairs by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Mattiazzi, \$1312 each, simonjamesdesign.com. Float chair, \$899, nest-direct.com. **BOTTOM** Sheepskin rug, \$279, paperplanestore.com. Green Thumb planter, \$40, freedomfurniture.co.nz. Kentia palm, \$190, palmers.co.nz.