



smaller rooms housing an office, laundry and storage space, which came together in neutral, tonal textures. The building exudes character, and reflecting this in the updated – and understated – colour and material palettes was the cornerstone of the renovation’s success. “I knew I wanted to inject minimal colour but lots of texture, and took to carrying around a bag full of samples wherever I went to piece it all together,” says Jess. “It was a real jigsaw but I loved it.”

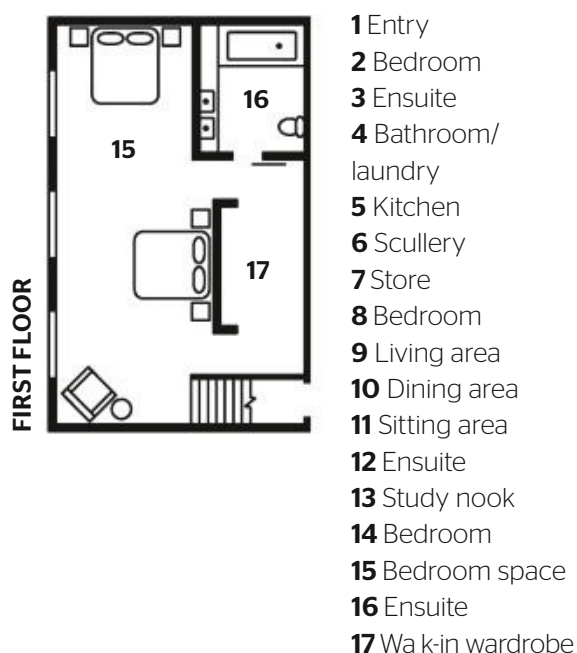
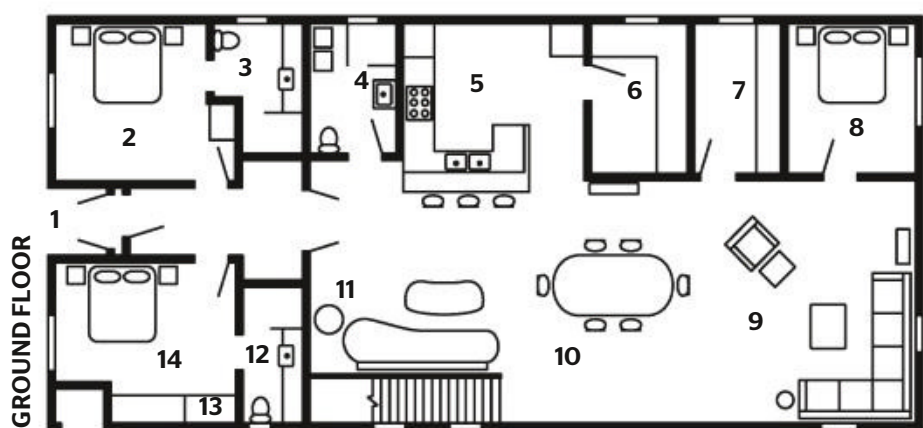
With the major chunk of the budget allocated to structural work, Jess was resourceful in terms of how she invested in the furniture and accessories, sourcing second-hand pieces wherever she could. The kitchen cabinetry was bought from her godparents in Northland, some sheets of brass were picked up from the demolition of a downtown bar, and furniture found on Trade Me was reinvented with some savvy DIY hacks. Smart workarounds meant the pair could save where they needed to in order to splurge on the more fundamental fittings and finishes.

With one eye on the future of the home, Jess selected many products for their timeless attributes. Online resources were incredibly helpful with this process – to a point. “Once I started bringing our materials together, I stayed away from social media,” explains Jess. “It was a very conscious uncoupling because it became important to distance myself from what other people were doing and find my own voice. Unlike at the beginning of the project, when I was sending poor Sam a Pinterest board every day, I stopped wanting to look online because I felt that phase of my inspiration had ended. The next part was just about how I felt when I looked at products together in real life. I think if you embrace that evolution and let go of the fear of doing something wrong, you’re more likely to enjoy the process and create something interesting that you love.”

Now that they’ve settled in, there’s a steady stream of visitors. “Having this place as a base is such a privilege,” says Jess. “My mum comes up from Christchurch to stay, Warren’s dad is often over from Great Barrier Island, and we currently have Warren’s brother living with us, too. The neighbours are always dropping by, and it’s so satisfying to share this space with our community.”

For now, the family can live comfortably without worrying too much about the next stage of the renovation, when their grand plan will be fully realised. But they’re in no rush for stage two. After spending four years on the tools, Jess and Warren are content where they are today, and happy to measure the next steps in decades. For now, they have all they need. **10**

Follow Jess and Warren’s renovation journey on Instagram @hallweneed. Dorrington Atcheson Architects can be found at daa.co.nz or @dorrington_atcheson_architects



- 1 Entry
- 2 Bedroom
- 3 Ensuite
- 4 Bathroom/laundry
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Scullery
- 7 Store
- 8 Bedroom
- 9 Living area
- 10 Dining area
- 11 Sitting area
- 12 Ensuite
- 13 Study nook
- 14 Bedroom
- 15 Bedroom space
- 16 Ensuite
- 17 Walk-in wardrobe



STUDY NOOK A quiet place for work and reflection. The chair is second-hand. Moda Capri herringbone-patterned floorboards, Forté Flooring. **SITTING AREA** (opposite) At the bottom of the renovated staircase, a sofa and ottoman by Isamu Noguchi have been reupholstered in Catherine Martin velvet fabric from James Dunlop Textiles. An ink drawing by Dominique Marriott hangs above an heirloom half-moon table. Fritz Hansen lamp, Nordic West. Vase, made by Jess. Print by Carlo Zinelli.

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**RENOVATION
CHECKLIST**

*Materials,
moodboards
& pantry
essentials*

DON'T MOVE. IMPROVE!
5 THINGS TO KNOW
BEFORE YOU EXTEND

BENCHTOP 101 CONCRETE, MARBLE, STAINLESS STEEL & TIMBER