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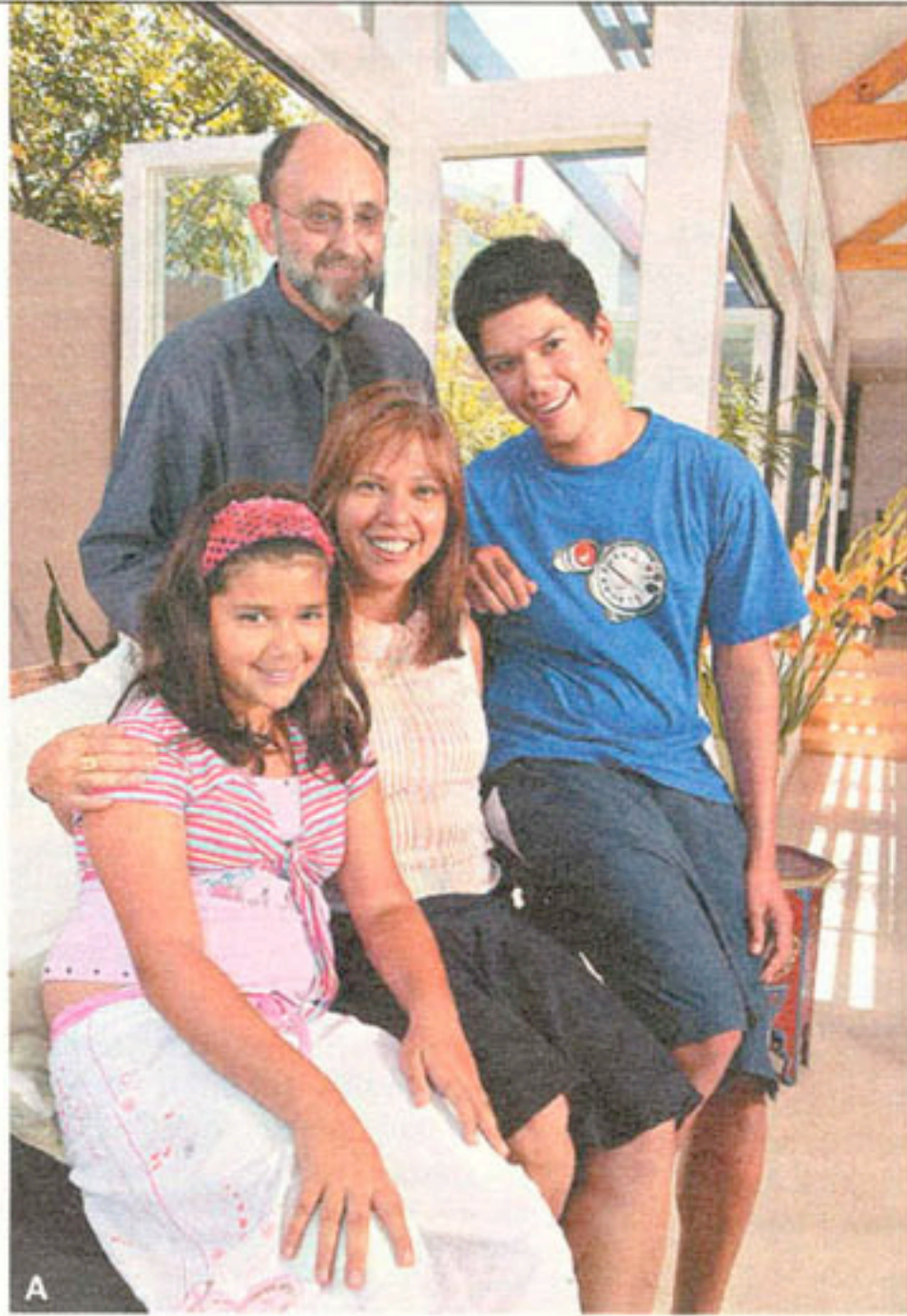
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Turning a new leaf

Heritage-listed bungalow's Balinese twist

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Double impact

After 18 years, it was time for a change. This Haberfield home now blends old and new – with a tropical touch, writes **Claire Bingham**. Photos **John Fotiadis**.



“I wanted to be able to walk in the house from any direction and be able to see water and the light reflecting off it”

RENOVATE

A house of two halves – literally, this heritage-listed property in suburban Haberfield was transformed by Steve Kennedy of Kennedy Associates Architects into a double-fronted home with a modern extension. Before the renovation, the turn-of-the-century house was dark and cramped – it now boasts ample space and is full of light. Home to Esther Mier, husband Paul Hannan and their children, Daniel, 16, and Shan-Lee, 10, the interior was increased to a three-bedroom, two-bathroom luxury home with a large, open-plan kitchen and lounge.

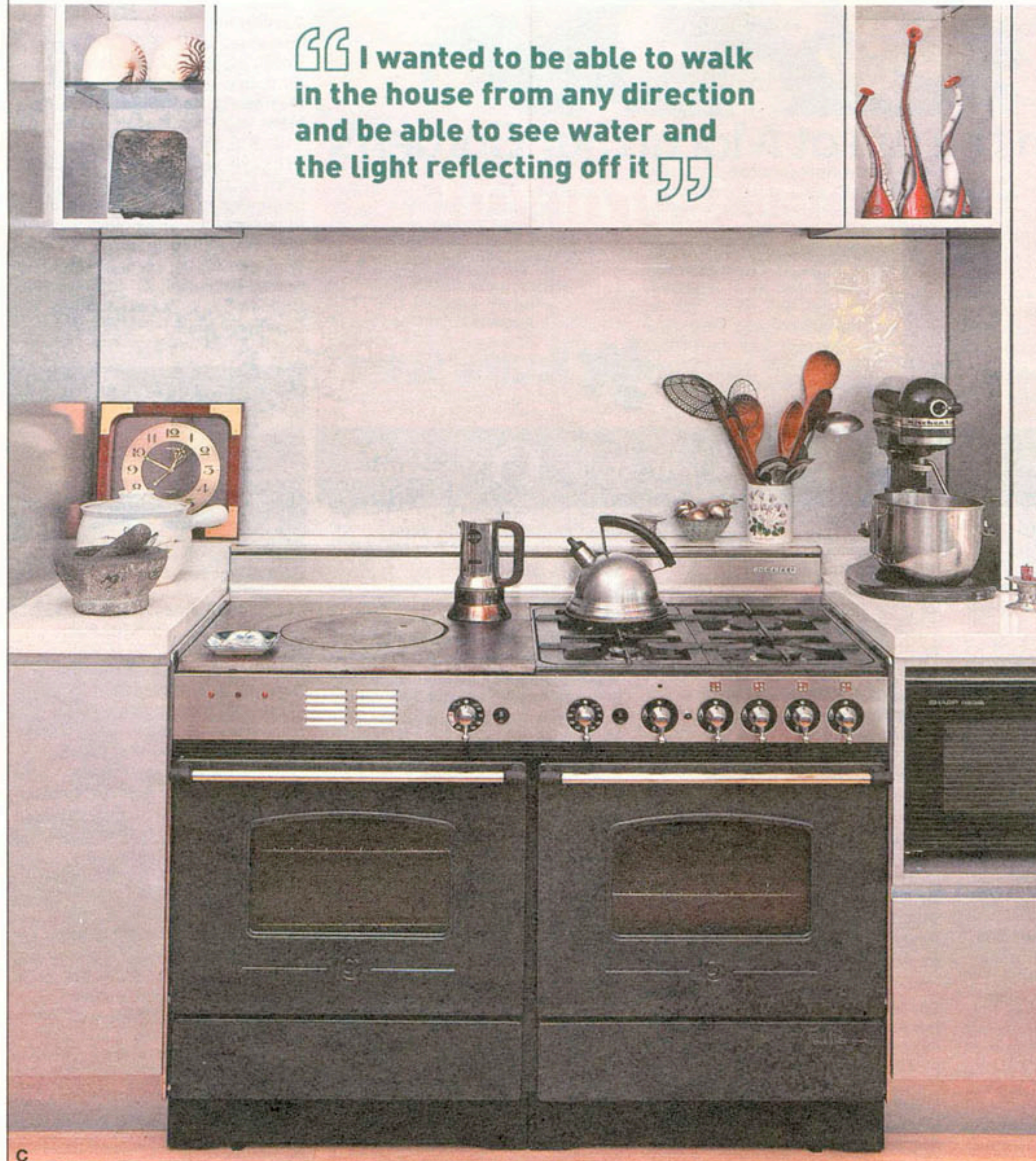
More than meets the eye

In keeping with the heritage requirements, the building remains faithful to the original style.

In fact, as you walk in the main entrance, the first two bedrooms running off the hallway haven't changed at all (apart from the free-reign graffiti-covered walls, courtesy of young Daniel's artistic talents). Period architectural detailing and plasterwork in tact, it's only when you reach the end of the hallway and slide open the white frameless top-hung door that you realise there's more to this house than meets the eye.

A combination of the old, the new and a bit of the tropical (the Baines handcrafted chairs and the statues are a key feature), the idea behind the renovation was to increase the interior size of the property, open up the space to maximise the light, and bring an element of water into play.

"That was a large part of the brief," says Esther. "I wanted to be able to walk in the house from any direction and be able to see water and the light reflecting off it. We were after a wide, contemporary





space with high ceilings. The potential with the land was always there, but the front of the house was just a huge driveway," she says.

"We wanted to utilise this available space and build on the house so we could live as a family with a bit more room to breathe. You could say we were a little crowded."

Old and new

Built on to the side and to the back of the property, the extension doesn't just provide additional space, but acts as a link between the old and the new.

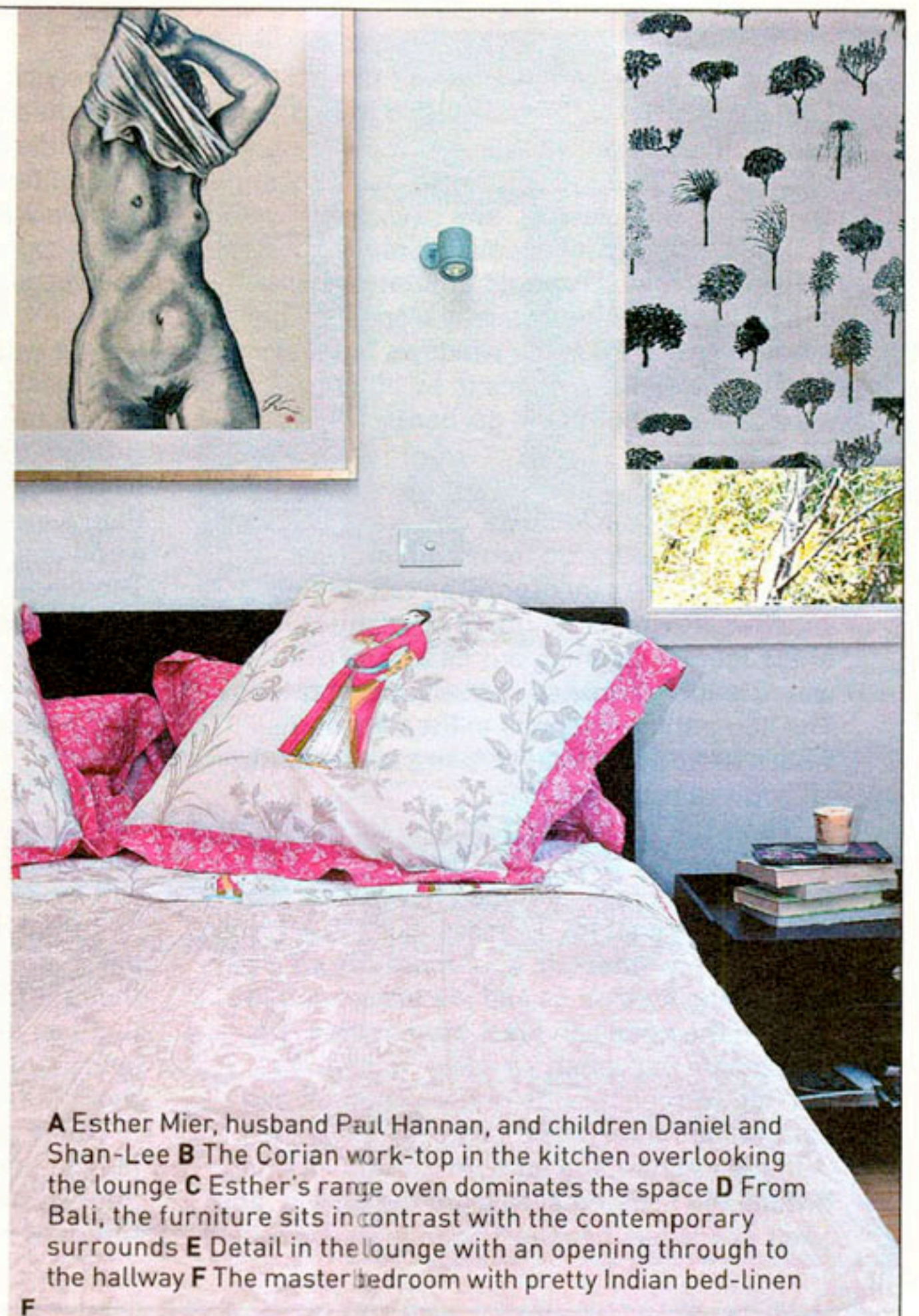
The extended strip running down the left of the house incorporates a TV room, bathroom (with sunken bath) and a master bedroom with ensuite.

The kitchen and lounge are linked by an innovative sliding door built into the wall that seamlessly opens on to the living area, allowing daylight to flood into the hallway and making the two spaces feel like one.

With the back section of the house requiring a total knockdown and refurbishment, it's hard to imagine that only two years ago the now warm and modern interior encompassed a small fibro kitchen and dingy bathroom.

Taking about a year and a half to complete, the old kitchen was gutted and replaced with the vast cathedral-beamed ceiling that stretches over the dining room, kitchen and lounge, culminating at an open balcony overlooking the garden.

"Friends can't get over how the house has changed. We've been living here for 18 years and this is a huge transformation," says Esther. "Originally I wanted something that was Balinese in feeling. I'm originally from Singapore and →26



A Esther Mier, husband Paul Hannan, and children Daniel and Shan-Lee **B** The Corian work-top in the kitchen overlooking the lounge **C** Esther's range oven dominates the space **D** From Bali, the furniture sits in contrast with the contemporary surrounds **E** Detail in the lounge with an opening through to the hallway **F** The master bedroom with pretty Indian bed-linen

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wanted to create something a bit tropical. That's when the cathedral ceiling idea came up in conversation with [architect] Steve. It was an idea he wanted to employ to visually create an open-looking space," she says.

"I was after having a pavilion feel at the back of the house, which would emulate the idea of having something casually tropical within a modern space. With the windows folding right back to the walls, it's nice to be able to stand here and look out to the garden."

Outside in

This whole indoor/outdoor feel was a primary factor in the redesign for architect Steve Kennedy. He has incorporated tall, folding windows down the length of the right-hand side of the lounge, opening out on to a carp-filled water feature adorned with Balinese statues. The same thing happens in the bathroom, where as you look out from the sunken bath, all you see is green.

"I love the whole aesthetics of the new design," says Esther. "The house was really dilapidated before, although having said that we did quite well for 18 years, but this is lovely. We certainly entertain a lot more. It's so nice to have the freshness and the breeze coming in from the open windows. My husband is a passionate gardener, so again, to have the outside coming in, was really important and something I think Steve captured really well."

In the kitchen, the smooth Corian work-top divides the cooking area from the lounge, and shelf space has been left open in favour of

entirely closed-off cupboard doors. The wall underneath the work-top in the lounge matches this with recessed cupboard space and shelves for additional storage.

"This was Steve's idea," explains Esther. "We wanted to utilise the wall space and be able to incorporate storage for my things. Within the kitchen I wanted to co-ordinate the same feeling with some open shelves, so the overall look wasn't too 'boxy'. I didn't want the kitchen to look too sterile."

Down the few stairs from the kitchen to the living and dining area, the refectory table was Paul's idea. It was converted from a slab of wood and made into a stunningly carved table. The equally curvaceous timber chairs sit against the honey-coloured bamboo floor – a favourite material of Paul's, and a feature running throughout the house from the floor to the landscaping at either side of the house.

Daniel's retreat

The curious graffiti-decorated hallway, which is very much in contrast to the rest of the house, will eventually be painted over, Esther admits.

"I think it probably needs to have a new paint job. We are planning to repaint, but thought for now it would give Daniel a chance to do as he will. His friends help him out every time they come round. Rest assured though, he's not one of those graffiti boys." Maybe more of an interior decorator in the making then. ■■



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MORE INFORMATION

■ Kennedy Associates Architects 51 Ne Annandale, 9557 www.kennedyassoc

G The original hallway graffiti-ed glory H T carved table and Ba in the lounge I Mode – the sunken bath ov bamboo garden



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