



PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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WORDS AND STYLING BY
AMY STARR

HOME:

CONSCIOUS CHOICE

This author's tree-change
inspired a more mindful
way of living

COUNTRY COOKS:
Walton brought a rural feel to the kitchen with timber and brass accents and barn lights



NESTLED AMONG GREEN HILLS and equine retreats, overlooking pretty Yarramalong Valley, north of Sydney, is the cedar cabin of author and owner of homewares line Imprint House, Natalie Walton. She lives on a sloping block, tucked out of sight from the quiet street below, with husband Daniel and children Charlie, 10, Sabina, 7, Isis, 5, and Miles, 2. "The house was such a big change from our life in Sydney, but we loved it instantly. Every day was such an adventure for the kids to explore the property," she explains.

The home, built in the '80s, needed only simple cosmetic tweaks when Walton took possession of it. The family neutralised the bold feature walls and added as much white as they could. Their most recent changes have been to the kitchen. "I try to take cues from the original style of the building and the local environment," says Walton. "We wanted to update the kitchen so it was in keeping with the rest of the house, and the country location. We added timber benchtops, aged brass handles, timber panelling and barn lights." >



Lamp, \$79, **DOMAYNE**, domayne.com.au



Stoneware container, \$69, **IMPRINT HOUSE**, imprinthouse.net



Cushion cover, \$123, **IMPRINT HOUSE**, imprinthouse.net



Clock, \$180, **LEFF AMSTERDAM**, designstuff.com.au



Blanket, \$369, **HALE MERCANTILE CO.**, halemercantilecolinen.com

Bar stool, \$450, **MCM HOUSE**, mcmhouse.com



Before she wrote her latest book – *This Is Home: The Art Of Simple Living* – for which she profiled chic abodes and their residents all over the world, Walton had a career working for interiors magazines, allowing her to accumulate a lot of homewares. “Since then, I’ve always been conscious of what I consume,” she explains. “Through my work, I’ve also been fortunate to visit many homes that are genuine and authentic, and not caught up in what’s trending. It’s a good reminder to focus on our own stories when creating a home, and a space that reflects our needs and interests. For her, those needs and interests result in a room that all four kids share, and family spaces that each centre around giant windows, looking out to the sprawling view outside. “Waking up to a panoramic view of the valley – and having a quiet moment before the busyness of getting four children ready for school – is such a beautiful way to start the day,” she says.



Print, \$140, PAPER COLLECTIVE, clickonfurniture.com.au



Side table, \$300, HURRY HOME FURNITURE, zanui.com.au



Sofa, \$2,950, MCM HOUSE, mcmhouse.com



NATURAL BEAUTY:
The feature wall was built using stone from a nearby river

Light, \$220, **MATT BLATT**,
mattblatt.com.au

Hanging chair, \$749,
UNIQUA FURNITURE,
interiorsonline.com.au



When she's not writing about other people's dwellings, Walton is busy running Imprint House, or opening up the IRL version, which is located in a converted barn near the house. "It feels like such a long time since I've specifically bought something for our home. Before we moved to the country, I went through our collections and we only packed what we truly loved. But some pieces do make their way up the hill from the shop. Sometimes practical, other times it's something more decorative like the Inongo baskets from Zimbabwe that we sourced from a women's craft group. I have such admiration for the skills of these women. We don't request particular styles, so it's always a great day unpacking the boxes from them to see what they've created," she says. >



Basket trio, \$95, **IMPRINT HOUSE**,
imprinthouse.net

VALLEY GIRL:
A perfect nook for Walton to take in the treescape (no TV necessary)



Stool, \$289, **MATT BLATT**,
mattblatt.com.au



Suitcase, \$99,
OLLI ELLA,
au.oliella.com

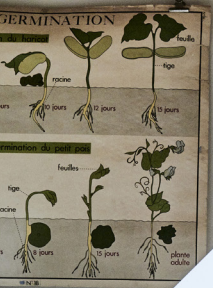


Cases, \$299 for set of two,
BELLE & CO LIVING,
designstuff.com.au



Though she is inspired by plenty of places and people, Walton says their style at home is dictated by life's practicalities. For her, design is instinctive. "I make decorating choices based on how I want my home to make me feel," she says. "After I had children, it was important that our home felt like a sanctuary. I applied the same philosophy to my wardrobe, too – all the colour and busy prints went in favour of a neutral palette and simple shapes. Now our home is a backdrop to our lives, and our children's personalities bring the colour and character." E

HARMONIOUS HUES:
Walton swapped bold feature
walls for a calmer,
cohesive palette





Bed, from \$649, THIS LITTLE LOVE,
thislittlelove.com.au

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Chair, \$911, CANE-LINE,
clickonfurniture.com.au



Basket, \$199, J'JUTE,
dunlin.com.au



Plate, \$39, IMPRINT HOUSE,
imprinthouse.net



Cushion, \$99, PONY RIDER,
ponyrider.com.au

