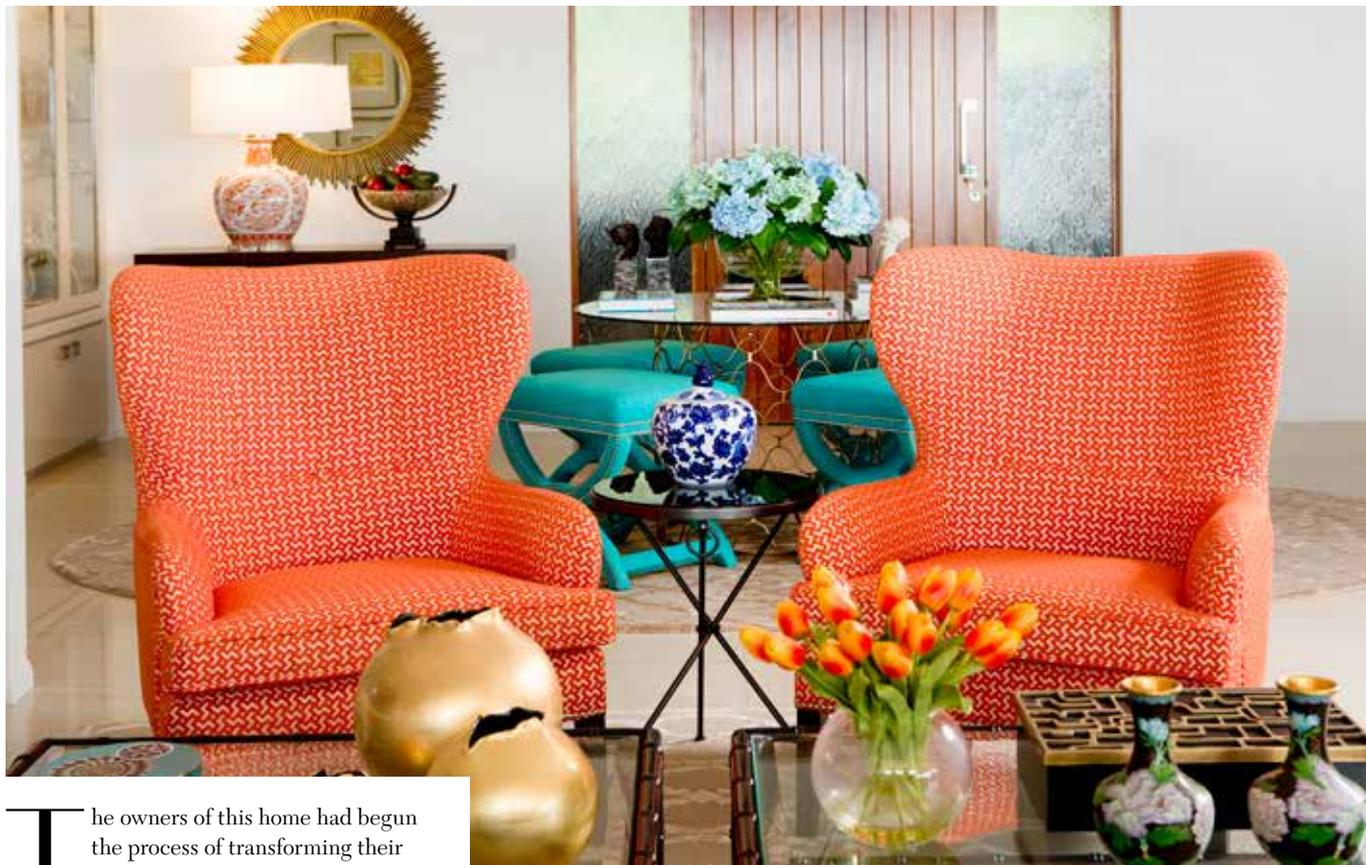


# Retreat to luxury

Located in the foothills of the Cairns rainforest, this home required an interior design that would honour, and not impede, the outstanding natural beauty outside.

PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN DOWNS



The owners of this home had begun the process of transforming their interiors with Lloyd Hodgkinson, Principle Designer from Oliver Mark Interiors, while he was still working with renowned Brisbane-based interior design firm John Croft Design. “I have been working on this project for the past four years and we’ve slowly worked through the house section by section,” says Lloyd of the lengthy process. “It began with the master bedroom suite, then onto the living, dining and entry, and most recently the guest house.”

With a design brief that has remained open throughout, these clients have been a designer’s dream. “Funnily enough, once I had completed the master bedroom, I never really had a brief for the living, dining, entry

or guest house,” says Lloyd. “I think by this point my clients could see what I was capable of doing and knew whatever I presented to them would have already been carefully thought out and selected – having my reasons for doing so. In the whole four years I have been working with these clients, I don’t recall there ever being a selection that they haven’t approved!”

The master bedroom wing has been completely designed by Oliver Mark Interiors, including all of the floor plans and layouts, bulkhead detailing, cabinetry design, robe design, cabinetry finishes, tile selection and the floor and wall finishes. →





The master bedroom looks out over the surrounding rainforest and onto the city of Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef beyond. It dictated a sense of quiet and refined elegance, starting with the soft aqua-marine coloured wallpaper which Lloyd selected. "Being such a soft, clean colour, the rest of the scheme flowed on from here through the use of neutral colours. The style, while modern, still has touches of classical detailing which prevent it from being too boring."

The combined living, dining and entrance are the first rooms you see as you enter the house. Lloyd says he wanted to have a bit more fun with the colours and style of furniture here. "The scheme started when I found the fabric for the main sofa – a beautiful petrol-blue cut-velvet – and it all flowed from there." The style of furniture has been kept more casual here, with Lloyd choosing rounded organic shapes. "There is always detail in the furniture I select, be it the chrome studs on the ottomans, the faux-bamboo finish of the coffee table or inlay detail of the sideboard," he adds.

The guesthouse has the rainforest at its back door – a natural inspiration for the designer. "Here, I wanted it to feel





surrounded by the rainforest, so the style of furniture has a very relaxed vibe with lots of rattan, mid-coloured timbers and slight rustic finishes to some of the furniture. I mixed in some modern pieces as well, including the marble-top Tulip dining table, to prevent it from becoming all too predictable.” In the guesthouse bedroom fabrics from Anna Spiro Textiles and wallpaper in a beautiful botanical-inspired print from Sanderson, featuring verdant green maidenhair ferns, are perfectly offset by the all-white bedding and sisal rug.

And the standout feature of the home’s new interior design? Lloyd says there are too many to choose from, but if he had to, it’s all about the entrance. “As the front door is opened, you’re greeted with a stunning hand-knotted oval rug with a centre table stacked with beautiful antiques and coffee table books, and the ottomans and decorative pendant above. And then, beyond this, is that incredible view!” 

0401 623 210

[lloyd@olivermarkinteriors.com.au](mailto:lloyd@olivermarkinteriors.com.au)  
[olivermarkinteriors.com.au](http://olivermarkinteriors.com.au)

“There is always detail in the furniture I select... The style, while modern, still has touches of classical detailing which prevent it from being too boring”

