

## inside my...living room

The Karuselli Chair is one of Sarah's favourites



A self-portrait by one of the couple's sons, Louis



Sarah and Jason in their living room



A photo of work by 'guerilla' graffiti artist, Banksy



Another favourite an Eames Ra Rocker



When UK-based architects and designers Sarah Aldridge and Jason Trisley decided to move to Australia, there was no question of whether to ship out their favourite furnishings. After an initial stop at Jason's hometown of Nambucca Heads, the couple settled on Byron Bay to establish their company SPACE studio, and start a new life with sons Louis and Oscar. Here they show us the living room pieces they just couldn't part with...

### WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE GRAFFITI WALL YOU'VE PHOTOGRAPHED?

**Sarah:** "It is by Banksy...a guerrilla graffiti artist believed to live in east London whose identity is unknown - no one ever sees him do his work, it just seems to pop up. They're now very collectable, he's actually exhibited in galleries. He did one in Byron Bay, funnily enough, I think it was in 2002, a parachuting rat on the side of the Arts Factory. It's generally thought that this piece is a self-portrait..."

**Jason:** "The nice thing about it was it just turned up about three days before we sold our house in London, about two streets away."

### WHO DESIGNED THE BLACK AND WHITE CHAIR?

**Sarah:** "That's a Karuselli Chair by Finnish designer Yrjö Kukkapuro. We both used to work for Terence Conran in London and I specified it for a show house that I did for a client once. I completely loved it and right at the end of the project they said: 'We're going to give you the chair as a present to say thank you.' Not only do I love the chair but I love that that's how I came by that chair."

### DO YOU SIT THERE TO WATCH TV OR READ?

**Sarah:** "I sit in it and read generally, or sometimes I just sit in it and hide because it's slightly around the corner and no one can really see me!"

**Jason:** "Oscar uses it as a slide. He climbs halfway up the back and comes down on his bottom, so it's multifunctional."

### YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT TOO PRECIOUS ABOUT YOUR DESIGNER PIECES.

**Sarah:** "You can't be with kids that young can you? Also, that chair's quite robust although obviously I wouldn't want them to break it. If you choose good natural materials then they will age gracefully and show wear and tear but they also gain history and character..."

**Jason:** "A lot of our pieces are either leather which ages well, or moulded plastic which is very forgiving!"

### IS IT A CASE OF FINDING THAT BALANCE BETWEEN SOMETHING THAT LOOKS BEAUTIFUL BUT IS FUNCTIONAL?

**Sarah:** "Absolutely. I'm not one of these people that collect things and keep them in glass cases. I really enjoy being surrounded by beautiful things and being able to use them every day."

**Jason:** "I think that's why we work well together.

We share a belief that things have to look good and function equally well. We are always striving to make something look or work better - but you have to know when to stop or you could go on fiddling with a design for ever."

### DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO MIX PIECES AND NOT THINK YOU MUST HAVE 100 PER CENT DESIGNER ITEMS?

**Sarah:** "Definitely. And I think it's a good idea to evolve your collection of pieces over time because if you just go out one day with a lot of money and buy every piece of furniture brand new, you're going to have trouble avoiding your house looking like a showroom."

### IS LOUIS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARTWORK ON THE BOOKCASE?

**Sarah:** "One of his teachers at pre-school does silk painting and as a present to the children she brought her materials in so they could do their self-portrait. The colours are so vibrant."

### HOW DID YOU BRING EVERYTHING OUT FROM LONDON?

**Sarah:** "We had a big shipping container and we just filled it. We had 126 items and a lot of those items were very big boxes!"