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The stunning, free-flowing living space features the open fireplace — Amgad's favourite feature.



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Creating a beautiful internal space as well as a spectacular home for his own family was a creative challenge for this architect and interior designer

By Caitlin Chander | Photography Marian Rlabc

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"THE CHALLENGE WAS TO BE SELECTIVE AND COME UP WITH A SCHEME THAT SUITED MY FAMILY LIFESTYLE WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON HOW I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT MY HOME AND INTERIOR STYLE IN GENERAL." — AMGAD KAMEL

Left The elegant, yet friendly dining room is a favourite with all family members.

Above Bright colours were chosen for interior products to complement the dazzling home design.

Creating a home is a lengthy process for designers. From researching trends to conjuring up colour palettes and design schemes, planning an interior can be challenging. For interior designer Amgad Kamel, designing his own home presented an opportunity to express his passion for design.

"The house was built on an empty block of land, east facing with a minor slope in a new development northwest of Sydney," explains Amgad. "Working with the builder to develop my architectural plans, construction commenced and was completed, with the home ready to occupy, within six months. The interior decorating started straight after."

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Above A lot of research and planning went into the personal project.

Top The simple look allowed Amgad to decorate with exquisite colourful features.

AROUND EVERY CORNER THERE IS A LITTLE BIT OF AMGAD KAMEL, WHERE INTERIOR TRENDS AND STYLES FLOURISH.

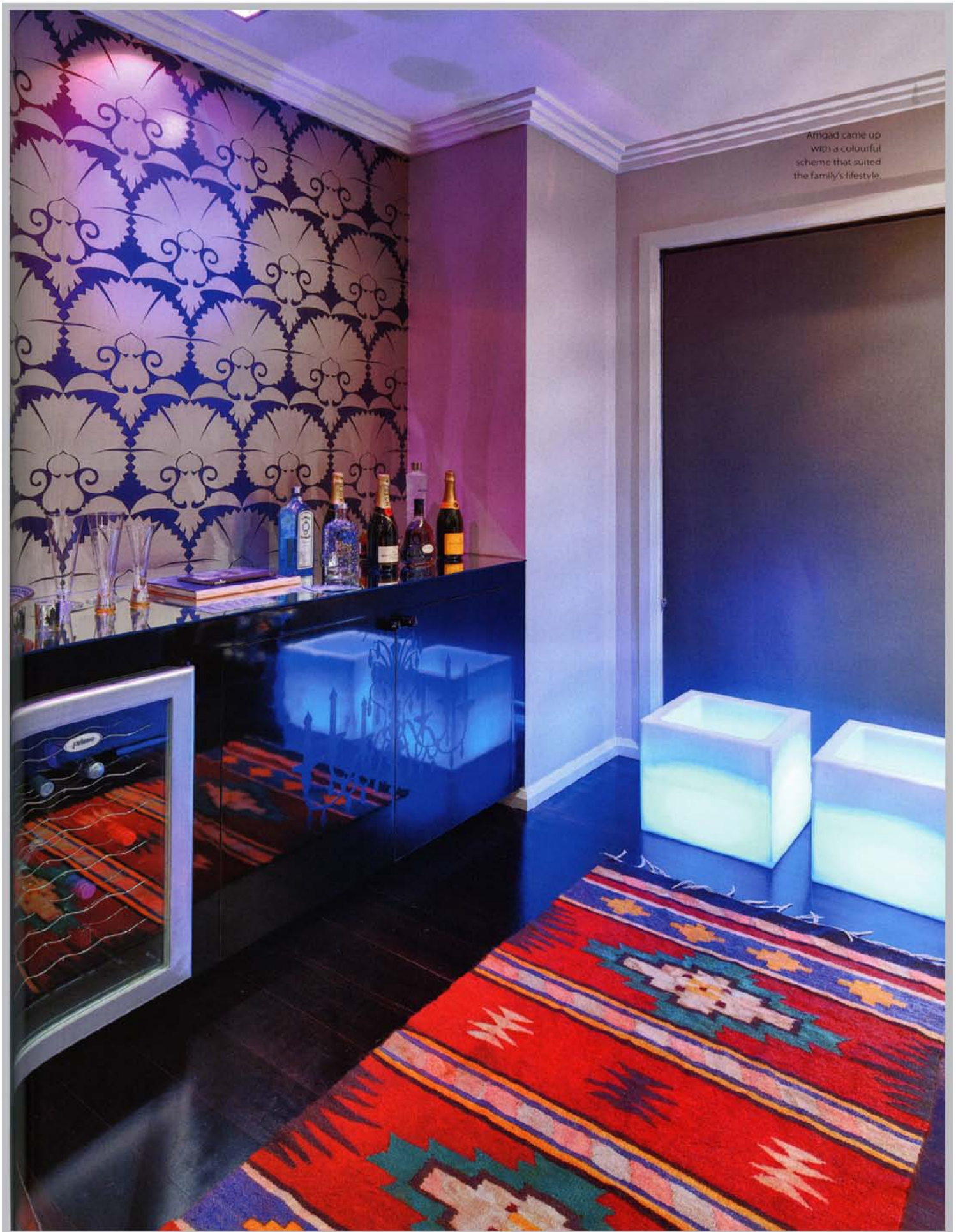
With a vast portfolio of successful interior projects to his name, Amgad had a plethora of ideas and schemes to apply to his own home. With so many options to play with, he first had to narrow down the schemes and pick one that would flow throughout the structure. This proved challenging as the task of combining features became more and more intricate.

"As an architect and interior designer, designing my own home was difficult as I've designed and seen so many beautiful homes. I didn't want mine to look like a showpiece; I wanted it to be a large, happy, liveable space with every corner meaning something special to me. I needed an open fireplace and a quiet room where I could sit and read, enjoy a glass of wine or sketch up initial ideas for my various projects. And I needed a large kitchen where I could cook with my boys. I also wanted an undercover area where I could sit and enjoy Sunday lunch with the family."

As with any other project, Amgad had a brief to follow — to create an open-plan living space with free flow between indoor and outdoor areas. The space had to house a family of four so it was necessary to use styles that were elegant yet family-friendly. Finding the balance between a regular family home and a design masterpiece was a challenge, as he tried to find equilibrium between the tame and the wild. "Being an interior designer, I wanted to put everything I liked in my house," he explains. "But the challenge was to be selective and come up with a scheme that suited my family lifestyle without compromising on how I would like to present my home and interior style in general. Somehow I've managed to achieve that."

The entire home is neutrally toned in Dulux Beige Royale to give the effect of a large, open-plan living area. Each room is punctuated by a statement feature wall, giving each area its own individual appearance. This simple, sophisticated look

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Amgad came up with a colourful scheme that suited the family's lifestyle.

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The burgundy colouring combined with the light palette and quirky lumiere makes for a fun kitchen.



Blackbutt timber panels were used in the kitchen, dining and living areas for a dramatic effect.

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Warm tones and soft New Zealand wool carpet make for a cosy and welcoming bedroom space.

BLUES, REDS, CHOCOLATE BROWNS AND ROYAL PURPLES — AMGAD HAS USED THEM ALL. EACH DESIGN AESTHETIC SEEMS TO MESH PERFECTLY WITH THE OTHER, DESPITE THE USE OF COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MATERIALS.

Invited Amgad to decorate and detail the interior with exquisite design pieces, enabling the home to look designer, but not become a showpiece. Through the kitchen, living and dining areas, the floors are laid with dramatic blackbutt timber panels stained in black Japan, while the bedrooms and staircase are 100 per cent New Zealand wool carpet.

Central to the family's living is the exquisite lounge area. The regal blue effect of the furniture and feature wall stands dramatically against the neutral walls, giving the room a strong aura. The open fireplace is a favourite with Amgad and adds warmth and glow to the cooler-toned area.

The bathroom is home to more interesting features and design aspects. The circular basins appear as reflections of the round mirrors, connecting the features and drawing the eye towards the bathroom cabinet. Lined with

stunning mosaic tiles, the walls appear to be features themselves. Each intricate detail has been carefully thought through by Amgad.

Blues, reds, chocolate browns and royal purples — Amgad has used them all. Each design aesthetic seems to mesh perfectly with the other, despite the use of completely different materials. Around every corner there is a little bit of Amgad Karnel, where interior trends and styles flourish. Yet the structure still exudes a homely feel, providing Amgad and his family with a beautiful, interesting and different home to live in. ■

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Photography Marian Riabic

Unique and exciting design features give the innovative bathroom an eclectic feel.

