

REBORN TREE HOUSE





*In the **TROPICAL WILDERNESS** of Trinity Beach, Australia, a wooden residence rises from its ashes. With an exterior facade reminiscent of a **LUXURIOUS TREE HOUSE**, Tari is more than just a house. It is the personal home of Matt and Rhiannon Orr, the founders and creative forces behind **ORR MADE**. This project offered them the rare opportunity to not only design a home but also to live in it, allowing every detail to be tested against the rhythm of daily life.*

Originally built by a Swiss craftsman, the house had a distinctive character: warm timber structures, generous proportions, and an almost treehouse-like charm. Yet the layout no longer met the needs of a modern family. The kitchen was too small, the master suite underwhelming, and some areas felt closed off and dark. The challenge for ORR MADE was clear: to let the house breathe again without losing its soul.

LIVING AS A DESIGN METHOD

Because Matt and Rhiannon live there with their three children, every design decision was tested in practice. The kitchen was expanded into an open and generous heart of the home – a place where cooking, conversation and togetherness take centre stage. The master suite was re-proportioned, with a spacious dressing area and a bathroom that feels both functional and serene. Throughout the home, the focus was on greater openness, softer transitions and a natural flow. From bedlinen to toothpaste, the family supports ‘non-toxic’ elements throughout the entire house.

One of the most significant interventions involved light. Where certain corners once felt dark and enclosed, new windows and skylights now draw daylight deep into the home. Spaces such as the dressing room, hallway and kitchen have been transformed by natural illumination. By extending bespoke cabinetry to the ceiling and removing unnecessary dropped ceilings, the designers enhanced the home’s verticality. The result is a sense of airiness and continuity, without sacrificing the warmth of the original timberwork.

MATERIALS WITH A SOUL

At ORR MADE, there’s no ‘one material fits all’ approach, ‘just our core values of honest natural material selections paired with project specifics’. For Tari, the duo sought a harmonious dialogue between the existing timber and new additions. Florentine walnut became a unifying element – warm but not heavy, ideal for bridging the various wood tones already present.





Interior design and build by Orr Made, photography by Dylan James

In the kitchen, a striking feature takes centre stage: an open, rounded shelf that ends without corners. Inspired by a detail from a Belgian hotel, this element was developed to be both functional and sculptural. It invites use while subtly nodding to European interior traditions. Bronze plays another unifying role. From lighting fixtures to taps and handmade handles, the brass accents bring continuity throughout the home while referencing its original detailing. By day they act as subtle sculptures; by night, under soft lighting, they create an intimate atmosphere.

A STORY OF COLLABORATION

The renovation of Tari also reflects the couple themselves. They met years ago through friends: Matt, an experienced carpenter-turned-builder, was about to move to London, while Rhiannon had just completed her interior design studies. Despite the distance, they kept in touch, and when Matt returned to Melbourne, their first official date followed. Out of shared passions for adventure, design and home life grew not only a love story but also a professional partnership. Today, they are known for their considered approach: creating living environments that help people live more consciously and comfortably.

Their studio's guiding principle is: live before you build. 'We aim for a quiet confidence — nothing is decorative for its own sake. The common thread is an obsession with proportion and a slow, restrained material palette that

lets a home feel collected rather than styled'. Another cornerstone is craftsmanship. Matt grew up under the guidance of a traditional master builder who instilled in him the importance of precision and quality. Today, the studio integrates that same dedication into every project. What remains unseen — the foundations, structure and proportions — receives as much attention as the visible finishes. As they put it: 'We're all in, always'.

A LAYERED HOME

What stands out about Tari is that the house has not lost its original character. The Swiss soul, with its warm timber structures and treehouse-like feeling, still lives on. But an additional layer has been added: a refined balance of light, material and comfort that makes the home ready for the future. As Rhiannon puts it: 'It is not about one striking detail. It is about restraint, the harmony between materials, the balance of light and form. It is more of a feeling than a design'. Tari is therefore not only a family home but also a manifesto of ORR MADE's vision: architecture and interior design as an extension of life itself, grounded in soul, detail and sustainability. (Text: Carolien Depamelaere)

WHERE CERTAIN CORNERS ONCE FELT DARK AND ENCLOSED, NEW WINDOWS AND SKYLIGHTS NOW DRAW DAYLIGHT DEEP INTO THE HOME

