



This is not your typical home-buying story, but perhaps that's to be expected of comedian and radio host Dave Hughes. In 2010, on his way to inspect a home for sale, Dave passed an auction in the same inner-Melbourne neighbourhood. With time to kill, he made a few lowball bids "for fun", only to find himself holding the winning paddle. Next came a hurried call to his wife, Holly Ife, to explain his surprise purchase.

The couple rented out the property while considering their options. The stars aligned a year later when Holly's friend Aimee Goodwin, along with partner and fellow architect Louis Gadd, returned from London and set up Project Twelve Architecture. By that time, Dave and Holly's family included Rafferty, now six, and Sadie, four, so with a long-term nest in mind, they decided to build afresh on the site. Little Tess, now two, was still only a twinkle in their eyes but the pair had always hoped for a full house, so space for one and all was at the top of their brief to Project Twelve. And, after living in a terrace, abundant natural light was also non-negotiable.

"We pushed the house to the southern boundary, locating circulation and utilitarian functions along this edge and ▶

'I like houses that feel welcoming and happy. I've never wanted to live in a showpiece.' Holly Ife

Holly steps into this bright open-plan area, where art pops against polished concrete and neutral furnishings. Timber elements throughout warm the interior. Sofa, Jordan. Coffee table, Luke Furniture. Ceramic vessels (on coffee table), StillLife by Chelsea Hing. Rug, Loom Rugs. Artwork by Jessie Breakwell. FOR WHERE TO BUY, SEE PAGE 220.

H&G AT HOME WITH

