



SOUTHERN RETREAT

Pepper Hutchinson's Augusta holiday home is a picturesque escape from city life

The down south getaway of Pepper Hutchinson is her escape from the daily grind. Named The Shipwright's Mistress, the house overlooks the Blackwood River and is a place for her family and others to slow down and log off.

"The deliberate exclusion of the TV was important, and it's amazing how many of our guests comment positively on that. Instead, we play Scrabble, Monopoly . . . and even Battleships," explains Hutchinson, who runs Gold Agency, a fashion agency in North Fremantle.

Hutchinson and her husband Marko Sambrailo, a fourth-generation Fremantle wooden boat builder, bought the 1960s shack in 2016 with the dream of transforming the tired home into a getaway.

"We renovated it during 2018 and 2019, going back and forth from our home in Fremantle, while juggling work and life," she says.

Walls were knocked down to open the living spaces, and the entire house was rewired and replumbed. The asbestos roof was removed, as was the old horsehair and asbestos fibreboard walls.

"The tiny existing outdoor deck was wonky and rotten, so we replaced it and increased the size, so it provided a large

covered outdoor space that is protected from the elements and now it has a view through the peppermint gums to the Blackwood River," she says.

The couple always felt at home in the small country town. Sambrailo's parents owned land in the area when he was a child, and Hutchinson grew up in Tasmania with similar surroundings to Augusta.

"We holidayed in Augusta in July of 2015 and had the most amazing family holiday," she says.

"It was freezing cold and wet. We stoked the fire, explored in the rain, fished from the jetty, and fell in love with the town. That's when we decided to purchase a holiday home there."

The home is styled with quirky vintage finds and handcrafted nautical pieces. Mismatched crockery adds to the charm.

"We used vintage pieces where possible; some we already had and the rest we sourced," Hutchinson explains.

One of the most popular photos shared on Instagram is of the home's bespoke metal



PICTURES: HANNAH PEUCHMARIN



sign, which was custom made by Nook Vintage in Richmond, Victoria, and hangs outside on the brick chimney.

"I also love the collection of shipyard artefacts adorning the wall, which were already in the family.

"It's nice being able to put them to use again," she says.

The Australian vibe continues outside with

extensive landscaping. Waterwise natives and lemon, lime, avocado, apple, nectarine and pomegranate trees fill the backyard.

"We are growing lush native perimeters around the property, to frame the view from the front through to the peppermint gums and the Blackwood River," Hutchinson says.