

44 pages of
CHIC COASTAL RETREATS

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RESORTING TO HOME
STAR PIECES
for outdoor drama

Alfresco
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BESPOKE ABODES FOR THE DESIGN SAVVY





ESCAPE PLAN

Based on Sydney's Northern Beaches and a world away from the city, this serene holiday home provides a welcome getaway for a young family.

Photography PRUE RUSCOE Styling ALEXANDRA GORDON

This page Opening onto a generous deck that offers privacy and a space protected from strong coastal breezes, the airy dining area includes custom banquette seating and chairs from Thonet which surround a table from Mr and Mrs White. 'Paperclip' pendant light by Anna Charlesworth from Anchor Ceramics. Vases from Ondene and raw-sawn Aren Bianco limestone flooring from Onsite. Opposite page 'Banks 120' lanterns from The Society Inc. hang in a romantic trio above the stairway.





With billowing sheer curtains that waft out from within a series of pure-white pavilions complemented with pale rosewood inside and rough stone walls outside, this family-friendly holiday home in Palm Beach, designed by Megan Burns of CM Studio, has more than a hint of the Mediterranean. *What was the brief?* We were approached by the client to design a holiday retreat for their young family. They were looking for a casual home that was timeless in design. *What were the challenges of the site and how did you resolve them?* The main challenge was the fact that it shared a boundary with a protected nature reserve. Significant separation was required between the property and the neighbouring land, which meant we had a narrow footprint to construct the house. To counter this we created large openings and built-in seating in the main pavilion that opens onto the large side deck. This maintains a generous feeling of space despite the restricted width of the site. *Are there any particular considerations when designing a home in a coastal setting?* It feels natural to take advantage of the sea breeze in a coastal setting, but it is also important to feel protected when the weather takes a turn. We have created multiple outdoor zones bookending the rear pavilion to give the clients options depending on the time of year and the weather. *How would you describe the completed home?* The completed home is calming and serene but with a sense of drama in the variation of space. As you navigate through the series of pavilions, the volumes expand and compress both horizontally and vertically, creating joyful moments for the young family as they go about their everyday life. *How does it respond to the surrounding landscape?* The external expression of the home is often concealed from the public realm by large



This page, clockwise from bottom left An impressive custom brass doorknob from Mother of Pearl & Sons makes a statement on the custom rosewood front door. Screens in the same timber used on the exterior of the home blend seamlessly with the surrounding environment. Rosewood was also used for the decking outside the dining area. Holes have been cut in this to allow palm trees to grow through, adding to the coastal vibe. **Opposite page, from top** In the kitchen, hand-woven Danish cord counter stools from The Wood Room are tucked beneath a benchtop finished in Oriana marble from Onsite. The joinery in wire-brushed oak is by Saltwater Joinery. Sub-Zero fridge from Winning Appliances, Perrin & Rowe 'lo' bench mixer and spout in Satin Brass from The English Tapware Company, saucepan from Spence & Lyda and Rina Menardi platter from Ondene. In the living area, a 'Miller' sofa surrounds a 'Cove' coffee table, both from Jordan, on a rug from Pampa. On the coffee table is a timber bowl by Michaël Verheyden from Ondene and ethically sourced coral from Orient House. The cushions on the sofa are from Spence & Lyda.

trees surrounding the property, and there are no beach or ocean views from the site which is typical of this area. The series of stacked pavilions with a large internal courtyard allowed internal views to be created within the property between the structures, giving the home breathing space on the site. *What informed the selection of furniture, art, fittings and finishes?* The natural materials palette is casual, calm and robust, creating a serene environment for the family to relax in and enjoy throughout the year. This palette, which includes stone and marble, 'Marrakesh' render, wire-brushed oak, brass and terracotta, gives the interiors the desired sense of calm and place and is akin to being somewhere in the Mediterranean or perhaps Saint Barthélemy. *Was the client happy?* The building process was a smooth collaboration between client, architect and builder, and the owners say they are pleased with the final result. In these restricted times, they have found much enjoyment in the house, which feels like a holiday escape from the city but is also close to home. *What is the appeal of coastal living, and particularly the location of this project?* Coastal living has an inimitable sense of calm and serenity that is hard to find in inner-city suburbs. Despite being located on the outskirts of Sydney, the waterside environment of the project feels as if it's part of a secluded resort. cm-studio.com.au





This page, clockwise from top left Dappled by the palm fronds and finished in 'Marrakesh' render from Rockcote, the outdoor shower makes washing off after a trip to the beach into a more salubrious ritual. The idyllic green space by Secret Gardens is glimpsed through a slender aperture in the powder room with its Rustic White stack-bond tiles from Inigo Jones & Co and wire-brushed oak joinery topped with Oriana marble from Onsite and a custom ceramic basin. Astra Walker 'Icon + Lever' tapware in Eco Brass, 'Melange' elongated sconce by Kelly Wearstler, candle from Oliver Thom and Society Limonta hand towel from Ondene. Handmade unglazed Moroccan tiles from Surface Gallery continue from inside the main bathroom to the outdoors, enhancing the home's breezy openness to its surrounds. 'Lucia' cast-stone bath from ACS Designer Bathrooms, Astra Walker 'Icon + Lever' tapware in Eco Brass, oak joinery with Oriana marble bench from Onsite, vase from Orient House and towel from Oliver Thom.



This page, clockwise from top The master bedroom is a serene space where sheer white curtains frame the views and the bed is defined by a custom curved bedhead by CM Studio. Society Limonta throw from Ondene. The beauty of the Pittwater landscape with its bobbing sailboats sets the tone for the home's calm and casual sensibility. An Ay illuminate pendant light from Spence & Lyda hangs before the rosewood archway into the study. Oakford Square carpet in Rossio from Prestige Carpets. Vase from Ondene.

