

BAY OF PLENTY

Decked out with year-round comfort in mind, this Sydney home holds all the cards in summer.

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This is the life

A lively social hub, this home is thoughtfully appointed, indoors and out. Interior designer Juliette Arent and her team came up with a design that considered the courtyards and terraces as carefully as the internal living spaces. "We wanted the outdoor spaces to feel equally soft and furnished," Juliette says. "The owners are great entertainers and they have plenty of options for large and small groups."

ENTRY HALL The open design provides tantalising viewpoints from and through the home. Apparatus 'Match' hall tree/umbrella stand, Criteria Custom console designed by Arent&Pyke. Brass platter, Ondane, White sculpture on plinth, Becker Minty, Vase, The Vault Sydney, Rug, Cadrys, 'New Pearl' honed limestone flooring from Marble Plus. **BOATSHED** Accessed via an inclinator, a new shed holds kayaks and other sporting equipment. 'Basket' outdoor chair, Kettal. Maison de Vacances throw, Tigger Hall. **Local hero:** 'Pyramids' cushion in Saffron, \$139, Walter G. ▶

For a well-travelled couple keen on architecture and ready to create their forever home, a clifftop site for sale on Sydney's lower north shore presented all the answers. Utterly seduced by its harbour views, the couple - who both have backgrounds in technology - snapped up the property in 2013 and set about planning something special.

The result, by Sydney-based architectural firm Walter Barda Design, is a beautifully considered, smartly appointed home completed in 2017. Under a gently curving roof and sitting lightly on its rocky base, the house is built over four levels in steel and off-form concrete, with large expanses of floor-to-ceiling glass.

"It's designed as a series of excavated terraces stepping down the slope," explains director Walter Barda. The terraces and courtyards flow organically into the interiors and natural outcrops of sandstone have been woven

skilfully into the structure, ensuring the home rests comfortably in its setting, despite the extensive floor plan.

Charged with layering up the interiors, design practice Arent&Pyke took inspiration from the landscape and the raw materials used in the build. "The owners really wanted an inviting, comfortable home," says co-principal Juliette Arent. "We were able to create warmth and intimacy through the selection of furniture and accessories, lighting, rugs and artwork."

Juliette, in conjunction with co-founder Sarah-Jane Pyke and associate Genevieve Hromas, came up with a sophisticated scheme featuring statement pieces sourced from around the world, together with custom designs they commissioned. Their calming colour palette is full of richness and depth, referencing the eucalyptus trees and stone prevalent in the local landscape as well as the soft grey of the concrete walls. ▶



LIVING ROOM top left, bottom right and opposite Details such as the plush textiles and hand-knotted rug soften the timber and tiles. Minotti 'Collar' sofa (opposite), Dedeece. Ligne Roset 'Ploum' sofa (above), Domo. Cassina coffee table and side tables. Carl Hansen & Son bench, Cult. 'Circle' chairs, Great Dane. Kelly Wearstler striped vase, Becker Minty. 'Mobile Chandelier 7' pendant light, Hub Furniture. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove. Gas fireplace by Escea. Artwork by Nicholas Harding. **DINING ROOM** top right and bottom left A 'Branching Bubble' chandelier from Lindsey Adelman keeps the look organic. Riva 1920 dining table and chairs, Fanuli. Artwork by David Larwill. **Designer buy:** Rina Menardi 'Lagoon' platter, from \$810, Ondene.



Great escape

This home offers plenty of relaxation options that embrace the captivating views. The owners regularly head down to the boatshed on the property, where they pick up kayaks and hit the water. Or catch up with friends in one of the home's many sunny spots. "Each outdoor deck is a wonderful suntrap at some point in the day," says Juliette Arent. A well-stocked library and art studio have indoor pursuits more than covered.

OUTDOOR DINING A slatted teak table offers a more casual dining experience. Roda 'Pier' table and 'Harp' dining chairs, Domo. Ceramic bowls, Ondene. Vase, Garden Life. Rug, Cadrys. **Local heroes:** 'Veneziano' carafe, \$130, and tumblers, \$234/six, Jordan. **COURTYARD** An intimate setting off the lower-ground floor, sheltered by the sandstone cliff. Paola Lenti 'Wabi' swing seat, Dedece. Kettal chairs and tables. Walter G cushions, Ascraft. Vase, Water Tiger. Rug, Cadrys.



FEATURE TREES

- Champak (*Michelia champaca*)
- Bay trees (*Laurus nobilis*)



The high degree of personalisation begins at the front door, which is crafted from jarrah in a nod to the owners' roots in Western Australia. Once past the practical boot room and media room, a long corridor takes you to an open-plan kitchen, living and dining area. Upstairs is the main bedroom, along with a bathroom, office, library and landscaped terrace. The lower-ground floor has three bedrooms, all with ensuites, and a laundry. On the bottom level is an art studio (the owners have a great love of art and a passion for painting and printmaking), an alfresco entertaining area, a swimming pool and change room. Connecting all the levels is a lift of glass and steel.

Standout elements include the bespoke blackbutt joinery throughout, a television concealed behind a motorised artwork in the living room, and the commercial-grade kitchen, which features a three-dimensional design based on abstracted boats.

The shipping reference was well considered; given the waterside location, the notion of the building as a habitable vessel arose early in the project and it came to be known as the Slipway House.

After a successful two-year build, the owners moved in with their two adult children in the middle of 2017. Thrilled with every element of their new home, they hosted a celebratory dinner for all the designers, consultants and builders involved - the equivalent of christening a new ship with Champagne.

"They truly feel every inch of their home is what they had dreamt about and more," says Juliette Arent. "It's so rewarding for us to be a small part of the joy that a wonderful home can create for a family."

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THE LAYOUT



'THE GUESTROOM HAS A COOL, SUBTLE MATERIAL PALETTE, BUT THE SPARKLING WATER VIEW IS THE REAL HERO.'
Juliette Arent, interior designer



For Where to Buy, see page 187.

ENSUITE The elegant simplicity of this bathroom belies its technical sophistication, which includes remote-controlled Japanese sanitaryware by Toto. Vase, Water Tiger. Loom towel, Hub Furniture. Santa Maria Novella toiletries, Ondene. **GUESTROOM** above and opposite: David Larwill's *Dismissed* artwork brings a measure of drama to this relaxed space. Arent & Pyke customised the oak bedside tables by Zuster. Bedhead upholstered in Christopher Farr Cloth fabric from Ascraft. Bedlinen and blanket, Ondene. Curtains in C&C Milano 'Sgarzolino Made Unito' linen in Bianco from South Pacific Fabrics. Samba wool carpet, Whitecliffe Imports. Designer buy: Okuce 'Atollo' table lamp, \$1643, Euroluce. H&G

THE PALETTE

Off-form concrete (throughout)

Blackbutt joinery (living)

Honed limestone flooring (foyer)