

# MODERN HABITAT

Words **CARLI PHILIPS** Photography **ANSON SMART** Styling **CLAIRE DELMAR**



These pages, from left Floor-to-ceiling doors seamlessly unfold to the outdoor courtyard. The bedroom on the right doubled as a study during Covid. 'Pretzel' armchairs from Naturally Cane sit on a Khotan rug from Robyn Cosgrove in the ground floor living and rumpus area. On the 'Stobie' glass coffee table from Great Dane is a vintage Japanese vessel from Planet and a green-and-white bowl from Alex and Trahanas. Artwork by Mitch Cairns from The Commercial. Cassina 'LC14' wooden box from Space.



This contemporary Australian beach shack has experienced a soulful second coming with subtle bush colours reflective of its surrounding environment.

The inquisitive owner of this contemporary beach shack on the Central Coast of New South Wales set about researching its origins soon after purchasing it in 2015. When he tracked down David Boyle – the architect who had drawn it up in 2006 – the two met and discovered that the house had only been partly realised as intended.

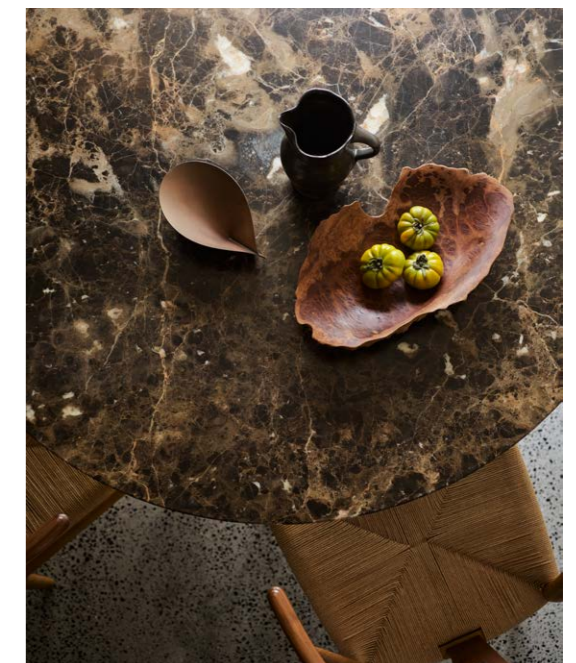
They struck up a friendship and when designers Arent&Pyke commenced working on phase two of the interiors scheme, David was re-engaged to design a pergola, cladding materials and – together with Arent&Pyke – the window joinery. The full-circle experience encouraged a subtle yet significant ripple effect, especially when it came to the surrounding landscape, explains Arent&Pyke principal Juliette Arent.

“The influence of the coastal environment on the interiors had an impact in so far as David designed the home to open up to the bush and brought a golden, grassy glow into the home with its raked hoop-pine ceilings,” says Juliette. “In turn, our interiors and decoration responded to that architecture alongside the desire of the client to create a home that felt uniquely Australian. And, of course, the kitchen joinery in eucalyptus tones, and blues and greens throughout the home, echo the landscape and sea beyond.”

Elsewhere, pink-tinged Santamargherita marble has been laid on the master ensuite floor but, overall, the idea was for colour to stand in modest isolation. “There’s big colour, but the »



This page, clockwise from top left 'Eva' armchair from Bonacina upholstered in Dedar 'Margaritas' fabric. On top of the left rear joinery unit, Flos 'Gatto' table lamp from Euroluce, Ignem Terrae vessel, Tania Rollond vessel, books and Kelly Wearstler Classic Legs. The home was originally drawn up by architect David Boyle and built semi-realised a number of years later by previous owners. Planting by Pangkarra. In the bedroom and study, Saarinen 'Tulip' dining table from De De Ce. Carl Hansen 'CH24 Wishbone' dining chair. Flos 'Parentesi' pendant light from Euroluce. **Opposite page** Flexform 'Zeno' sofa from Fanuli with a mix of cushions in Martyn Lawrence 'Kabba Kabba' fabric from Tigger Hall Design and from Maison de Vacances in the ground floor living and rumpus area. On the 'Stobie' glass coffee table from Great Dane is a vintage vessel from Planet and bowl from Alex and Trahanas. Artwork by Mitch Cairns from The Commercial. Cassina 'LC14' wooden boxes from Space. The sliding doors at the rear feature a cast bronze detail engraved with their daughter's name.





These pages, clockwise from top left In the first floor living room, Spanish chairs by Børge Mogensen from Great Dane. Knoll 'Krusin' coffee table from De De Ce and burl bowl. Cassina 'Réaction Poétique' black side table from Space. 'Segovia' rug from Robyn Cosgrove. Cassina 'Low' table by Gianfranco Frattini with vintage Japanese vase from Planet. Akari Noguchi '55A' pendant light from Living Edge in the stairway. Jordan 'Wilfred' sofa in quilted linen with cushions in Martyn Lawrence 'Kabba Kabba' fabric from Tigger Hall Design. Sancal 'Elephant' stools from Ke-Zu. 'Segovia' rug from Robyn Cosgrove. Knoll 'Krusin' coffee table from De De Ce. Artek 'Aalto' bar trolley from Anibou. Artwork by Nyapanyapa Yunupingu from Robyn Oxley9. The bedroom and study offers access to the courtyard.



“... the kitchen joinery in eucalyptus tones, and blues and greens throughout the home, echo the landscape and sea beyond.”



**This page** An extensive 'Tree' table from Great Dane with 'Thonet 'B9' armchairs defines the dining area. Ceramic vessels from Planet. 'Counterbalance' wall light from JSB Lighting. The kitchen island has cupboards crafted from solid-timber vertical dowels with cast stone handles and at one end incorporates a breakfast bar finished in leather tiles with a brass strip. Mattiazzi 'MC2 Branca' counter stools. Green V-groove joinery at rear in Dulux 'Tarzan Green'. 'Lucia' double sink from Abey with 'City Stik' mixer tap from Brodware. **Opposite page, from top** 'Tree' table from Great Dane with Thonet 'B9' armchairs. Artworks by John Reid (left) and Nyapanyapa Yunupingu from Robyn Oxley9. The garden has been a work in progress from 2015 in the front, but the back is new and designed and implemented by Pangkarra.



« spaces are still beautiful and quiet. We didn't want the materials to clash with a bunch of other ones and steered clear of anything with deep veining or character figuring – it needed to have a quiet materiality,” says Arent&Pyke design director Genevieve Hromas who steered the project.

Arent&Pyke approached the first renovation five years ago with a light touch, sourcing furniture for the client who had just moved from abroad and was a bachelor at the time. This second phase, however, had to consider the addition of a young family. Even so, nonetheless the new brief slowly expanded to encompass more and more as the process progressed. “We went in with a few things but, in the end, we went right down to stripping the skirting and recessing them into the floor. It just grew and grew. Having said that, everything we did in that first iteration had stood the test of time. Nothing was re-done,” says Genevieve.

Back then, the focus was on the first floor as the ground level was barely in use. “It was a bit of a no man's land down there,” says Genevieve. “We created a bookcase wall to envelop the room. It's now a cosy spot with a fireplace, a place to store the client's records and big sliding doors so the space can be closed off. Now, it's active and occupied, with three bedrooms, rumpus room, laundry and kitchenette which doubles as a self-contained set-up for visitors. While the master bedroom is on the first floor, the family decamped down here during the pandemic, turning a bedroom into an office and adding a Knoll 'Tulip' table as a desk. »





« Upstairs, the staircase meets the living and dining areas which share a corner deck and new sliding doors overlooking the water. The biggest change involved reorienting, resizing and removing the kitchen bench from the wall so that it now sits like a true island, incorporating a breakfast bar at one end finished in leather tiles and a brass strip. Paired with Mattiazzi 'MC2 Branca' counter stools, the perspective is now outward looking towards the ocean. Crafted from solid timber dowels with cast stone handles, the vertical slats peer through to drawers storing handmade Japanese ceramics.

"We were keen to bridge the living area and the kitchen with a sculptural element and this creates a lovely interplay of layers and lines – it's a truly bespoke monument to craft and materiality," explains Juliette. Behind the kitchen is a powder room followed by the master bedroom and ensuite, which was specified with a 'Rockwell' bath with feet from The Water Monopoly, the sensible floor plan bearing in mind the proximity of dinnertime to bathtime for the couple's children.

"This home was our client's first foray into design and I think now he's a bit addicted. He is a curious and gregarious human and was entwined in the process right from the start," explains Genevieve. "The result is a calming, serene home that, come twilight, just glows." ■

[arentpyke.com](http://arentpyke.com); [davidboylearchitect.com.au](http://davidboylearchitect.com.au)

This page 'Rockwell' bath in the ensuite from The Water Monopoly, Society Limonta hand towel and Loom bath towel. Cassina 'Meribel' stool from Space. Vanity in Santamargherita marble with ceramic by Andrei Davidoff, jewellery box from 1stdibs and Sara Morawetz artwork from Small Spaces. In the master bedroom, Pinch 'Harlosh' bedside table from Spence & Lyda. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** Custom bedhead in 'Jamawar' fabric by Penny Morrison. Society Limonta bed linen from Ondene. Custom low table in silver travertine with a L'Objet vase from Becker Minty and brass dish from Studio Henry Wilson. Noguchi 'Akari 10A' floor lamp from Living Edge. Artwork by Antonia Perricone from Small Spaces. The walk-in robe features a seat in Carolina Irving 'Aegean Stripe' from Tigger Hall Design. Lightyears 'Radon' wall sconce from Cult. Sisal rug from Natural Floorcovering Centres. Walls in Dulux 'Bottle Green'. The first-floor deck embraces the panoramic vistas. 'Fred' outdoor table from Jordan. Hurricane lanterns from Ondene.



**SPEED READ**

» A contemporary beach shack built on the Central Coast of NSW five years ago entered its second phase of decorating to suit the former bachelor owner's young family. » The updated brief called for the creation of a home that felt "uniquely Australian" but with colour in "modest isolation". » Eucalyptus tones in the kitchen, blues and greens throughout, and a soft pink marble in the ensuite reference the vistas of the surrounding land and sea. » The ground floor was revitalised with bedrooms, a study lined with a bookcase wall plus a rumpus room, laundry and kitchenette. » The living and dining area combine on the first floor and share a corner deck overlooking the bush and coast beyond.