

POOL A cabana provides shade and built-in seating by the pool. The timber deck has been left untreated to take on a silvery tone from the sun and weather. A pair of Butterfly chairs from Muumuu Design are a breezy addition.

HALLWAY (opposite) Large-format limestone tiles from Milano Stone join a large limestone step to create a bench seat where Annabelle plays with Matilda, the family dog. Vertical pewter railings line the staircase.



ENDLESS *summer*


Bright, airy and surrounded by greenery, this new Perth abode is as relaxed as the family who call it home

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CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Kylee and Richard, both in the mining industry; their children, Thomas, 15; James, 13; and Annabelle, 7; plus Matilda, the Australian shepherd.

Style of home: A contemporary three-level family home with light-drenched living spaces, as well as an expansive alfresco zone and a pool positioned at the front of the block.

 The couple bought the property in 2009. Building began in 2012 and was completed by 2014.



VINTAGE RUG, TEMPLE FINE RUGS, TEMPLEDIRECT.COM.AU

DINING & LIVING AREA A large dining table was a must for Kylee and Richard, who love entertaining. The 'Laiā' table from Cosh Living was the ideal choice, surrounded by chairs from Stylecraft.

HALLWAY (opposite, right) Open-tread timber stairs lead up to the couple's private retreat. A Leigh Hewson-Bower painting adds colour at the end of the hallway, while a cuttlefish wall-hanging from Water Tiger creates an organic, beachy feel.



BRIGHT IDEA

Add the texture of natural stone to your living area to create a mid-century feel. Here, hand-selected white stone from Donnybrook quarry makes a big impact.



ARTWORK: DADRO BY ANDY OUILTY, ANDY OUILTY.COM; FLORAL DISPLAY: OK TABLE; NATURAL ART FLOWERS, NATURALARTFLOWERS.COM.AU



For Kylee and Richard, light is the star, and the fact that their house basks in natural light wins them over time and again. "Even in the evenings, the moon lights up the hallway, so we don't have the need to turn on many lights," says Kylee. "It's definitely one of our favourite aspects of the home."

When discussing with architect Philippa Mowbray their vision for the striking new build in one of Perth's prettiest coastal suburbs, the couple requested a bright, airy and sustainable design. Happily, Philippa delivered on all counts. "The raw materials reflect the beachside location," says Philippa. "They'll blend, fade and soften naturally. The house will become a dynamic part of the nature that surrounds it. We carefully considered the approach to the home, the relationship between public and private spaces, and the balance between visually connecting rooms and allowing for privacy – we used sliding doors to achieve this."

Perched on an elevated site with magical views of the Darling Scarp mountain range, the eco-friendly design includes rainwater harvesting, solar-panel systems, energy-efficient hydronic floor heating and floor-to-ceiling double glazing. "Both Kylee and I grew up on farms using rainwater and generators, so we wanted to be as self-sufficient as possible," says Richard. "We also wanted to feel connected to the outdoors. It was important to have an open house with lots of ceiling fans, allowing the sea breeze to flow in and reducing the need for air-conditioning."

Before settling on the decision to build a new house, the family had been living streets away in a period home. "We had done everything we could to that house but had outgrown it," says Kylee. "We were a bedroom short and wanted a garden and a pool. At the same time, we didn't want to build an ultra-modern



home, but one that would stand the test of time, age well and be an easy-living house. Hopefully, we've achieved that."

Built by Mosman Bay Construction and featuring interior design by Malvina Stone, the home celebrates the laid-back lifestyle of coastal Perth. Located just 600 metres from the beach, the sound of the ocean is another joy that Kylee and Richard don't take for granted. What the couple love most about their home is the welcome it often presents to those who visit.

"We wanted a house that wasn't too precious, with a great flow, inside and out," says Richard. "We love the fact that this is a very forgiving home. It's fantastic in summer – the kids are always splashing away in the pool or racing around the garden." Adds Kylee: "We're a very practical family and love having friends over, as well as spending time at the beach. Our boys surf every day, and Richard and I walk Matilda on the beach just after 5am, and are back to get the kids off to school," she says. "It's such a beautiful time to be there, before the crowds arrive, and grabbing a coffee on the way back gets the day off to an even better start. We feel very much a part of where we live."

The house speaks clearly of the family who call it home. "We do hope this will be the place our kids grow up in," says Kylee. "It's hard to imagine ever leaving it behind." **10**

To see more of Philippa's work, visit philippamowbrayarchitects.com. Reach interior designer Malvina Stone at malvinastone@hotmail.com and find out more about the builder at mosmanbayconstruction.com.au.



“WE WANTED TO BUILD A HOME THAT WOULD STAND THE TEST OF TIME, AGE WELL, AND BE AN EASY-LIVING HOUSE”

KYLEE, HOMEOWNER



STAR PERFORMER

Natural timber accents give Kylee and Richard's home instant warmth. Flooring in 'The Architect Collection White Smoked' boards by Royal Oak Floors is a standout choice.

LIVING AREA (top left) Striking floor-to-ceiling curtains add scale and softness. An L-shaped sofa designed by interior designer Malvina Stone and made by Casa Villa in Perth is paired with an Empire Homewares cushion, 'Blava' easy chairs from Stylecraft and 'Bandy' tables from Jardan. **OPEN-PLAN LIVING, DINING & KITCHEN (opposite)** The concrete island bench anchors the room, while the loosely defined zones create an inviting atmosphere in the space.

TIMELINE

| 2009 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Nov Kylee and Richard purchase the block of land. The family move into the old house on the property. The couple engage Philippa Mowbray Architects. | Mar A development application is lodged with the council. The plans are finalised. | May The contract with Mosman Bay Construction is signed and the new build commences. | June Kylee and Richard meet with interior designer Malvina Stone and look at options for finishes and fittings, visiting outlets in both Perth and Melbourne. | August Construction on the new home is completed and the family is able to move in shortly after. |



COURTYARD & STUDY NOOK

White pendant lights hang over the desk, while in the hallway, a trio of lights from Halo Lighting in Perth illuminate a painting by Richard's late mother, Christobel Bennett. **POOL (below left)** James, Annabelle and Thomas love playing in the pool. **OUTDOOR LIVING & DINING AREA (below right & opposite)** A large timber table from Empire Homewares complements the 'Tribu' sofas from Cosh Living.

FLORAL DISPLAY (ON CONSOLE), NATURAL ART FLOWERS, COMMAU LA GRANJA BELLOCH DINING CHAIRS, AJAR, A JAR, COMMAU



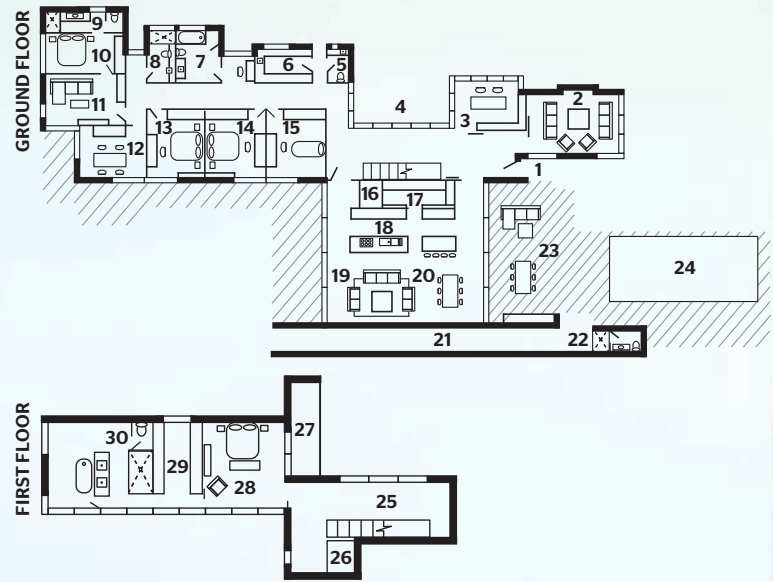
LESSONS LEARNT

“THE DESIGN AND BUILD COULD HAVE BEEN A QUICKER PROCESS, BUT THAT WAS DUE TO OUR DELAYS RATHER THAN ANYONE ELSE”

KYLEE, HOMEOWNER

“But it's nice to have time on your side and not feel rushed. We had renovated before, but never built a new home - it's a whole new mindset.”

Best decision? “We love that the pool and entertaining area is at the front of the block. It can feel a little more exposed, but we're in a very quiet street so that's not an issue for us, and the positives far outweigh this. It makes good use of a front garden that would otherwise hardly be used, and makes the most of the sunny northerly aspect. It also provides a really lovely entry to the house.”



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|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Entry | 11. Living area | 21. Void |
| 2. TV room | 12. Craft room | 22. Outdoor bathroom |
| 3. Study | 13. Thomas's bedroom | 23. Outdoor living area |
| 4. Courtyard | 14. James's bedroom | 24. Pool |
| 5. Powder room | 15. Annabelle's bedroom | 25. Void |
| 6. Laundry | 16. Lift | 26. Lift |
| 7. Bathroom | 17. Butler's pantry | 27. Terrace |
| 8. Shower room | 18. Kitchen | 28. Master bedroom |
| 9. Guest ensuite | 19. Living area | 29. Walk-in robe |
| 10. Guest room | 20. Dining area | 30. Ensuite |

MASTER BEDROOM Earthy tones and organic textures combine with soft blues to create a peaceful zone. A boho wall-hanging from Bower in Swanbourne contrasts with a Verner Panton 'Topan' pendant light from Great Dane. **BATHROOM (opposite)** Cabinetry designed by architect Philippa and constructed by Samuel Cabinetry creates a clean, spacious look. An Empire Homewares bathmat adds warmth and texture.



3 GREAT FINDS

TAKE THE FLOOR Relaxed beachy vibes are easy to achieve on tiled and timber floors with the right mix of textural and organic rugs

1

'River Weave' rug, \$420/90cm x 180cm, Armadillo & Co., armadillo-co.com

2

'Knoll' rug, \$2670/200cm x 300cm, Tribe Home, tribehome.com.au

3

'Souk' wool rug, \$699/152cm x 244cm, West Elm, westelm.com.au

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: NATALIE JOHNSON