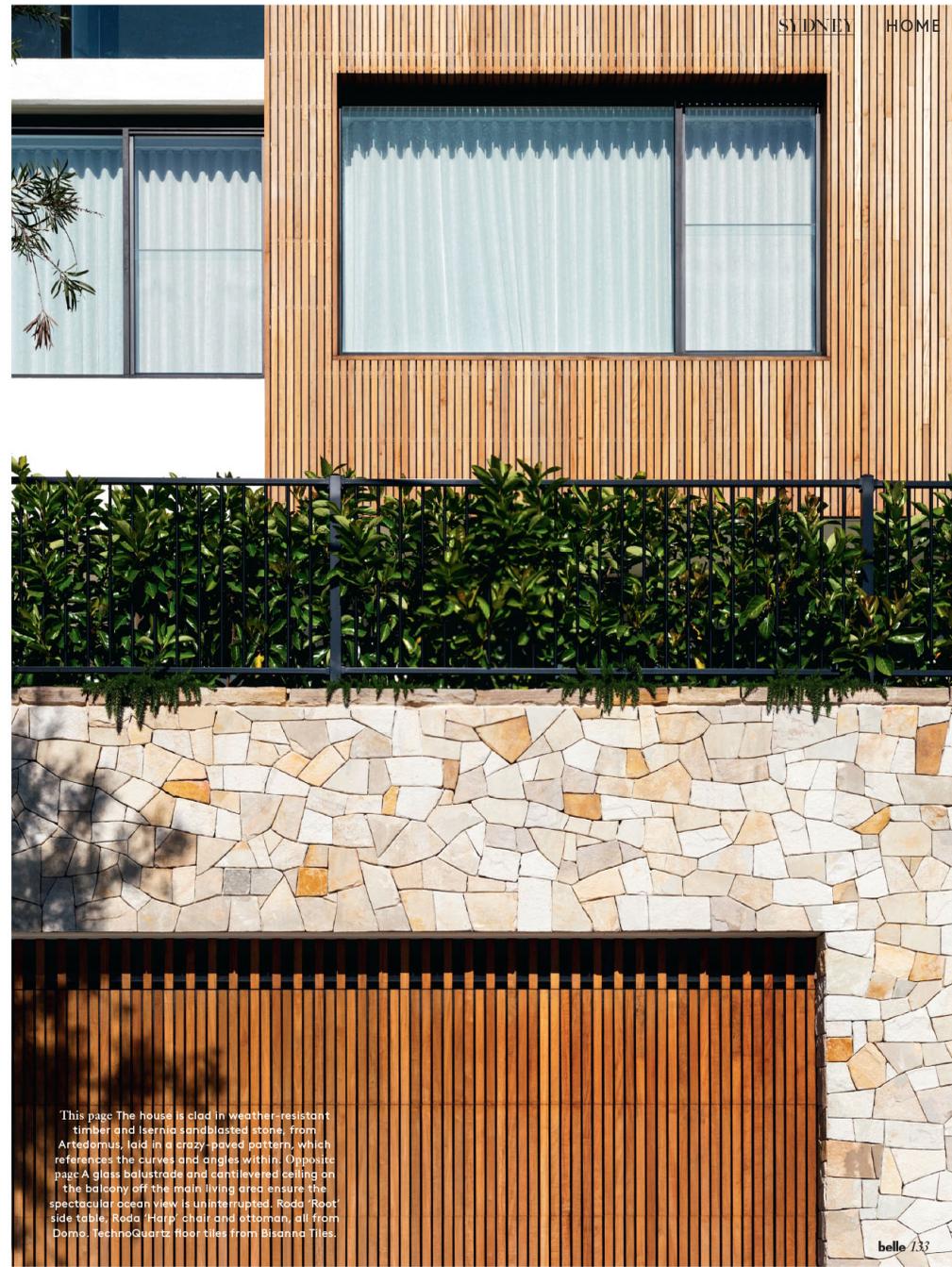


RIPPLE EFFECT

This stylish new build in *Sydney's* eastern suburbs takes cues from its beachside location to deliver a laid-back, shoes-off mindset.

Photographs JUSTIN ALEXANDER Words CHRIS PEARSON



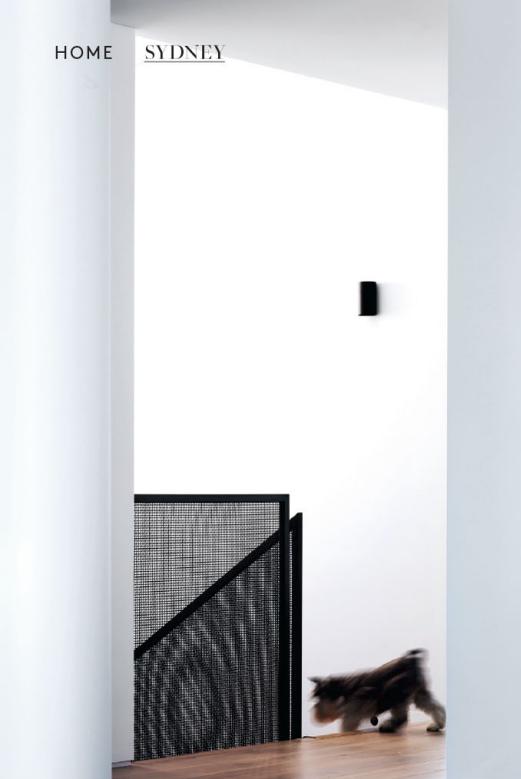
This page The house is clad in weather-resistant timber and leernie sandblasted stone, from Arredornis, laid in a crazy-paved pattern, which references the curves and angles within. Opposite page A glass balustrade and cantilevered ceiling on the balcony off the main living area ensure the spectacular ocean view is uninterrupted. Roda 'Roc' side table, Roda 'Harp' chair and ottoman, all from Domo. TechnoQuartz floor tiles from Bisenna Tiles.

Perched above the ocean in Sydney's eastern suburbs, this is a house of curves and oblique angles, its flowing shapes and beach-influenced decor echoing the ever-changing surf and coast below. Befitting its sparkling location, it's relaxed and laid-back, inviting you to shed your shoes as you step onto its limewashed timber floors.

But its unusual shape and special qualities were serendipitous. "Because of the fan-shaped block, a rectangular house wouldn't have made good use of the footprint, so the curves and angles made perfect sense," explains the owner. Drawn by the gull's eye beachfront location, she and her husband, a professional couple with two now-teenage children, bought the property in 2008. It was then occupied by a 1930s rendered brick house, with layers of "improvements" that masked its origins. After renting out the house, the family moved in for three years, so they could decide how to use the site. Says the owner, "We wanted to live here first to track the sun and the wind."

The original house, though, was never part of their plan. They approached Alex Heyko-Porebski of Porebski Architects to design a brand-new home. "I am a Queenslander, so I had to be able to walk around barefoot comfortably," says the owner. "Of course, it had to take advantage of the views, be light, but not too bright, and be sophisticated. We are spur-of-the-moment people too – we have lots of friends around, so it had to be perfect for entertaining."

Key to the new plan was swapping the two upper levels. What was once the parents' retreat on the top level, is now the open-plan



This page: The media room sports a cool, blue-green palette. Moroso 'M.A.S.S.A.' sofa and Kate Hume 'Rock' vessel from Hub. Vintage 'Nayoma' rug from Cadrys. Custom black-stained American oak joinery by DSK Kitchens + Furniture. Atollo table lamp from Euroluce. Sphus 'ET' floor lamp from Own World. Christophe Delcourt 'OUK' and 'OUM' ceramic tables from Ondene. Artwork by Ildiko Kovacs. Opposite page, from top: The owners' two schnauzers feel right at home. 'Ultra X Down-Up' wall light from Inlitt. New York Marble fireplace from SNB Stone. Vessels from Utopia & Utility. Christopher Boots 'Prometheus II' wall light from Inlitt.



This page, clockwise from top Custom black-stained American oak kitchen joinery by DSK Kitchens + Furniture. New York Marble splashback from SNB Stone. Blanco floorboards from Havwoods. BassamFellows 'Tractor' stools from Living Edge. In the living room, Minotti 'Capri' armchairs, ottoman and 'Kirk Cross' coffee table from De De Ce. Custom 'Spiderweb' rug from Robyn Cosgrove. Artwork by Tim Maguire. Walls of sliding glass connect the media room with the garden. **Opposite page** In the study, Cassina 'Cab' and 'Tre Pezzi' chairs, Gubi 'Grasshopper' floor lamp, Poltrona Frau 'Esedra' ottoman and 'Bob' table, all from Cult. Porada 'Bigné' table from Poliform. Custom silk border rug from Robyn Cosgrove.



living area, while three bedrooms occupy the floor below, with a guest bedroom and entry beneath this and the garage and wine cellar in the basement. With its wedge shape, this four-bedroom home was never going to be ordinary, thanks to the sweeping curves and cantilevers that allow rooms to open on two sides without interruption. Meanwhile, louvres and walls of sliding glass ensure constant sea breezes and an indoor-outdoor connection.

The interiors, too, reflect the surf-side location, but they are also infused with a generous sprinkling of international style. "The owners love a clean, monochromatic palette," says Alexandra Donohoe of Decus, whom they hired to design the interiors in 2012. She drew inspiration from Dutch designer Piet Boon, whose specialty is warm minimal. "I wanted it to feel like a house where you could walk without shoes," says Alexandra, "with quiet textures and colours. The timber flooring is a little like driftwood, and you can see the grain in the black-stained oak joinery. The walls are crisp and white, but tempered by the joinery to prevent the house being too light, otherwise it would be a glowing box."

Drawing cues from the owners' existing artwork, she has punctuated the spaces with crisp colour in furnishings and accessories. The main living room sports reds and russets on a neutral background, while the media room boasts contrasting cool blues and blue-greens that temper the heat of the western sun. The bathrooms are all different, with pale blue and blush tiles in the son's and daughter's respectively, and glamorous luminescent cognac mosaics in the parents' ensuite.

While the family can soak up the seaside scenery, they are never overlooked. "I love the loftiness," says the owner. "It's a luxury to have that height – it makes everything feel bigger. It's private, but you never feel enclosed." ■

For more go to decus.com.au; porebskiarchitects.com.au.

This page A curved passageway leads from the bedroom, through the walk-in wardrobe to the ensuite. Gubi 'Cobra' wall light from Cult. Custom-made bedhead in Dedar 'Aut Aut' from South Pacific Fabrics. Custom bedside table with New York Marble top from SNB Stone. Custom black-stained American oak joinery by DSK Kitchens + Furniture. Society bedlinen from Ondene. Opposite page In the ensuite, custom mirrors by DSK Kitchens + Furniture. 'Logic Wall Top Assembly' tapware from Rogerseller. 'Ultra X Down-Up' wall lights from Inlite. Penny Rounds glass mosaic tiles in Cognac from Onsite.



SPEED READ

» In 2008, a couple with two now-teenage children bought a 1930s house overlooking an eastern suburbs beach in Sydney. » Keen to make the best use of the wedge-shaped site, they demolished the house and built a four-level home designed by Porebski Architects that utilises oblique angles and curved planes. » Alexandra Donohoe of Decus created a relaxed feel for the interiors, perfect for walking barefoot and for easy entertaining. » A monochromatic palette, inspired by Piet Boon, is overlaid with pops of colour that reference the owners' artworks, while timber flooring and joinery provide a subtle textural contrast.