

this page Vintage bocce balls are strikingly displayed in custom brass rings on the cellar wall of this sleek four-bedroom house in Killcare, Australia. **opposite** Sydney-based architects Square Design conceived the commanding building to best offset its arresting natural setting. Here, reclaimed wooden doors at the back of the house lead to the cellar, while on the ground floor, double glass doors maximise the views from one of the guest rooms.



HOME KILLCARE



SEASIDE GLAMOUR

This modern beach house on Australia's Central Coast embodies the dramatic beauty of its natural milieu – with a few sophisticated surprises up its sleeve

TEXT **SHARON SOROUR-MORRIS** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANSON SMART** STYLING **ALEXANDRA GORDON**

this page With its Tribu Mood daybed from Cosh Living, the deck on the upper floor boasts a breathtaking view of Killcare Beach. **opposite (from top)** Upstairs, mesh sliding doors conceal a mini-library where mementos from the home-owners' adventures abroad are lovingly displayed, while a door at the end of the passage leads to a powder room; the architects' expert combination of glass, wood, concrete, steel and stone is best appreciated from the sophisticated entrance way.



It's a picture-perfect setting: great swathes of ocean and a pristine beach bordered by national parkland as far as the eye can see. And in the midst of this rugged landscape, a sleek beach house takes it all in its stride.

But this is no conventional seaside holiday home. It's an enviably elegant abode in a league of its own – not only when it comes to its breathtaking location and modern design, but also in its sumptuous decor.

Located in Killcare, a stylish Central Coast village in Australia's New South Wales on the Bouddi Peninsula, the four-bedroomed house is owned by a cosmopolitan Sydney couple who, with their son, use it as a bolt-hole from the hurly-burly of city life. Here they relax, entertain friends and family, and get close to nature: right on their doorstep is the Bouddi National Park and Killcare Beach.

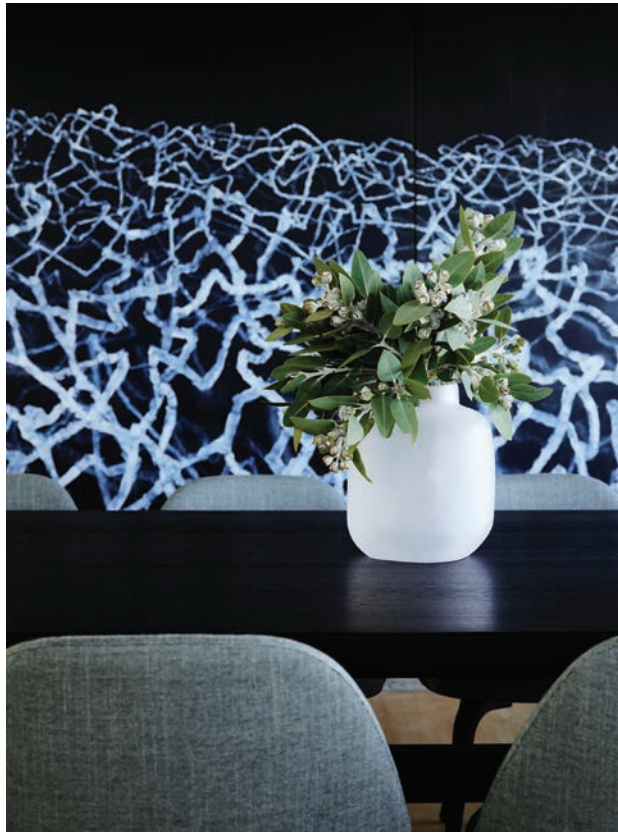
The house, which is 91km north of Sydney, was designed and built for the owners by Sydney firm Square Design. Starkly modern and planned with easy living in mind, it pays homage to its striking natural surrounds, inviting the outside in at every opportunity. Perched on the peak of a small hill, the house is on three levels: the upper one – which incorporates the main en-suite bedroom and the living areas – enjoys unparalleled views of the Tasman Sea and the adjoining protected parklands, and leads onto the terrace, plunge pool and deck. The three guest bedrooms, two guest bathrooms and kitchenette are on the ground level, with a remarkable wine cellar nestling on the lower level.

Sydney firm Decus Interiors set out to strip the house of its beach identity without losing sight of its magnificent setting. The aim? To balance potentially harsh and unforgiving space and light with cosy sophistication and 'purposeful elements of surprise'. The clean, contemporary aesthetic is tempered by generous use of texture throughout – polished concrete meets steel and glass, stone cladding, timber and metal. It's a heady mix, but banish the thought of the interior falling prey to a soulless space: the dreamy decor, with its calm, but dramatic colour palette of inky blues, obsidian, charcoal, various shades of grey, dusty pinks and leafy greens, gives the abode a luxurious feel that spells only one word: glamour.

The owners' brief was to create a stylish, practical home that lends itself to entertaining, reflects their love of travel and captures the characteristics of historic European houses, while retaining a relaxed ambience and barefoot elegance. Finishes and furniture have been cleverly chosen to soften the depth of colour, and the modern nature of the house is balanced with dramatic tones, tactile touches, striking artworks and vintage pieces sourced internationally: here you'll find iconic Charlottenborg rattan chairs by Arne Jacobsen, Minotti armchairs and vintage French teak and cane seating.

There are also playful, innovative details: for example, the obsidian-coloured, jewel-like powder room on the upper level is hidden behind the joinery of the library (where the owners display their finds from their overseas travels) and wouldn't be out of place in a James Bond movie; the drama of the wine cellar is heightened by cloaking the door in wall panelling, and the main bedroom cupboard doors are clad in exquisite wallpaper depicting a magical night scene.

While the opulent interior decoration offers serenity, in contrast to the house's rough and wild environment – especially in the cosy main bedroom, which takes cocooning to a new level – Decus has ensured it enhances the experience of living there by reflecting the vistas through colour choices, soft furnishings and the introduction of myriad textures. It's incredibly clever, and the resultant richness and glamour are the perfect foil for the competing outdoor drama of nature herself. Here, beauty is never skin-deep. ■ decus.com.au



HOME KILLCARE

this page An Old Yarn Pom-Pom Tulu rug demarcates a scenic seating area on the ground floor, which features a Bell table by Sebastian Herkner. **opposite (clockwise, from top left)** The home's architectural modernity is reflected in its myriad textures, as seen in the concrete and timber floor in the open-plan dining room; 'Dark Wood', 2010, by Tim Summerton provides an inky accent in the sleek eating area; Lindsey Adelman's Branching light illuminates a marble-topped kitchen counter on the upper level; antique touches, such as French teak and cane chairs, help soften the interior's contemporary edge.

“
Sydney interior firm Decus Interiors set out to strip the house of its beach identity without losing sight of its magnificent setting
”

this spread Thanks to its location on the peak of a small hill, the home has enviable views of Killcare Beach, which is just a five-minute walk away. Large steel-and-glass doors create a seamless indoor-outdoor flow from the living room to the deck and terrace on the upper floor.



this page In one of the ground-floor bedrooms, 'Moonee Beach', 2016, by Alan Jones mimics the surrounding parklands. **opposite (clockwise, from top left)** A jewel-toned powder room on the upper level includes a vintage brass Borsani mirror from Nicholas & Alistair; navy grasscloth wallpaper from Phillip Jeffries is enhanced by Serge Mouille's Antony lights in the main bedroom; 'Vivid Blue', 2008, by Martine Emdur greets visitors in the entrance hall; Grant Featherston's Scape chair provides a bright pop of magenta in one of the guest bedrooms.



“
The clean, contemporary aesthetic is tempered
by generous use of texture throughout
”

