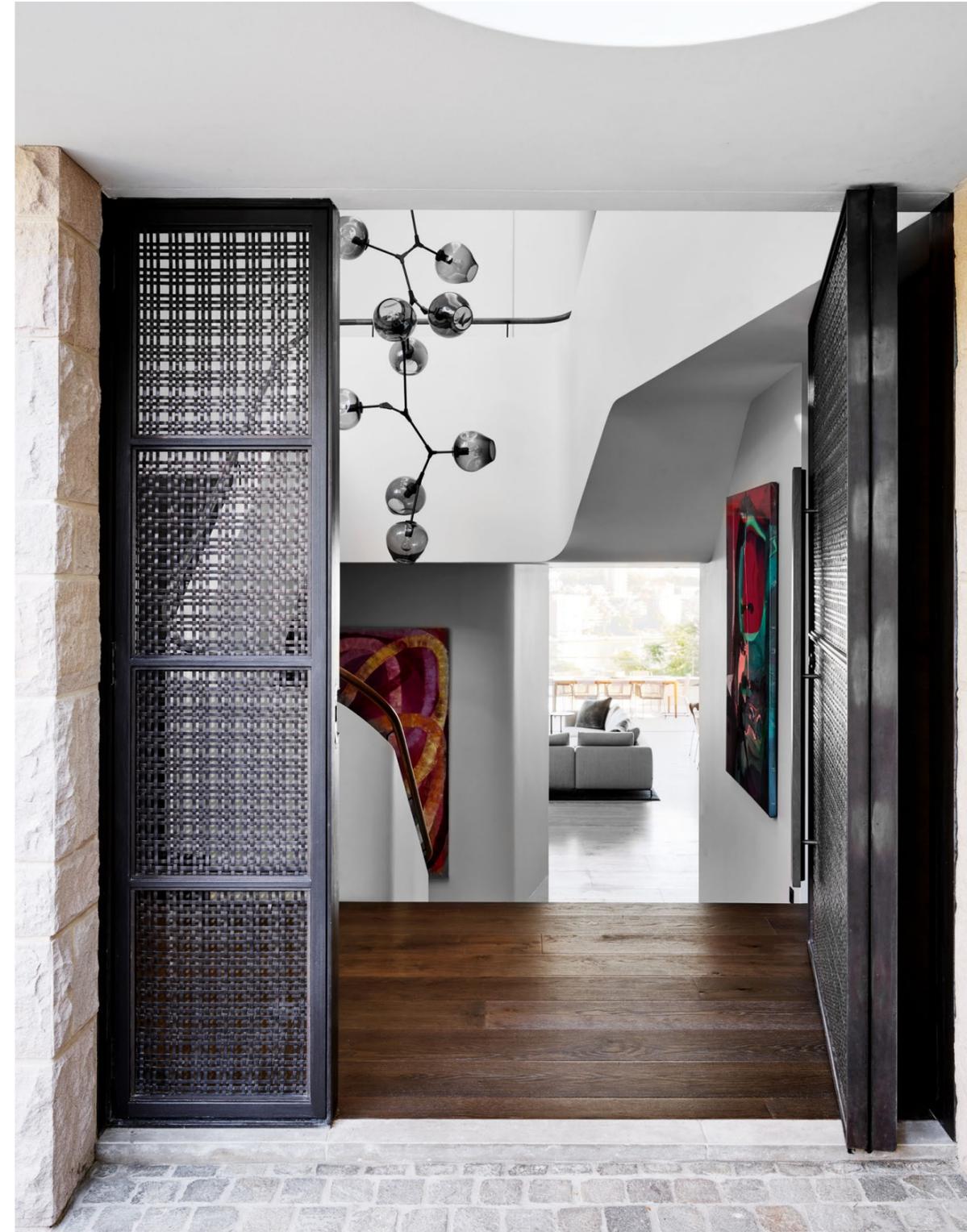


Front-row seat

With a dress-circle view of the harbour and the city, and quiet luxury reigning within, this Sydney home has all the attributes its owners were seeking.

Photographs ANSON SMART Words JUDY PASCOE



This page The entrance to the home features a Luigi Rosselli signature mesh door. Lindsey Adelman custom 'Branching' chandelier. Artworks by Ildiko Kovacs (left) and Dale Frank (right). Tongue n Groove 'Eterno' floorboards in Argento. Walls throughout are painted in Resene 'Quarter Fossil'.
Opposite page The home enjoys a magnificent outlook over Sydney Harbour.



“We want to be here for a very long time, so everything had to be of a high level.”

Stepping into the expansive living areas of this elegant family home in Sydney’s eastern suburbs is akin to taking a seat with the audience in a beautiful theatre to watch the light and sun move across the harbour and city skyline throughout the day.

With so much drama outside it is quite fitting that the interior design by Alexandra Donohoe Church, principal of Decus Interiors, is so considered and calm. This is a house that whispers luxury rather than shouts it.

“Warmth is a word we kept coming back to,” says the owner. “We want to be here for a very long time, so everything had to be of a high level. All the elements had to look beautiful and feel beautiful, but we have four children so it had to be a usable, pragmatic design.”

One of the most gratifying features for the owners is that everyone who comes to the home comments not just on its beauty but also the warmth. “That’s just what we wanted – a real family home, not a gallery,” says the owner.

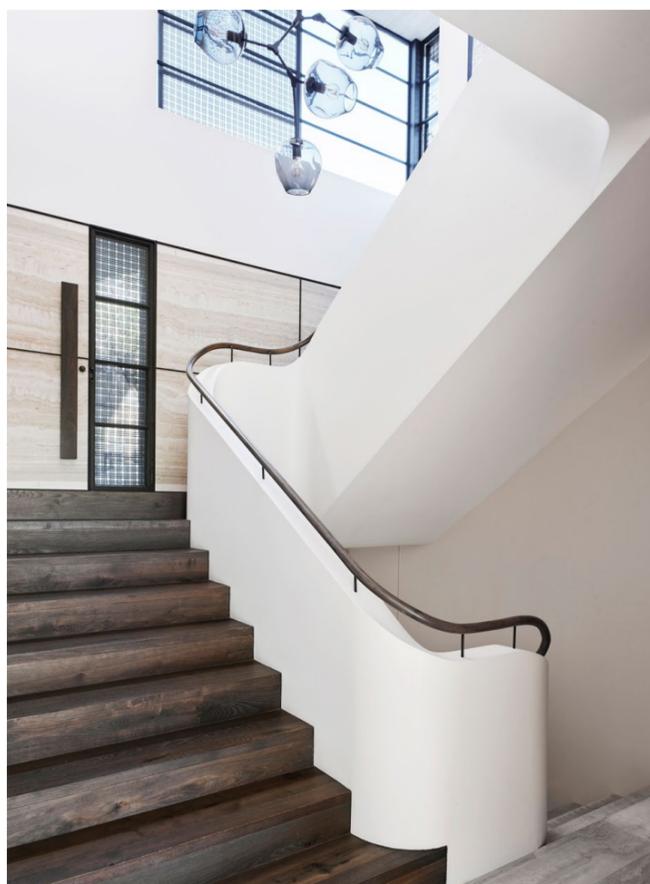
The dwelling by Luigi Rosselli Architects on a hilltop site with sweeping views was an extensive modification of a development application that the previous owners had lodged. Decus was called in while the build was under council consideration. “The brief was for a classic and contemporary feel,” says Alexandra. “We had to

marry the tastes of the husband and wife – she likes colour and he wanted strong masculine lines.” The two aesthetics have been seamlessly integrated. Colour has been introduced in a subtle but richly rewarding way, such as the pink Moroso ‘Redondo’ chair and the multi-hued Christophe Delcourt ‘MUC7’ side table in the family living room or the Knoll ‘Saarinen Executive’ chairs in a grey-green velvet Dedar fabric in the formal dining area. The precise lines of the walk-in dressing room with its strict arrangement of shelves and dark timber grain appeals to the husband’s style, while offering plenty of space for the wife’s collection of shoes.

“We are very guided by what the clients like so every project of ours looks quite different,” says Alexandra. “The clients are living in the space so they need to love it.” She even walked through the clients’ former home to get a feel for the types of things they loved. “This home is not as adventurous as some projects we have done but it certainly won’t date, and we worked in with Luigi’s classic style of architecture.”

With four young teenagers to consider, there are plenty of spaces for rambunctious family living as well as more formal areas for the adults. On the main living floor, the lounge and dining rooms can be completely closed off with sliding doors to provide a quiet and sophisticated retreat for cocktails or dinner parties.

This page The family living area has a Moroso ‘Redondo’ armchair from Hub with Christophe Delcourt ‘MUC7’ side table from Ondene on a ‘Morocco 3’ rug from Robyn Cosgrove. Oluce ‘Atollo’ table lamp from Euroluce and Michaël Verheyden ‘Suede Letter Box’ from Ondene on custom cabinetry by Decus Interiors. CTO Lighting ‘Heron’ floor lamp from Spence & Lyda. Curtains by Simple Studio in Designs of the Time ‘Fabron’ from James Dunlop Textiles. Pocket doors can close off the adjacent formal living room. Opposite page Custom coffee table by Jonathan West for Decus Interiors. B&B Italia ‘Ray’ sofa from Space with Dedar ‘Splendido Splendente’ cushion from South Pacific Fabrics and Nau ‘Nest’ table from Cult. On the terrace, Roda ‘Teka’ table and ‘Harp’ chairs from Domo.



Here, the owners requested that the furnishings be “dressed up but not uncomfortably so” and Alexandra selected a plush Minotti ‘Lawrence’ sofa that’s perfect for lounging in front of the fireplace.

The downstairs rumpus room which opens to the pool is pure kids’ zone, a fun and easy space with a punchy colour palette and indestructible furniture, including a nylon rug and modular seating. The size of the drawers in the custom cabinetry along the wall was dictated by the need to stow sleeping bags for friends’ sleepovers.

For the children’s bedrooms the selection was by lottery. One room has a view – but is next to Mum and Dad – one room is bigger, one smaller, and the daughter of the family scored her own ensuite so there’s no need to compete for bathroom time with her brothers. The bedrooms have all been personalised with different wallpapers, while the colour palettes are variations on a tonal theme.

The attention to detail in the home is impressive: from the custom Cipollino marble vanity and leather wall tiles in the powder room to the custom panelled joinery and suspended shelving in the dining room, the handmade timber and leather handles by Jonathan West, and the timber pocket doors highlighted with metal. Everything is refined and luxurious without being overdone.

But despite the undeniable finesse it is first and foremost a practical and robust family home. Although they have only been in residence for a few months, the owner says, “We’ve already had someone put a mark on the wall, there’s a pen mark on something, a scratch somewhere else and the dog has made himself comfortable on the sofa – it’s definitely home.” | decus.com.au; luigirosselli.com

This page The formal dining room has a Christophe Delcourt ‘Tye’ table from Ondene with Knoll ‘Saarinen Executive’ chairs from De De Ce. Rina Menardi ‘Lagoon’ platter from Ondene. ‘Bolle’ light from Ultimo Interiors. Custom joinery by Decus Interiors. Kate Hume ‘Pebbles’ vase from Hub. Flooring is brushed ‘Classic Travertine’ from Worldstone. Opposite page, from top in the kitchen, joinery by Decus Interiors with Calacatta Oro top from WK Stone. ‘Indi’ pendant lights from Articolo. Mater ‘High’ stools from Cult. Michaël Verheyden ‘Komm’ bowl and ‘Aperitivo’ tray from Ondene. Custom patinated bronze and stone detailed rangehood by Decus Interiors. Wolf ‘E Series’ oven from Winning Appliances. Staircase has a ‘Branching’ chandelier by Lindsey Adelman. Wall in ‘Classic Travertine’ from Worldstone. Stairs in ‘Eterno Argento’ from Tongue n Groove. Custom handrail and balustrade by Decus Interiors.



SPEED READ

» Alexandra Donohoe Church of Decus Interiors joined forces with Luigi Rosselli Architects in the design of this expansive home in Sydney's eastern suburbs. » Alexandra enhanced Luigi's classic architecture with a timeless interior scheme that is refined, elegant and warm while still accommodating the requirements of the family's four children. » The owners' wish for beautiful, high-end elements that were also pragmatic has translated into travertine flooring, marble benchtops, custom joinery, bespoke furniture and luxe finishes that promote a contemporary chic ambience. » The well-appointed interior is fittingly complemented by the bird's-eye view of Sydney Harbour and the city.



This page, clockwise from top left In the powder room, a custom honed Cipollino marble vanity from Granite & Marble Works with Vola brushed black tapware from Candana. Leather wall tiles from Analu. Matter Made 'Abal' mirror from Criteria. Articolo 'Duo' wall sconces. Michaël Verheyden 'Suede Tray' and 'Penne' vase from Ondene. The master ensuite has 'Casa' handmade wall tiles from Onsite and 'Crema Perla' limestone flooring from Bisanna Tiles. Victoria + Albert 'Barcelona' bath with Vola tapware, both from Candana. A corner of the dining area with Decus Interiors custom cabinetry by Jonathan West with Nanz '8373FF' handles. Henry Dean 'Sambor' vase from Ondene. Artwork by Alexander McKenzie. On the outdoor terrace, Roda 'Dandy' sofa from Domo and Paola Lenti 'Sciara' table from De De Ce. Cushions in Hermès 'Pavage' outdoor fabric from South Pacific Fabrics and Perennials 'Plushy' fabric. Hay 'Crinkle' throw from Cult. **Opposite page** In one of the bedrooms the walls are papered in Christopher Farr Cloth 'Crochet' from Ascraft. Custom bedhead in Pierre Frey 'Zag' from Milgate. Cushion in Christopher Farr Cloth 'Capri' from Ascraft. Bemboka stonewashed linen quilt. 'Bobby' blanket from Jordan. Montana 'Dream' bedside table from Cult with Nendo 'W132' lamp from Euroluce. Carpet from Whitecliffe Imports. On the terrace, a Paola Lenti 'Kabà' chair from De De Ce, and Gervasoni 'InOut' stool from Anibou.

