



VIEW FINDER

Gentle neutrals and tall ceilings create an airy feel in this Sydney home, but it's the beautiful bayside vistas that really steal the show

Produced Helen Adams. Photography Simon Kenny



OPPOSITE the sandstone used for the fireplace surround was milled on-site. Walls are painted Dulux Hog Bristle. Sofas and rug from King Furniture. THIS PAGE the steps leading up to the mezzanine are blackbutt. Feature wall painted Watty! Donkey. For stockists see Buyer's Guide.



THIS PAGE the upstairs living area opens out to a generous balcony. Outdoor setting from Freedom. OPPOSITE TOP a view from the kitchen, over the dining area, to Garigal National Park. OPPOSITE BOTTOM drawers from Degabriele Kitchens and a Laminex benchtop lend a sleek look the kitchen. For stockists see Buyer's Guide.



"I like to call our kitchen the Starship Enterprise! It's the control centre for the whole home and from here I can look out over the living and dining areas and take in the amazing views" **DEB HARROD** HOMEOWNER

When interior designer Deb Harrod and her husband spotted this north-facing, light-flooded block of land on Sydney's North Shore, they immediately saw its potential – and its challenges. "The house on the site was stuck in a Fifties time warp and didn't take advantage of its proximity to the water," she says, "plus the backyard was on a steep slope, so it wasn't user-friendly."

These days, it's a very different story. The existing double-storey house was demolished and architect Dugald Mackenzie, who'd worked with Deb on previous projects, was brought in. He suggested flattening out the backyard and building a double-level home with a mezzanine that cantilevers out over the ground floor. "We now have gorgeous views over the national park and out to the bay," says Deb. "We'd worked with Dugald before, >





THIS PAGE pastel-toned bed linen from Peri complements the xxx commercial carpet. Wicker baskets from Jedo's Beach House provide storage. OPPOSITE the home office was custom-made by PM Construct. Roller shutters conceal bookcases and keep office essentials out of sight. For stockists see Buyer's Guide.



"I love the streamlined look of our home office. And including a small window eye level means I can look down to the living and dining areas, and out to the water views, while I am at work" **DEB HARROD** HOMEOWNER

◁ so he knows what we like. It's been a collaborative process. This was our biggest and most complex project to date."

A veteran of six previous renovations, Deb brushed up on her interior design skills, taking on a part-time course and building up a scrapbook full of ideas she could use for the house. "I was very involved from the beginning," says Deb, "and I shared the project management with our builders."

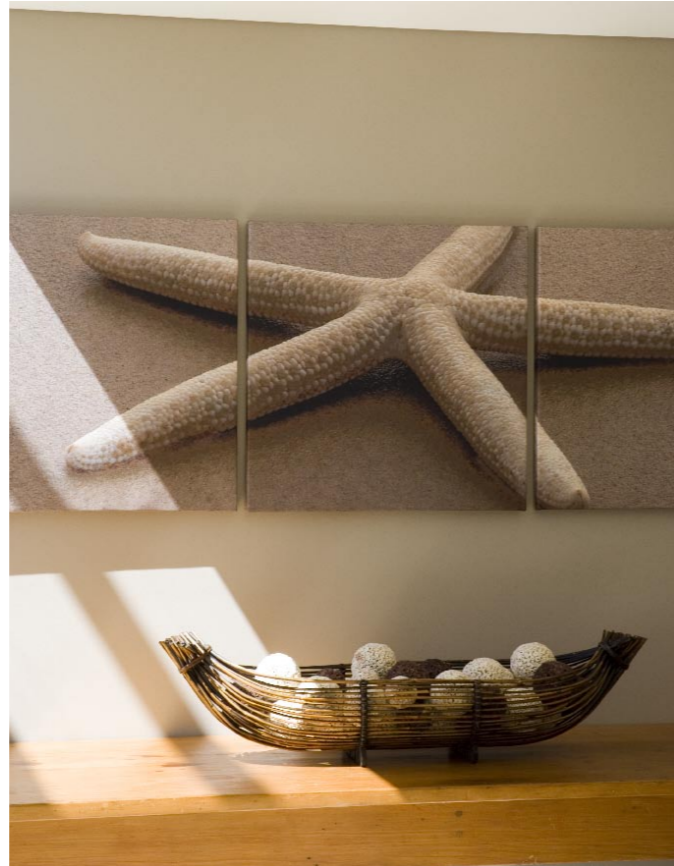
This was an amazing process, she adds: "Three hundred tonnes of earth had to be excavated from behind the house, and, then – unbelievably – craned over the house. This took longer than we expected. It was worth it, though. Once all that work was done the new house seemed to just spring up out of the ground."

The home's main living zones are spread across the two floors. On the ground floor, a living area adjoins the kitchen and ▷

NEUTRAL TERRITORY

Every home Deb Harrod has built or renovated – and there are seven of them – she has decorated differently. "In the past, we've renovated everything from a Federation home to an Edwardian apartment, and the decor I've used has varied greatly with each," says Deb. "I tend to have a 'been there, done that' approach. Once I've tried a certain look, I like to move on to something new." This home is her first foray into neutrals. The colours she has chosen are inspired by the Kincumber sandstone used around the fireplace. "I wanted the decor to be in harmony with the wonderful views outside the window. It's also a little bit Palm Beach, a little bit modern ski lodge."

RIGHT the starfish triptych, which hangs by the home's entrance, is from Bubble Creative. **BELOW** a terraced garden, landscaped by xxxxx xxxxxxx, leads up to the house. Facade painted Dulux Namibia. **OPPOSITE** the family enjoys entertaining on the deck. Outdoor setting from xxxxxxx and barbecue from xxxxxxx. For stockists see Buyer's Guide.



"This house has an unusual layout. Council restrictions prevented us from adding a third level so instead we added a mezzanine level. At its tallest point, the ceiling reaches six metres" **DEB HARROD** HOMEOWNER

- 1 kitchen
- 2 living area
- 3 bed rooms
- 4 garage
- 5 kitchen
- 6 living area
- 7 deck
- 8 garage

◀ leads out to a generous under-cover deck. "We spend most of our time out here," says Deb. "Because the deck is covered, we can use it year-round. It's gloriously sunny, and it's like having an extra room." Upstairs, there is a formal living and dining area, plus the main bedroom and home office.

Deb limited herself to three interior colours – white for the ceilings and skirting boards, cream for the walls and a deep brown for feature walls. This neutral palette sets off the blackbutt flooring and creates a relaxed, coastal feel.

Clever storage solutions were foremost in Deb's mind when she and Dugald were planning the home's layout. No space is wasted. "One thing we learnt from our previous renovations is that you can never have too much storage. There's a bank of storage under the mezzanine level, and our home office has been designed so everything can easily be hidden away."

She also adds that this home is her most satisfying project yet. "We worked with a wonderful team and a fantastic site – the aspect is great, the positioning is superb and there are no neighbours close by. To me, this house is close to perfect." H&G

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