



These pages, from left In the kitchen, clerestory windows provide an instant connection with nature. At the heart of the space is a heavyset island bench in Ocean Blue travertine from Surface Gallery with a Franke pull-out tap from Winning Appliances. 'Tommy' stool by Matters + Made. The aged European Oak veneer from Matilda Veneer with custom aged brass handles by Saul Forge hides the butler's pantry. Artwork by Coen Young. On the kitchen island is a black glaze 'Tokkuri' platter by Toru Hatta from The DEA Store, Chinese bowl from Watertiger and ceramic jug from Planet. In the corner is a Chinese terracotta planter by Tow and Line. The ground floor entry features an arresting artwork by Morgan Stokes. On the MCM House console is a 'Crown' vase by Floris Wubben from Studio ALM.

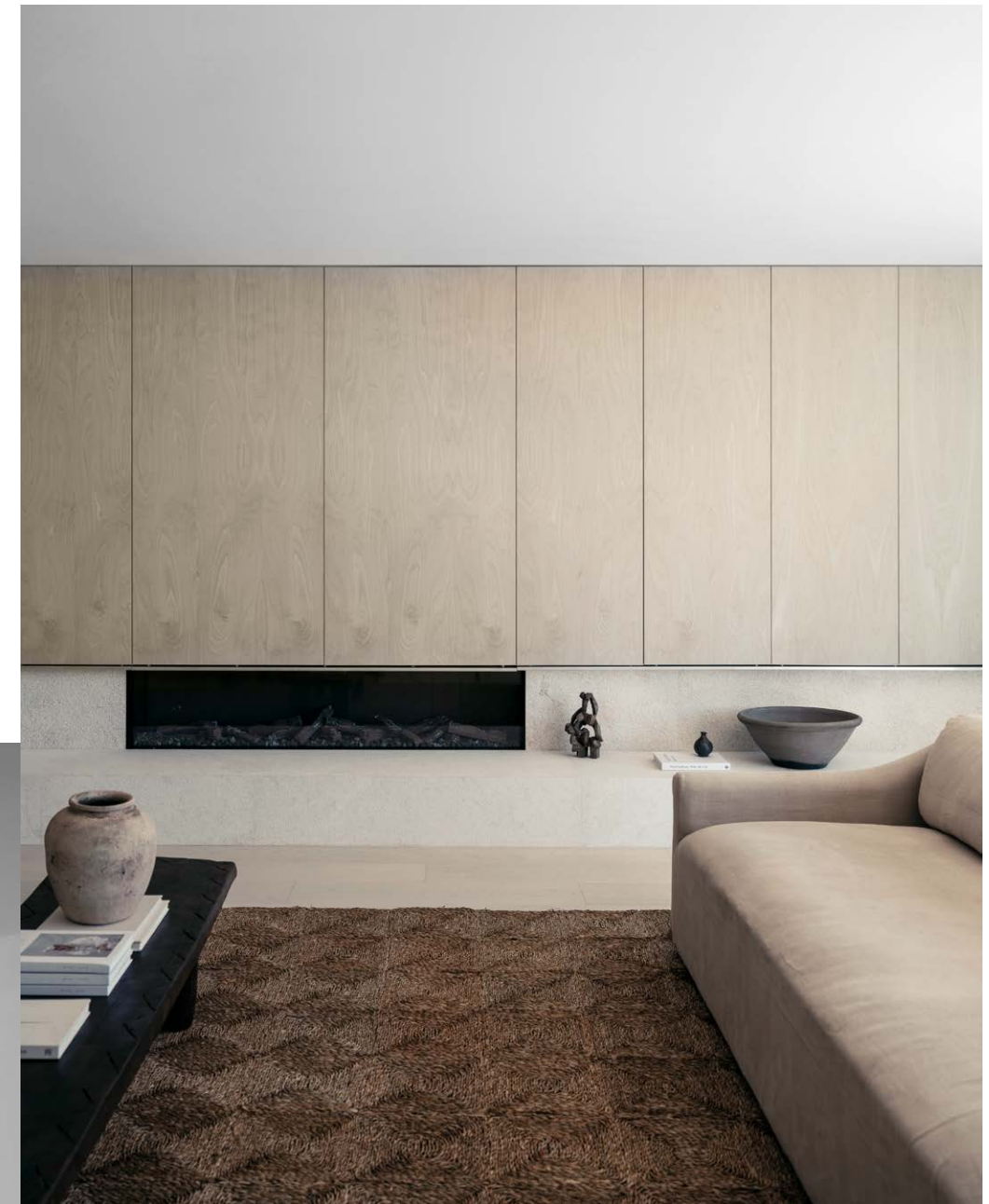


LIGHT HEARTED

Style and serenity
make for perfect
bedfellows in this hazy
Bronte Beach abode.

Words **CARLI PHILIPS** Photography **FELIX FOREST**
Styling **JOSEPH GARDNER**

These pages, clockwise from top The dining setting is at the heart of the first-floor communal area. 'Oscar' chair and microcement 'AO' table by Matters + Made. A 'Tense' pendant from District emits diffused light. On the tabletop, a Serax glass, ceramic vase from Robert Plumb and small speckled porcelain bowl by Arnaud Barraud are displayed. Artwork by Morgan Stokes from Curatorial+Co. A sculpture by Tina Psarianos sits on the Savannah marble shelf from Surface Gallery. Rug from Artisanweave Flooring Co. The TV is hidden behind a custom joinery unit in Woodstock Grey Birch from Briggs Veneers, with a sculpture by Scott McNeil from Curatorial+Co, ceramic vessel by Toru Hatta and bowl by Watertiger on the shelf below. Seagrass floor squares from International Floorcoverings demarcate the living area. Floor-to-ceiling doors flush the vast space with light. 'Roll Arm' sofa by Tow and Line. Pierre Jeanneret 'Easy' chairs from Studio Hacienda. In between is a Tommaso Cimini 'Daphine' floor lamp from Lumina. Alongside the microcement bench seat is a 'Tofu Pot' lamp by Tow and Line. On the Orient House coffee table is a pot by Watertiger and small bowl from Planet.



Light, whitewashed interiors can be enough to make any parent shudder, but designer Chloe Matters of Matters + Made managed to give homeowners Tegan and Jason Natoli the peaceful palette they coveted and make it family-friendly for their three young kids. While most of the materials in the house favour muted, neutral hues, they've been executed in easy-to-maintain surfaces. "We used washable microcement, wallpaper that has a beautiful texture but is waterproof, and sandblasted and bush hammered stone, which are hard-wearing and non-porous," says Chloe. It was a solution that answered Tegan and Jason's brief, which also included an extensive amount of hidden storage for a fresh, minimalist look. "We wanted something timeless and simple with some coastal and Mediterranean touches," says Tegan.

The body of the building was by architect David Katon, but Chloe adapted the floor plan to be more efficient, while also keeping long-term resale in mind. She had designed for Jason's building company, JCORP Construction, in the past, which proved to be a huge benefit in the success of the house. "Jason and Tegan gave me free reign, but we had already worked so well together professionally and I knew them personally, so I had a good understanding of what styles they gravitated towards," Chloe says. "I was very conscious of »



« what they would be comfortable living with, which was something unfussy, refined and pared-back.»

The sub-basement level is reserved for parking but also has a gym and sauna. Above, a secondary mezzanine living level is fitted out with a generous sofa, pool table and wine cellar. Tegan and Jason wanted all the bedrooms on one level, so the ground floor has been divided into two wings. In the children's sleeping quarters there are two bedrooms and a bathroom, a bunk room with ensuite and adjacent study. The adult's suite features a feathery light master, spacious WIR with slimline cabinetry and a central, leather-topped island bench. A bedhead wall separates the bed from the ensuite, where two hulking forms – the bathtub and the vanity – face one another. It's a sparse room but has been "softened" with creamy microcement walls, silvery-taupe travertine and gathered window dressings.

An enclosed stairwell with chunky Baltic White marble treads leads to the sizeable open-plan first floor where the eye immediately travels through the living space and out to the water. The area is defined by a seagrass rug framed by two Tow and Line sofas, a rear bench seat and a fireplace hearth with grey birch veneer cupboards to hide the TV. To mitigate the austerity, Chloe implemented bullnose corners, curved furniture, linen wall coverings and smooth, sliding doors. And to offset the minimalist fit-out, she adopted tranquil colours drawn from the natural environment in misty blues, bone white and biscuit.

At the other end of the room, the kitchen has been designed so that nothing is on show and everything can be easily tucked away. Buried behind a full-height flush timber joinery panel is a butler's pantry, while a second set of pocket doors conceal the oven and stovetop. "When guests come over, everything can be put away swiftly, leaving »



This page In the master ensuite, the floor is laid with 'Sabbia' tumbled edge tiles from Surface Gallery. Custom bath in Ocean Blue travertine from Surface Gallery. Mokum 'Obi' curtains in Stonewash Duckegg. Cultiver towels. Brodware 'Halo X' tapware from Candana. **Opposite page, clockwise from top** An artwork by Coen Young graces the ground floor stairwell with its Baltic White marble treads from Surface Gallery. On the Ocean Blue travertine vanity in the ensuite is a pot by Watertiger. 'Bricks' sconces by Thomas Maxam Studio. A brutalist stool came from a Paris flea market.

SPEED READ

» For this coastal home in Bronte, interior designer Chloe Matters fulfilled the client brief for a calm home that offsets the chaos and clutter associated with having three young kids. » Her clients wanted a relaxed atmosphere with practical, hidden storage. » Tranquillity, timelessness and serenity drove the interiors concept. » Washable wallpaper and hard-wearing, non-porous materials were used to keep the interiors family-friendly. » To soften the monolithic kitchen island and bathroom vanities, Chloe adopted a pale palette in bleached hues. » In an effort not to detract from the views, the joinery has been kept minimalist and unobtrusive. » The bedrooms are on the ground floor, and the first-floor communal level is one vast space with a dining table in the centre that divides the kitchen from the living zone.



« the benchtop free. It can then be reinstated just as quickly,” says Chloe. Clerestory windows run the perimeter of the ceiling and “lift the lid to create nice framing”, she says. “It makes you feel more connected to nature. You’re really in the sky.” Inspired by the local beach surroundings, the wobbly degradations in the Ocean Blue travertine island echo the movement of waves, and the flax-toned timber floorboards call to mind sand underfoot. Glazed doors open onto a small backyard with a pool.

In the centre of the expansive space is a 4.5-metre dining table, its position naturally dividing the two separate zones with floor-to-ceiling glass at either end for ventilation, flow and light. Windows bookmark the space so that Jason and Tegan can keep an eye on the kids. “An open layout was a must-have, not only for our family, but also for entertaining. We also wanted a big, beautiful kitchen for my-mother-in-law to cook for us,” jokes Tegan. The rooftop is a large summer spot complete with an outdoor shower, grill and fireplace kitchen.

No matter whose hands are getting dirty, the interiors can withstand hard knocks and clutter, despite its clean canvas. At once soothing and robust, it’s a house that has it all. **15** mattersandmade.com

This page, clockwise from top The kids’ bunk room features a misty blue palette. The bed frames are built in and have been painted Porter’s Paints ‘Duck Egg’. Bed Threads bedding. Toogood ‘Roly-Poly’ chair from District. Window coverings are Mokum ‘Obi’ in Duckegg. Wall sconces from Lighting Collective. A Pierre Jeanneret ‘Easy’ chair from Studio Hacienda sits in the corner of the calm master bedroom. Custom-made bedhead with bedding by Elias Mercantile. In the walk-in wardrobe there is central island with a leather top lined in Laguna Cypress from NSW Leather Co. Pot by Watertiger and breakfast bowl by Timna Taylor from The DEA Store. **Opposite page** The ensuite is behind the bullnose bedhead wall. Sconce from Lighting Collective. Artwork by Danica Firulovic. ‘Backenzahn’ side table from Living Edge.

