

NEW WAVE

Occupying a prime position on Sydney's Northern Beaches, this home is full of spaces that make the most of its location.

STORY JODIE THOMSON | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT REICHENFELD



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loves

Carlu Seaver works at the kitchen bench; the bifold windows, which open onto the internal courtyard, make summer entertaining a breeze. Bifold windows from Manly Windows. Armourfloor flooring from Big River Timbers. Stools and pendant lights from ECC Lighting+Furniture. Artwork by Julie Paterson at Cloth. **OPPOSITE** The Seavers' home is a short stroll from the beach. For Where to Buy, see page 188.

Sometimes you know instantly when you're onto a good thing. When Carl and Carlu Seaver spied this block for sale on Sydney's Northern Beaches, they acted quickly – properties like this by the ocean don't come up every day. "It's a very unique location, as no one can build in front of us," says Carlu, an interiors and food stylist.

The existing fibro cottage was nothing special, but the location was perfect for the family home they planned to build from scratch. Six years on, the couple, who live here with daughter Ella, 11, and their two dogs, are thrilled with their new home.

Despite the glamorous location, there were some design challenges for architect Richard Cole. The block

is narrow and compact – just nine metres wide and 220 square metres in total – and Carl and Carlu were insistent that the home maximise both light and space, as well as be sympathetic to the environment.

The resulting home is a triumph of form and function. Clad in high-performance yet cost-effective steel and fibre cement, with timber touches for warmth, it also sits lightly in the landscape. Sliding glass doors and louvre windows allow abundant light and breezes into the home.

It's designed as two pavilions around a central courtyard. The front door opens directly into the large open-plan living/dining area. A galley kitchen leads to the second pavilion, which includes a small >

'We go to the beach a lot, so we didn't want anything too precious. We chose materials that were really robust... It's not a fragile home.' CARLU

This is the life

Size is no obstacle for this house when it comes to entertaining. The generous room sizes and easy connection to the outdoors make events like parties and big lunches a breeze. Protected from the bracing coastal winds, the internal courtyard and deck become extra living areas during the warmer months. "In summer we use the deck a lot, we just hang out and read there," says Carlu. "In winter we use the living room more, as it's really cosy."

Sliding glass doors invite the light and breezes in and allow maximum enjoyment of the home's magnificent views. Sofa and ottoman from Sofa Studio. Eero Saarinen side table from Euroform. Parker chairs from Vampt Vintage Design. Cushions from Kas Australia. Rug from Rugs Carpet & Design. Kartell Componibili cabinet from Space. Artworks made by Carlu from Cloth fabrics. Marble tiles on fire surround from Bisanna Tiles. For Where to Buy, see page 188.

Ruby the boxer relaxes in the entertainment area. Roulette wallpaper from Afficionados of the Nod. Entertainment unit from Moss Furniture. Sofa bed from Freedom. Rug from Boyd Blue. **OPPOSITE TOP** Carl, Carlu and Ella chat in the kitchen. Kitchen by SydneySide. Benchtop in Caesarstone Osprey. Stools and pendant lights from ECC Lighting+Furniture. **OPPOSITE MIDDLE** The mirror was a gift from a friend. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** A vase from David Jones dresses up the dining table. **For Where to Buy, see page 188.**



< entertainment area, one bedroom and a bathroom. Upstairs are two more bedrooms, one with ensuite.

Inside, the feeling is fresh – the all-white walls are a perfect backdrop for Carlu to show off her favourite pieces. Sea tones and red bring life to the space. And with the beach just a short stroll away, there's a casual functionality to the interiors. "We didn't want anything too precious," says Carlu. "We chose materials that were really robust, like commercial-grade flooring. It's not a fragile home."

While compact, the home's layout provides great flexibility for the family. Separate living spaces and connecting indoor and outdoor areas offer plenty of options when they're alone or entertaining. "Everything slides, all the doors and windows," says Carlu. "It can be one big open space or several smaller ones. If Ella has friends over, we can section off a part for her."

Carl and Carlu know how lucky they were to land a block in such a good position. But they feel luckier still to have worked with an architect who understood exactly what they wanted in a home. "It has an organic quality, but definitely a beachy feel as well," says Carlu. "It's our dream home, really." >
Richard Cole Architecture, Avalon Beach, NSW; (02) 9918 3843 or www.richardcolearchitecture.com.au.

Colour palette

Dulux Whisper White (throughout)

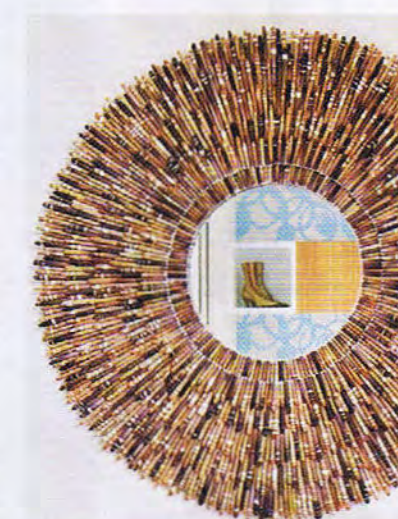
Add a dash of...

Dulux Template

Dulux Limelight

Porter's Paints Medieval

Sky blue and grass green echo the views outside; vibrant red adds impact.



Sliding glass doors on both sides of the living/dining area connect the space to the internal courtyard and external deck. Dining setting from Ikea. Decking from Barrenjoey Timber. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** Sandstone tiles and timber cabinetry in the bathroom mimic the colours found outdoors. Wall and floor tiles from Bisanna Tiles. Cabinetry by SydneySide. Basin and tapware from Candana Designs. The deck is a favourite spot to hang out in summer, says Carlu. Low-maintenance clumping bamboo provides privacy and protection from the wind. Dining suite from Moss Furniture. Japanese stone feeding troughs are used as a water feature in the courtyard. Arvil river pebbles from Eco Outdoor. For Where to Buy, see page 188. **H&G**



GROUND FLOOR



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