



GEOMETRY LESSON

A typical beach house this is not: instead, clean lines meet curves, and organic forms and earthy tones are brought to life with tactile finishes

PHOTOGRAPHY Derek Swalwell

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EXTERIOR

'The external materiality reflects the coastal landscape and relaxed surroundings,' say Jost Architects, who selected vertical timber cladding, which will turn a silvery grey as it weathers. Curved elements feature both inside and out: here on the outdoor seating area, an aperture in the covered patio allows light to flood through and also helps to soften the linear elements of the architecture.

Senja sofa, Tribù. Anchorage concrete coffee table, Coco Republic

ROOF DECK

On the first floor, a spiral staircase leads up to a deck that has uninterrupted views and is ideal for star-gazing, too





intentionally shunning every beach house cliché in the book, this home on Australia's Mornington Peninsula near Melbourne features swooping curves and angles clad in dark wood and a warm palette punctuated with visual pauses and graphic accents. 'Ours were the kind of clients who don't succumb to the obvious,' says interior decorator Simone Haag, who worked with Jost Architects on the project. 'We happily dispensed with the quintessential white-on-white beach aesthetic, opting instead for a richly toned and multi-layered interior.'

Occupying a prime spot on Sorrento Beach, the house has been designed as both a holiday escape and a permanent home for later life. In a break from the breezy coastal norm, its owners requested a dark and moody interior, as well as a tactile material palette of timber, stone and glass. To this end, architect Patrick Jost and team introduced richly stained tongue-and-groove cladding, which envelops the kitchen and extends out to the living spaces. Swathes of smooth green marble break up the cladding and cabinetry, while terrazzo flooring nods to modernist style.

The dramatic woodwork intensifies the home's pleasing interplay of geometry, which juxtaposes sharp lines with gentle arches. The architects integrated curved apertures inside and out as a way to offset the building's linear flat-roofed construction. Leaning into this balance of contrasting elements, Simone devised a scheme that syncs with the architectural language. 'The owners didn't want a minimalist space, but rather one with signs of life and lots of texture, as well as nostalgic pieces that tell stories of their past,' she says.

The tonal palette borrows from the home's surroundings and ensures the house is as inviting in the cooler months as it is during summer. 'We extracted green shades from the coastal vegetation, took rust tones from the cliffs and added in sandy yellows to bring a little of the beach landscape into the house,' says Simone.

For Simone, the standout feature by far is the large-scale mural in the main bedroom, painted by artist Charlotte Swiden. 'We wanted to create a sense of drama in this room through art, and the clients loved the idea. The mural brings together tonal shades in a graphic style, and everyone sees something different in it,' says Simone of the design, which encapsulates the homeowners' love of the unexpected. 'The architecture is so strong in this house, we really needed the interior to step up and match that confidence,' she concludes. 'We dreamt up a scheme that would both delight and surprise the owners and serve them well into the future.'

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simonehaag.com.au; jostarchitects.com



DINING AREA

Simone chose a large table as the homeowners love entertaining. 'Jost Architects made some selections for this space, and we helped to shape it,' she says. 'We supersized the pendant light to frame the table from above.'

Bohemia **pendant**, Joan Gaspar for Marset. Boardwalk **dining table**, The Wood Room. Olsen **dining chairs**, Life Interiors. Azure **sideboard**, Jetclass. Marra hand-knotted **rug**, Loom. Custom Arancini **floor lamp**, Moda Piera. **Ceramics** from Craft Victoria

LIVING AREA

'There's a sensorial design ethos throughout because of all the different textures,' says Simone.

Paloma Green **armchairs**, Apos Design for Kuda. Custom stone **tables**, Just Adele. **Ceramics** (on table), Cassie Hansen at Modern Times. Afghan Kandahar **rug**, Cadrys. **Limestone reliefs** (by fireplace), Neighbourhood Studio (Australia)



LIVING AREA

'The sofa softens the room with its curves and looks good from all angles,' explains Simone, who incorporated the homeowners' love of amber into this space with a side table in hand-blown glass.

Marlo **sofa**, Jordan. Soda **side table**, Miniforms. Akari 14A **floor lamp**, Isamu Noguchi for Vitra

KITCHEN

'We knew we wanted to complement the curves here so opted for stools that echoed that shape. It was important to all of us that the furniture didn't compete with the building's materials and finishes,' says Simone. Even the marble on the island has a curve.

Diiva swivel **stools**, grazia&co; in custom leather by Instyle **Ceramics**, Stephanie Phillips at pépité

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THE DESIGNER AND ARCHITECTS

Jost Architects and interior decorator Simone Haag worked on this project, which is set on a rugged coastline south of Melbourne, for a couple with three children approaching their teenage years.

THE PROPERTY

The kitchen is the centrepiece of the ground floor and connects the dining area with two living spaces, one at the front of the house, the other to the rear. The main bedroom is at ground level and there are two more bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. Here, an additional living area opens up onto a terrace, where a staircase leads to a roof deck. In the garden, beyond the swimming pool, is a separate bungalow: a teenage pad that doubles as a guest room.

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SNUG

'This is the first room you see when you walk into the house so we needed to take it from a white box to something special,' says Simone.

Custom **shelving**, Christopher Blank. **Ceramics** on shelving: pépite, Bastard Ceramics and Coastal Living at Modern Times. Cellular Limestone **Sculpture** III, Neighbourhood Studio. Forest Floor tall **vessel** and After the Fire medium **vessel**, both Danielle Segal at Tacit Art. **Painting** (top shelf) by Jessalyn Brooks. **Painting** (middle shelf) by Greg Wood at Otomys. **Print** (on wall), Jeffrey Smart at Meadow **tables**, Boyd Blue. Leeroy **sofa**, Jardan





SNUG

The way the tactility of furnishings can lift a room discreetly is illustrated beautifully here with the folds of the curtains, the form of the chair and the lines of the rug.

Puffy lounge **chair** by Faye Toogood, Hems. Vintage iGuzzini table **lamp**; try Vinterior for similar. Custom **rug**, Weave. Arima **curtains**, Designs Of The Time. Hotaru Double Bubble **pendant** by Barber Osgerby, Twentytwentyone

MAIN BEDROOM

'We talked about how we could introduce drama through art here,' says Simone. 'The client loved the idea of filling a wall with a mural, rather than hanging smaller art.'

Custom wall **mural**, Charlotte Swiden. Nelson **bed**, Cattelan Italia. Tangali **bench**, Tigmi Trading. Rituals 3 **lamp**, Foscarini. **Bed linen**, Sheet Society

