



STYLING ASSISTANT: SAVANNA COHEN, FLORALS THROUGHOUT, HERMETICA EL OMERS TADAS SALAD ROMI S. COLINITRY POAD



ith envy-inducing coastal views, it's hard to believe that this beautiful home on Sydney's northern beaches was built way back in the 1950s and then blighted by a series of poorly configured additions. However, when Anna Williams and her husband Matt discovered this diamond in the rough six years ago, they saw real potential for a forever home in the

"This is our fifth renovation, but the first one where we can see ourselves staying long-term," says Anna, who's the director of Balgowlah-based residential design studio Your Beautiful Home. "We needed to change the spatial planning to add a fifth bedroom, create a main bedroom with an ensuite, add a large balcony to the rear of the house to capture views of the beach, and to completely update the interior."

property's solid brick bones.

They set about maximising the vistas and accommodating a better designed open-plan living, dining and kitchen space, as well as a combined guest room/study space and a bedroom for each of their three sons (aged 11 to 15), along with their own bathroom and kids' living zone. The laundry was integrated into this area and has access to the garage.

However, the biggest structural change was the removal of the low-pitched roof and flat ceilings, which were replaced with a high-pitched roof and raked ceilings by Signature Building & Carpentry. "The high, raked and panelled ceilings and pale timber beams on the upstairs level are now the standout design feature," says Anna. "When you arrive upstairs, there's a sense of space and that level is flooded with natural light. We're lucky to have a beautiful ocean view at the front and the volume of the space really enhances it."

Aesthetically, Anna chose an earthy palette of soft greens, pale timbers, rattan and other neutrals. She was careful to avoid blue, a colour typically associated with coastal homes. "Strong elements of black are included to 'ground' the pale interior palette and create a connection with the exterior of the home," she says. "I wanted to feel like we were on holiday all the time, and the restful palette and raw textures are the key to this. I love pale timbers because they are timeless in a coastal setting and anchor a calm palette. We used pale herringbone timber floors (a combination of solid American oak with a custom limewash applied) and a timber veneer to create the joinery items. These timbers, combined with natural linens, chunky wool carpet and rugs and pale stone surfaces, create a sense of relaxation."

Although the massive renovation was completed 10 months after starting in November 2019, it wasn't all smooth sailing. "We had intended to keep all the external walls upstairs as we

LIVING AREA (top left) Luxe Joinery built the cabinetry from Laminex and Navurban 'Norwood' by New Age Veneers. Sofas, H&J Furniture. Tamale coffee table, Uniqwa Collections. Petrine wall sconce, Nightworks. DINING AREA (left) The flooring in the open-plan section is Botany European oak from Havwoods, laid in a herringbone pattern. KITCHEN (opposite) "I love this space," says Anna (pictured). "It's so easy to work in; the drawers and cupboards are powered so they open with a light touch. It also has a view of the sea out the front and palm trees out the back." The cabinetry is handpainted in black with custom panelled grooving, and the island frame is limewashed American oak. Dekton 'Lunar' benchtops, Cosentino. Gessi 'Emporio' tapware. Bar stools, McMullin & Co. Oven and cooktop, V-Zug, Pendant lights, SmithMade. James Dunlop 'Kyoto' curtains, Marlow & Finch.

a good news This home has solar panels installed on the roof, which reduces energy consumption and the cost of utility bills.

"Greens can throw different tones in different lights so I was very careful to select the right shade"

weren't changing the footprint there," says Anna. "However, when we stripped off the gyprock, the walls were made of a compressed-straw product. It was rotten in many places due to water ingress, plus our engineer advised that it wasn't structurally

adequate, so the whole top level had to be rebuilt!"

Despite this setback, the renovation has produced a home the whole family can enjoy – in a fantastic location. "It's quiet, there aren't many shops, and we can walk down to large, open beaches, so it feels a lot like being away on holiday," says Anna.

"We have a glass front door to create a sense of welcome," she adds. "Through it, you can see a gorgeous artwork of the rocks at Freshwater Beach by Fiona Chandler. We used to play with our boys there, hiding around those rocks when the kids were really little – I love seeing it every day when I come home."

Architecture and design by Your Beautiful Home. See more projects at yourbeautifulhome.com.au

MAIN BEDROOM Painting the main wall grey-green Dulux Jiping was a decision Anna took very seriously. "During construction, I must have checked the swatch on site about 30 times!" she says. Strand bedhead and Ghana side table, Uniqwa Collections. Pendant, Klaylife. Agra rug, Armadillo. BEDROOM (opposite, top left) "The builders constructed the loft bed from a drawing I gave them and Luxe Joinery installed Ben's wardrobes," says Anna. "The bed is painted Taubmans Knight Grey with timber for the lower bedhead." Strand bed, Uniqwa Collections. Side table, Mustard. MIB 6 wall light, Urban Lighting. Casamance 'Shinok' wallpaper, Zepel Fabrics.

BATHROOM (opposite, top right) Shades of grey balance the custom vanity

in Navurban 'Norwood' timber veneer by New Age Veneers. The benchtop is Silestone 'Et Serena' from Cosentino. Garonne limestone floor tiles, Eco Outdoor, Concrete basin, Slabshapers. Poco tapware, Abey Australia. Kohei pendant light, Yak & Yeti. **STUDY NOOK** (opposite, bottom) More Casamance 'Shinok' wallpaper is used here. "This is one of my favourites because it looks like a textured grasscloth but is made of vinyl and wipes clean," says Anna. Desk veneer, as before. Nalani chair, Inartisan.' Sculpture by Scott McNeil, through Curatorial+Co. Wall paint, Taubmans Tahira White.





DESIGNER TIPS Anna Williams, Your Beautiful Home, NSW

Focal points and functionality

- + Living area "A television may be an essential part of a family home, but you don't want it to be the focal point of your space. I painted a wall in Taubmans All Black to make the TV less dominant, and also to highlight the beautiful grain in the timber-veneer joinery."
- + Kitchen "Benchtops are a major decision — they are often the key visual feature in the room but need to be easy to maintain. In my house, a benchtop has to deliver on both aesthetics and function. Natural marbles are a stunning choice, but require more ongoing care. Choosing a surface that is resistant to scratches and stains, and which allows hot pots and pans to be placed directly onto it, is essential for me so I installed a Dekton surface."
- + Dining area "Always think about whether you are ready to look after a perfectly

- polished dining table. Dining tables get a lot of wear and tear in a busy family like ours. We love a polished table, but I deliberately chose a design that will still look great in years to come when it's dented and marked!"
- + Main bedroom "A main bedroom benefits hugely from a considered wall treatment behind the bed. There are so many options here wallpaper, fabric, timber, panelling and colour. It's a lovely way to create something you enjoy in a space that is very personal."
- + Bathroom "The bathroom basin is now an opportunity for creative expression, thanks to the many styles on the market. I encourage all my clients not to miss this style opportunity. There are many ceramic, solid-surface, concrete and even metal options."









CLOCKWISE (from top) Pott 'SpongeUp' **pendant light** in Matt White, \$499, Klaylife. Daliah rattan **light shade**, \$399, Inartisan. Agra wool-cotton **rug** in Marlin, from \$4300, Armadillo. Nalani woven **dining chair**, \$490, Inartisan. Uniqwa 'Mele' timber **stool/table**, \$539, Collector Store. Kishi **vases** in Wide and Tall, \$109 and \$119, Papaya. Tula **vase**, from \$169, Papaya. Middle Of Nowhere 'Bjorn' arch **mirror**, \$403, Life Interiors. Arc concrete **basin** in French Grey, \$770, Concrete Nation. Poco Knurled wall **basin/bath set** in Black, \$463, Abey Australia. Taubmans All Weather low-sheen exterior **paint** in Black, \$51.30 per 1L, Bunnings. Dekton 'Lunar' **surface**, POA, Cosentino. Dulux Wash&Wear **paint** in Jiping, from \$85.90 per 4L, Bunnings. Pure linen **towel bundle** in Natural, \$245, Cultiver.

OUTDOOR LIVING AREA This is in the covered area next to the pool. The lounge setting was bought years ago from Outdoor Furniture Superstore and the cushions re-covered in Basics outdoor fabric from Eco Outdoor. $\label{eq:Basics}$ Nazia handwoven cushion, Inartisan. Coffee tables, Emporium Avenue. Tide outdoor rug. Armadillo. Vivi jug and highball glasses, Country Road. **OUTDOOR DINING** (opposite left) "The house is oriented east-west, so we added the generous balcony at the rear," says Anna. "We often eat out there as it is shaded and the sunsets are gorgeous." The table was a wedding gift from Anna's parents. Lakes chairs, Satara. Arbon limestone pavers, Eco Outdoor. **HALLWAY** (opposite top) At the entrance, a watercolour work by local artist Fiona Chandler evokes a nearby beach – Freshwater – that the family loves.