

Calming and charming

This Fairlight property perfectly captures its sun-soaked surroundings

Words: **Erina Starkey** Pictures: **Nicholas Watt**



The site was magnificent; a two-storey home in Fairlight surrounded by beach and bushland. Yet from within the home you wouldn't know it. Several partition walls obscured sunlight and water views, while creating a rabbit warren of rooms that were awkward to navigate. To

rectify these issues, tennis coach Lisa Green called in interior architect Andrew Waller to revive her '70s style home and create a light, airy space fit for a modern family.

The first thing Waller did was remove several dividing walls to create a large, open-plan living, dining and kitchen area that backed on

to a southern terrace. The interiors were then updated through an interplay of colour, texture and pattern. Hues were borrowed from the landscape, including eucalyptus green, teal and aqua, which washed over the cabinetry and soft furnishings, while natural textures were layered on top of each other, like pebbles on

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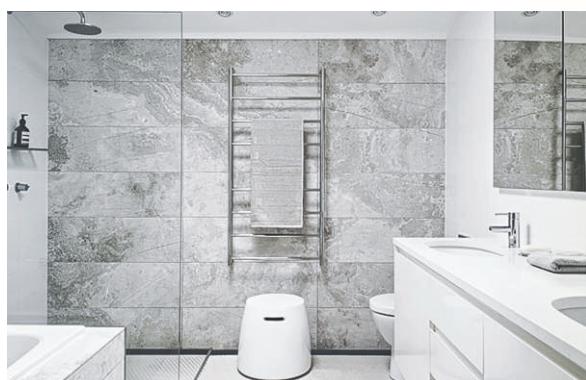
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**Fact file****Who:**

Lisa Green

Where:

Fairlight

Architect:

Andrew Waller Design

Web:

mrwaller.com

Instagram:

@andrewwallerdesign

the beach. The home's main focal point became a stunning display of wall-mounted plates, the soothing colours and ceramic textures evoking water droplets and smooth, worn shells.

What do you love most about your home?

The location. My partner and I fell in love with Manly back in 2000 when we visited here on holidays, 10 months later we had moved into the local area. After 14 years living in Wahroonga for our boys' schooling, our dream came true and we found our current house in Fairlight. We now have the best of both worlds, the quiet of Fairlight with stunning harbour views and the vibrancy of Manly only a walk or bike ride away.

How have you changed it since moving in?

We were first attracted to the home's coastal location

and size, but felt the rooms were disjointed, with many lacking views to the water. Plus, the home felt tired and needed some TLC, especially the kitchen and bathroom which were very dated. We asked interior architect Andrew Waller to update the interior and to open up the rooms to the views. We also needed more space for the extended family and entertaining. The new layout completely changed the interior making it feel much larger with more natural light and connection to the terrace areas.

What's still left to do?

The garden area needs a few more plants but we love the home now.

What's your favourite room and why?

I really enjoy being in the main living area, which combines the kitchen, living and dining areas as well as

the terrace. The space is big enough for the whole family, while intimate nooks within make it perfect for quiet time and reading. I love how relaxing the space feels with the mixture of colour and timbers.

How would you describe your decorating style?

Luxury beach.

What are your most cherished possessions?

Artworks we found when travelling, in particular a few from an African safari, which we've used in the dining room.

What should every home have?

Character and lots of personality.

Where do you find inspiration?

The beachside location – we wanted the home to have a casual style that would reflect the local landscape.

Andrew suggested we use a beautiful soft blue tone in the kitchen and mix this with whitewash timbers.

What interior design advice do you live by?

Make sure you do lots of research before you start a renovation project.

I collected lots of magazine cuttings with different styles of homes I liked; this was really useful as a starting point. While we had lots of ideas we didn't really know how to pull this all together, so I'd also say getting a designer on board that understands where you're coming from.

Where will we always find you on the Northern Beaches?

Walking our dog along the foreshore path into Manly or sitting on the beaches at North Steyne reading the paper with takeaway coffee.



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