


# sea change


A serene designer beach house takes colour cues from its bush surroundings

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## cheat sheet

**Who lives here:** Sanil Patel, a doctor and his fiancée, Karyn Avery, also a doctor.  
**Style of home:** A four-bedroom beach house in Macmasters Beach on NSW's Central Coast, which was built in 2006 and updated in 2015.

 Sanil undertook a mostly cosmetic renovation on the house with new surfaces, joinery, furniture and art, which took around six weeks, with landscaping taking around five months.

 The building and landscaping work cost around \$200k altogether.

**LIBRARY** A former TV room has been converted into a reading space in Sanil and Karyn's home. A pair of pretzel armchairs from Naturally Cane showcase relaxed style, sitting under an artwork by Mitch Cairns. Dogs Jack and Poppy are regular visitors.

VASE (ON LEFT), TANIA ROLLOND, TANIAROLLOND.COM; CUSHIONS, LIVING EDGE, LIVINGEDGE.COM.AU





*bright idea*

A series of seaside shades of blue from Murobond in a simple yet graphic treatment of the verandah ceiling is a nod to the '50s beach houses in the area.

**PORTRAIT (opposite, left)** Owners Sanil and Karyn. **LIVING AREA** The timber tones of this zone are balanced with the clean lines of the Jordan 'Wilfred' sofa and a pair of classic 'Spanish' chairs by Børge Mogensen from Great Dane. A deep blue rug from Robyn Cosgrove brings soft comfort to the contemporary finishes and feel of the open-plan space.



**A**fter living in Melbourne for five years, doctor Sanil Patel was ready for a change of scene and a different pace of life. “I wanted a bit of a sea change, somewhere with a beautiful natural environment where I could get out into a national park to run or ride a bike,” he says. What he found was Macmasters Beach on NSW’s Central Coast, an area that has no shops but a beautiful beach that joins up with Bouddi National Park.

To claim a place in this sleepy enclave, Sanil engaged in a lengthy viewing process in 2015. After putting in offers on a few houses, he ended up securing one that was much better than the rest. The house had been designed by local architect David Boyle and built in 2006 on a plateau in a private location with a beautiful aspect overlooking the beach. The building is split into two pavilions, and includes a linear bedroom and bathroom wing on both levels. The terrace has a north-easterly orientation, meaning sea breezes flow through the home and there’s no need for air-conditioning.

Sanil was attracted to the style of the home, which referenced the 1950s weatherboard beach shacks in the area. “However, the interiors and gardens weren’t in keeping with the spirit of the house,” he says. “They were a different style.” Before Sanil had

even moved into the property he engaged interior design firm Arent & Pyke to assist on the project. “I was instantly drawn to Arent & Pyke’s style,” he says. “It’s quite contemporary but their use of classic pieces makes their houses feel livable and homely at the same time.”

The building had been designed to sit against the bushland peacefully, and this sense of seamlessness was what Sanil wanted to achieve inside the home. “Arent & Pyke and I were pretty aligned on how it should be,” he says. “We wanted an interior that was quite calm and serene but didn’t wrestle with the exterior – all the views, the surrounding bushland and the trees. We didn’t want to overwhelm that.” This idea of creating an interior that was in harmony with the surrounding landscape had a big influence on the colour palette and materials used throughout the home.

Building work started in about September 2015, however, most of it was improving upon what was existing, rather than annihilating the framework. The kitchen had to be resurfaced, but the layout remained the same. And the joinery was rebuilt for an integrated fridge/freezer, but within the existing configuration. All the new pieces of furniture were co-ordinated to be installed across two days. “That was one of the great things about working with Arent & Pyke,” says Sanil. “The furniture was installed all at once, which made things very convenient.”

CERAMICS (OPPOSITE): TANIA ROLLOND, TANIAROLLOND.COM FLOOR LAMP: ARTEMIDE, ARTEMIDE.COM AU KNOLL 'KRUSIN' COFFEE TABLE: DEDECE, DEDECE.COM







The front garden was also given some love during this phase. Again, Sanil wanted to create a space that responded to the house and the surrounding environment. He engaged James Headland of Pangkarra to plant a native garden. “The whole idea was to have a much softer native bushland feel, and allow the house to sit more quietly in its natural setting,” says Sanil.

About a year after Sanil bought the house, he met his partner Karyn. While she wasn’t involved in the home’s design process, she loves the results. “It’s the most beautiful serene space and it’s amazing to come home from work,” she says. “You forget all of your worries.”

Engaging an interior designer has had a big impact on Sanil, in unexpected ways too. Not only has he now developed an appreciation and enthusiasm for collecting Australian art, but also has a more acute understanding of the wonders of design. “I’ve learned about the way good design can profoundly influence the way you use a space and how you can feel in it,” he says. “That is one of the reasons this house works so well.” This idea is played out well in the main living area, which gets beautiful light at most times of the day. “There is always an incredible sense of calm in the house, which definitely wasn’t there before,” he says. <sup>10</sup>

For details on architect David Boyle, visit [davidboylearchitect.com.au](http://davidboylearchitect.com.au). To see info on Arent & Pyke, visit [arentpyke.com](http://arentpyke.com). The home is available to rent through Contemporary Hotels, [contemporaryhotels.com.au/accommodation/macmasters-beach/macmasters-beach-house](http://contemporaryhotels.com.au/accommodation/macmasters-beach/macmasters-beach-house).

**DINING AREA (left)** A hoop-pine panelled ceiling helps to create a sense of intimacy in the dining area and extends over the adjoining living area. A ‘DK3 Tree’ table from Great Dane sits alongside ‘No. B9 Le Corbusier’ chairs from Thonet. **DISPLAY (right)** On the top of a Caroline Casey ‘Woven’ wall unit from Anibou is an owl sculpture by Anna-Wili Highfield and a Pulpo ‘Oda’ lamp from Hub Furniture. **KITCHEN (opposite)** The old cupboards were replaced with shiplap cabinetry in Dulux Tarzan Green for a fresh look.



ARTWORK: (LEFT) JOHN WOLSELEY, (RIGHT) MULKUN WIRRPANDA, BOTH ROSLYN OXLEY9.COM.AU; PYRAMID (ON DINING TABLE), ZAKKIA, ZAKKIA.COM.AU; CIRCULAR CERAMIC SCULPTURE, TANIA ROLLOND, TANIAROLLOND.COM; CUP, CHINA CLAY, CHINA CLAY.COM.AU; CERAMICS (OPPOSITE), AN ASSORTMENT FROM LIVING EDGE, AS BEFORE; SOCIETY NAPKINS, ONDENE, ONDENE.COM.AU; HENRY WILSON LIGHT HUB FURNITURE, HUB FURNITURE.COM.AU; STOOLS, GREAT DANE, GREATDANEFURNITURE.COM.AU; PAINT, COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



*“I adore the upstairs area where we have the sitting area and the kitchen flowing out onto the balcony. We spend 90 per cent of our time up here”*

KARYN AVERY, OWNER





*star performer*

Owner Sanil decided to work within the existing design, leading him to adapt the spaces to suit his and Karyn's lifestyle. For instance, this space was once a media room, and is now a calm reading room.



CUP (TOP), CHINACLAY.COM.AU; CERAMICS, ALANA WILSON, ALANAWILSON.COM; VASE, TANIA ROLLOND, TANIAROLLOND.COM; BIRD ORNAMENT (BOTTOM) & CUSHIONS (OPPOSITE), LIVING EDGE, LIVINGEDGE.COM.AU; THROWS, PLANET; PLANETFURNITURE.COM.AU

**GUEST BEDROOM (opposite)** A desk nook in one of the bedrooms downstairs was painted in Taubmans Midnight Moss. A Hay 'Pion' lamp is a modern element while the Armadillo&Co 'Petunia' rug is a relaxed coastal chic choice. **GUEST BEDROOM** An artwork by Leonard Brown from Artbank sets the tone for another of the downstairs guest bedrooms at the front of the house, and matches the seafoam green throw from Planet. The pendant light is from The Family Love Tree.

*“One thing that has come out of the renovation has been my interest in art. The artworks actually draw the place together and finish it”* ANIL PATEL, OWNER







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**5 GREAT FINDS**  
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**LOCATION, LOCATION** This home's coastal surroundings have influenced the relaxed yet elegant decorative pieces throughout the space



**1** Geranium Pots (Adjacent Garden Square) artwork by Mitch Cairns, courtesy of The Commercial, [thecommercialgallery.com](http://thecommercialgallery.com).

**2**

'Orissa' rug, \$599/160cm x 230cm, Freedom, [freedom.com.au](http://freedom.com.au).

**3**

Rattan pendant light shade, \$129, The Family Love Tree, [thefamilylovetree.com.au](http://thefamilylovetree.com.au).

**4**

'Stockholm' armchair, \$399, IKEA, [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au).

**5**

'Flocca' duvet cover in Fog, \$550/queen, Hale Mercantile Co, [halemercantileco.com](http://halemercantileco.com).

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: NATALIE JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY; (ARTWORK) SOFIA FREEMAN/THE COMMERCIAL; PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION; TOWELS, KOSKELA; KOSKELA.COM.AU; MARTYN THOMPSON STUDIO CUSHIONS (ON BED); SPENCE & LYDA, SPENCEANDLYDA.COM.AU; SOCIETY QUILT, ONDENE, ONDENE.COM.AU; BEDSIDE LAMP, LIVING EDGE, LIVINGEDGE.COM.AU; BENCH, GREAT DANE, GREATDANEFURNITURE.COM.AU

**⌚ timeline**

**2006**

House designed by architect David Boyle and built.

**2015**

**Jan** Ready for a sea change, Sanil starts looking for a home in Macmasters Beach. Secures his new place and before moving in, he engages interior design firm Arent & Pyke.

**2016**

**Mar** Sanil moves in. **Sept** Building work commences. **Oct** Sanil commissions designer James Headland to transform the front garden. **Dec** All of the furniture is installed.

**2017**

**Jan** Sanil and Karyn meet and move into the home during the middle of the year. **May** Landscape design works commence and finish in September.

**Aug** Sanil and Karyn go on a four-month adventure touring outback Australia before getting married in December.

**EXTERIOR (opposite, left)** The house, designed by architect David Boyle, features cedar battens and highlights the banksia tree at the front. **ENSUITE (opposite, right)** Karyn attributes the bedroom's calm feel to the use of lamps such as the Noguchi 'Akari' light sculpture from Living Edge as seen from the ensuite. **MASTER BEDROOM** Walls in Dulux Hildegard showcase the bedhead in Penny Morrison 'Jamawar' fabric from Tigger Hall Design. The sisal carpet is from The Natural Floorcovering Centre.