

DUNE DWELLER



Sheltered from the weather and



prying eyes, this weekender on the

Victorian coast is a cosy retreat for its owners.

These pages, from left Bagged recycled bricks painted in Dulux 'Linseed'. Barestone fibre-cement cladding from Cemintel. Galvanised steel structure. In the living/dining areaq, bagged recycled brickwork in Dulux 'Linseed'. Tallowwood lining boards on ceiling. Blackbutt curtain pelmets. Ash-grey brick floor tiles from Robertson's Building Products. cc-Tapis 'Asmara' rug from Loom. Custom 'Etta' daybed in Kvadrat Helia 0253 fabric from Grazia&Co. MakeBelieve 'Frill' side table from CCSS. 'Coco' waffle throw in Stone from Jordan.

Words **CHRIS PEARSON** Photography **DEREK SWALWELL** Styling **NINA PROVAN**



Hugging the sand dunes on Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula, this weekend behind a high rendered wall – complete with a mini 'turret' – is like a fortress, protected against the vagaries of the weather and its neighbours. "That abstract wall gives it depth, protection and scale, and suggests something intriguing behind it," says the home's architect Rachel Nolan of Kennedy Nolan. "For passersby on their way to the beach, it creates mystery." What those beachgoers will never see is that, behind that wall, sits a cosy family retreat, a celebration of texture and earthy natural materials that wrap themselves around its inhabitants.

The owners bought the empty site in 2017, drawn by the fact it was a stone's throw from a popular beach, with tea-tree-peppered dunes and a sweeping sandy bay. "Proximity to the beach was a huge drawcard and the opportunity to embed ourselves within the coastal landscape was appealing," says the owner. But, less appealingly, it was built out on two sides and had a car park with a well-trodden path to the beach on another.

In their brief, the couple with two children, one in late teens and one early 20s, presented Rachel and associate Matilda Blazey with a conundrum. "We wanted considered spaces where we could spend time together as a family, entertain friends and also have space when needed," says the owner. "We are fans of modernism, but we also wanted it to feel unique to us, with textured finishes and detailing for interest, as well as elements of surprise."

But, with a well-populated hill rising up on the site's northern side, Rachel and Matilda had to limit the feeling of being overlooked, while also capturing light, air and views, and ensuring space to spread out.

"The dwelling also needed to be rooted in the landscape, an extension of the dune vegetation," says Matilda. And, like all homes in this area, it had to withstand harsh coastal weather and be bushfire resistant.

The four-bedroom house forms a U-shape, enclosing a courtyard with a swimming pool. On the ground level, the children's wing sits to the left of the entrance, »



These pages, from left Bricks on hearth from Darley Firebricks. 'Banks Lantern 100' pendant light from The Society Inc. The owner enjoys a moment in her new living room. Arflex 'Strips' sofa in velvet from Space. Custom blue Kvadrat fabric cushions by ni.ni.creative. 'Ivy' coffee table in travertine from Grazia&Co. Moroccan Berber rug from Loom. Menu 'Knitting' chair in Grey leather from Supellex. Gubi '9602' floor lamp from In Good Company. *Third Date* artwork by Marko Hrubyj-Piper from Studio Gallery. Pink sculpture by Bettina Willner-Browne. Unique Fabrics 'Coastline' sheers by Soft Studio. On shelves, W&S 'Boulder' bookend in Ivory from Hay. Staggered 'Taper' candlestand in green marble from Few & Far. 'Shells' pedestal vase from Bonnie and Neil. 'Silla #2' terracotta vessel from Eun Ceramics.



This page, from top cc-Tapis 'Asmara' rug and Moroccan Berber rug, both from Loom. Menu 'Knitting' chair from Supellex. MakeBelieve 'Frill' side table from CCSS. 'Banks Lantern 100' pendant light from The Society Inc. 'Polar' wall light from Ross Gardam. Prostoria 'Rhomb' oak dining chairs from In Good Company. 'August' oak dining table from Jordan. Bronzed-brass candleholder from Stoff Nagel. The castle-like east elevation, fronting onto a public carpark with its 'turret' aka the outdoor shower. Blackbutt timber battens. Barestone fibre-cement cladding from Cemintel. **Opposite page** In the kitchen, tallwood lining boards painted in Dulux 'Vintage Green'. AbsoluteMatte laminate joinery in Green Slate from Laminex. 'Peak' and 'Como' joinery hardware from Linear Standard. Terrazzo slab bench from Signorino. Ash-grey brick floor tiles from Robertson's Building Products. 'Diiva' swivel stools in black from Grazia&Co.



« with two bedrooms, rumpus room and bathroom. The entry then leads to a shaded terrace open on one side, with the courtyard to the left and, beyond that, the open-plan looks out to the garden on one side and native vegetation on the other. But the living area is not totally open plan, says Rachel. “It’s not a big barn-like space. It’s broken up by substantial internal masonry walls, which allow family living to feel contained, while everyone remains close to the busy kitchen.”

Above, a second floor comprises a parent’s retreat, with sweeping views across the dunes, together with ensuite and walk-in, a study and a fourth bedroom.

The eastern boundary wall holds the pool courtyard like a protective arm, while a screened courtyard to the children’s bedrooms provides privacy, a sense of security and outlook while screening from houses on the slope above. Timber screens on the first floor serve a similar purpose.

Rachel and Matilda kept a keen eye on materiality, both for textural interest and practical reasons. “The materials needed to be robust and age well, suitable for the coastal setting and be functional and low-maintenance for a holiday house,” says Matilda. “It’s all highly textural,” adds Rachel, “with rough-cast render, bagged brick, masonry floors and terrazzo, the bleached, warm grey palette resembling driftwood. Inside, there’s not a single painted plaster wall.”

Timber, including blackbutt used externally, tallowwood in the interiors, the latter also used on the ceilings in true modernist style, lends pattern and warmth. In contrast to the sun-bleached look, saturated colour fronts up on green kitchen joinery and cladding in the upstairs bathrooms, with pops of

persimmon in the cupboard internals and a vibrant orange awning.

Those colours are reprised in the furnishings. “The owners are very social, but also enjoy quality family time. I wanted the pieces to accommodate both,” says decorator Nina Provan of NP.Co. “The leather sofa in the kids’ living area serves many configurations and uses, one being a sofa bed which gets a lot of use. It’s practical, playful and indestructible, and over time the leather will develop a patina and settle.”

The other standout is the daybed in the living room, overlooking the pool. “It invites conversation with the rest of the space or becomes a contemplative reading spot by the fire on a wintry day,” she says. “Its colour ties in with the fireplace brickwork and the external awning.”

Such a considered approach to the weekender’s design inside and out will ensure its longevity for the owner, who intends it to become her full-time home. “The crafted and textured finishes and the connection to the landscape evoke a sense of calm and bring the outside in – the kitchen and upstairs bathrooms are heaven,” she says.

“It’s a welcoming, light-filled beach hideaway,” says Rachel. “A screened courtyard visually edits the suburbia immediately to the north, while the first-floor parents’ retreat focuses its full attention on the bird-filled, tea-tree coastal landscape to the south. The home offers presence and privacy.”

And what’s in the ‘turret’? What else – a shower to wash off sand from the beach. ■

kennedynolan.com.au; ninaprovan.co



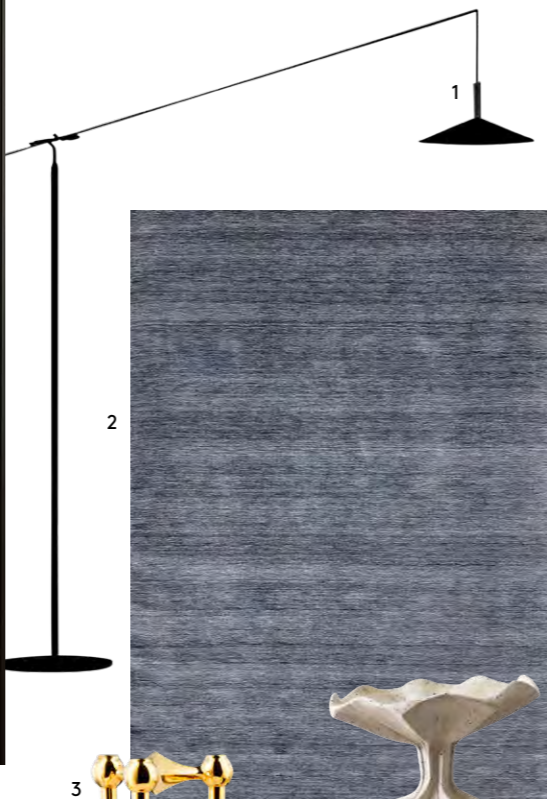
This page In the rumpus/kids’ room, vintage Hollywood-Regency style smoked glass coffee table from Facebook Marketplace. Giovannetti Collezioni ‘Anfibio’ sofa by Alessandro Becchi from Supellex. Muuto ‘Around’ coffee table in Dusty Green from In Good Company. ‘Shorn Curly’ pouffe from Fibre. Togo ‘Fireside’ chair in Dios Ecu from Domo. Royals artwork by Phoebe Rolleston from Jardan. ‘Polar’ wall light from Ross Gardam. Unique Fabrics ‘Coastline’ sheers by Soft Studio. Ceiling painted in Dulux ‘Burdock’. Lining boards painted in Dulux ‘Vintage Green’. ‘Concept 3’ ceiling fan from Hunter Pacific. Escape Twist ‘Joni’ carpet from SuperTuft. **Opposite page** In the dining room, Prostoría ‘Rhomb’ oak dining chairs from In Good Company. ‘August’ oak dining table from Jardan. Bronzed-brass candleholder from Stoff Nagel. Tallowwood lining boards on ceiling. Ash Grey brick floor tiles from Robertson’s Building Products. Lining boards painted in Dulux ‘Vintage Green’. Artemide ‘Dioscuri’ wall lights from Stylecraft. ‘Flow’ downlight from Ambience.



This page, from top In the study, 'Mina' executive chair in Fog from Jordan. Custom oak study desk from Oku Space. Artemide 'Tolomeo Mega' floor lamp from Stylecraft. 'Arc' tray in Red Ochre from Lightly. Maison Balzac 'J'ai Soif' carafe set in Teal from Aura Home, 'Century Mini' brass vessel from Behr & Co. 'Acuti' folded steel mobile sculpture by Scott Cupp. Ceiling painted in Dulux 'Burdock'. Lining boards in Dulux 'Vintage Green'. 'Flow' downlight from Ambience. In the main bedroom, 'Ecuador' woven throw from Kip & Co. Custom pleated plaster wall sculpture by Kelly Larkin. Unique Fabrics 'Coastline' sheers by Soft Studio. Escape Twist 'Joni' carpet from SuperTuft. 'Banks Lantern 50' pendant light from The Society Inc. Opposite page In the second bedroom, 'Flocca' linen bedhead in Brun, 'Basix' stripe linen bolsters in Brun/Sable and 'Flocca' linen throw in Russo, all from Hale Mercantile Co. & Tradition 'Tripod HM9' table lamp in Moss Green from Cult. Unique Fabrics 'Coastline' sheers by Soft Studio.

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SIGNATURE STYLE
KEY PIECES



1 'Altura' floor lamp, \$3790, from Fanuli.
2 'Ajmer' wool rug in Denim, \$1450, from Hali.
3 Stoff Nagel candlestick in Brass, \$308, from RoyalDesign.com. 4 'Peplum' vase in speckled white, \$375, from Eun Ceramics. 5 'Ode' dining table, \$3190, from Clo Studios.



SPEED READ

» In 2017, the owners of this property bought a vacant lot, drawn by its proximity to a beach on the Bellarine Peninsula. But it was also built up on two sides with a car park on another and exposed to harsh weather. » They asked architects Kennedy Nolan to design a weekender for them and their now teenage children, with entertaining spaces to enjoy with friends and family, as well as spaces for precious quiet time. » The architects designed the house in a U-shape around a central courtyard with pool, a high wall separating it from the car park. The children's rooms are in a wing on one side, while on the other side of the courtyard sit the living areas, with a parents' retreat and a fourth bedroom on a floor above. » The highly textured interiors, with a palette of materials that includes bagged brick, rough-cast render, brick-tile flooring, terrazzo and hardwoods, is warm and welcoming while being attuned to the demanding coastal location.