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# Shore LINES

Timeless good style seems so effortless in this *Sydney* home that mixes *beach* themes, *tribal* elements and crisp *white*.

Photographs FELIX FOREST Words CHRIS PEARSON





**W**ith sea breezes drifting through the open plan, water lapping just metres from the living rooms and the clank of halyards on the water, this home on Sydney's northern beaches is laid-back living at its beguiling best. But don't think for a moment that good style has kicked its shoes off – although, at first glance, these serene interiors seem to be effortless.

The location, just a few footsteps from the beach and guarded by a majestic Norfolk Island pine, drew the owners to the property in 2012. "We fell in love with that tree," says the owner, "and, with three young boys, we thought what a great backyard that beach would be." But the four-bedroom weekender on the site, with its dark timbers and dingy rooms, shunned the setting. The couple's vision for the house was to shake off that closed-in feeling, open it to the coastal location and introduce a breezy white palette.

Retaining the footprint, external walls and the timber floors, architect Rachel Hudson of Rachel Hudson Architect gutted the interior and swapped small windows for floor-to-ceiling glazing. Now open plan replaces poky rooms, while bifolds and picture windows connect the home to its marine location. With sightlines from the courtyard at the rear to the beach frontage and cooling cross-breezes, a sense of the sea pervades the home. Upping the maritime feel are the floorboards, spruced up in fresh white. The new ground floor consists of three sitting areas, kitchen and dining, while an open-tread staircase leads up to four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

For the interiors, the owner desired "a beach house that was white and black, and open to the water. I wanted a romantic, relaxed home, with beautiful muslin curtains that flow in the wind. We weren't after the Hamptons look, but something more contemporary." Adding a splash of sophistication, black would serve as a crisp counterpoint to lashings of luminous white.





"I LIKE OLD PIECES IN A NEW HOUSE, NEW PIECES IN AN OLD HOUSE. I LIKE THAT SENSE OF THE UNEXPECTED."



This page 'Bahamas' dining chairs from Les Interieurs complement the owner's existing timber table. Timber floorboards have been painted Dulux 'Vivid White'. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** 'Joe' sofa from MCM House has a khaki washed linen slip cover. Antique Turkish urns from Les Interieurs. In the main bedroom, a black leather butterfly chair offers a perfect view. Bamileke table and bull spine from Les Interieurs. The kitchen opens to a lush courtyard garden. Carrara marble on benchtop from BK Stone. Gessi 'Oxygene Hi-Tech' sink mixer. White Tolix 'Tabouret' stools from Thonet. Antique water trough from Les Interieurs. Joinery by Janz Design.





**This page** The three boys of the family have their own sitting room overlooking the swimming pool. Driade 'Flo' stool from Space. 'Everywhere' coffee table from Poliform. White console with black legs custom made by Les Interieurs holds a collection of black ceramic urns. Black and white photographs by Boaz Rottem and hemp runner from Les Interieurs. **Opposite page** The tranquil main bedroom is a study in black and white. Custom-made linen bedhead. Black jersey pendant light from Les Interieurs. Little Dandelion knitted linen throw. Moss River bed linen. Existing Eero Saarinen 'Tulip' side table.



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