

O P E N



S P A C E S

A soft minimal palette and open floor plan gives plenty of breathing space to key art pieces and bold furnishings in this sprawling seaside home. **Camilla Wagstaff** writes.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS DALHOFF





THIS PAGE, ABOVE: **Mickan** has cleverly designed three separate living spaces within the open plan downstairs using artwork, rugs, key lighting and bold furnishings.

OPPOSITE PAGE: **Tannya Harricks' Palm Beach** hangs to the side of the custom timber bed frame by **James Nixon**. A **Beam Ottoman** from **Temperature Design**, **Tolomeo Basculante Parete** wall lights from **Artemide** and plush **Area** rug from **The Rug Collection** finish the look.

**B**are foot meets boutique in this spacious family abode in Sydney's beachside suburb of Clovelly. Home to a professional couple and their five children, a careful consideration of space was of key importance when it came to renovation crunch time. Tearing down their old bungalow and constructing a entirely new house, the family of seven needed spaces within the home to retreat to, spaces to be together, and of course, spaces to store that inevitable family clutter. "The home needed to allow the family to live a casual beach lifestyle, with space ample enough for the large clan and flexible enough to adapt from day-to-day living to large scale entertaining," says interior designer **Brett Mickan**, who worked closely with the clients on the project. "Being well travelled, the client also wanted their home to have an international flair and the hotel style luxury that they were accustomed to."

Mickan's start point for the project was its picturesque seaside location. Adopting the natural tones of sandstone, brush and sea surrounding the home and choosing natural materials – clear

stained oak floors, wool and silk rugs and a simple sand hue for the walls – allows the open plan format to connect seamlessly with the world outside – the sprawling exterior entertaining areas and beach front. The majority of storage is customised and installed as part of the architecture, making little visual noise and leaving the clients with plenty of storage options. The soft, minimal base also gives key furnishings, feature lighting and a bold collection of art plenty of space to shine.

"Because of the size of these open spaces, the art needed to be large format, which helps to ground the different areas in the house," says Mickan. "The art adds a layer of texture to the home and speaks about the people who live here."

To compliment the incredible ocean views afforded by the home's prime location, landscape works that echo the visual interest of the surrounding scenery are favoured throughout the space. This idea was taken to the next level in the dining area, where an oil painting of the Clovelly shoreline by **Martin Campbell** is almost like another window to the vistas beyond.





“Use the art to help define and ground the spaces in an open living floor plan. By using a mix of art mediums you can create depth and interest to a room.”

**Brett Mickan**







"In seating areas, the art should be hung lower because it will be viewed from a seated position."

**Brett Mickan**



ABOVE: An oil painting of the Clovelly shoreline by Martin Campbell is a second window to the stunning vistas beyond. Above the cabinet hangs Joanna Logue's *Landscape*.

A second landscape by **Joanna Logue** sits above the sideboard. The paintings' hues are reflected in the custom dining table by **James Nixon**, Concrete Candelabra from Top 3 by Design and vintage blue and white jar from Orient House. Opulent velvet blue dining chairs finish out the look, their soft organic form mimicking the ocean's waves.

"Think of art as part of the entire space and think about where it will be viewed from," suggests Mickan when it comes to approaching art selection and display in the home. By way of example, in the master bedroom **Tannya Harricks'** oil painting *Palm Beach* is hung to the side of the stunning custom timber bed frame by **James Nixon**, such that bed dwellers can admire both the painted seascape and the panoramic ocean views from the open balcony. The beachfront bedroom is given a dash of hotel luxury via a plush Area rug from The Rug Collection, the perfect accompaniment to sleepy feet and stormy days.

Down in the expansive family, kitchen and dining space, art is used to help define and ground the separate spaces in the open floor plan. **Daimon Downey's** large painting *Zebra*, for instance, is hung to anchor the dining area, its playfulness creating a easy breezy eating space. "In seating areas, the art should be hung lower because it will be viewed from a seated position," notes Mickan. The work is paired with Vittorio Bonacina Orbita Rattan Pendant Lights from De De Cee and Madmamaiselle upholstered dining chairs from Space Furniture.

Mickan's clever use of space, soft tones, quality furnishings and bold artwork choices results in a home that functions just as well for everyday family living, a children's birthday party or a black tie event for 100 guests. "The home is simultaneously impressive with its sense of space and connection to the landscape," notes Mickan, "but relaxed enough to make you want to sit down and stay a while."

# GET THE LOOK

Love the style of this Sydney beachside home?  
We show you how you can recreate  
the look in your home.



Muse Glass Pendant, \$94, Matt Blatt,  
[mattblatt.com.au](http://mattblatt.com.au)



Dots blue cushion & Holiday tile  
blue cushion, \$155 & \$145,  
Bonnie and Neil, [bonnieandneil.com](http://bonnieandneil.com)



Barbara Fitzpatrick, *Lights Across the Water*. Acrylic on canvas, 84 x 112cm. \$900



Replica Philippe Starck  
Ghost Armchair, \$84.95,  
Zanui, [zanui.com.au](http://zanui.com.au)

Ethnicraft Oak Pettersson Dining Table, \$1,680,  
Clickon Furniture, [clickonfurniture.com.au](http://clickonfurniture.com.au)



Kubus 4 Candle Holder  
& ZAKKIA Speckle Bowl,  
\$184 & \$25, Design Stuff,  
[designstuff.com.au](http://designstuff.com.au)

Shinto bowl, small  
\$12.95 & medium,  
\$14.95, with  
Shinto timber tray,  
\$29.95, papaya,  
[papaya.com.au](http://papaya.com.au)