Pet-friendly gardens

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storage update
home office tips
teen havens

Buyer’s guide
to dishwashers

best of summer

Give your home that holiday feeling
Exterior elements such as beech, concrete, river pebbles and basalt pavers offer earthy appeal as well as durability in a coastal setting. Landscaping by Sparks Architects and Sep Design. Cushions and mirror by interior designer Dawn Schaffer, who created the home's soft furnishings. OPPOSITE Glass mosaic tiles shimmer through the acrylic sides of the rooftop pool. Tiles from Caramica Senio.
For Where to Buy, see page 186.
Being familiar with a location takes the guesswork out of moving house, and that was the case when this oceanfront block at Queensland’s Sunshine Beach came on the market. Having owned property in the area for a number of years, John and his wife had long admired this site for its outlook and north-east orientation, plus the fact that it was tucked away from prevailing winds. When it was offered for sale in 2003, it came with a tired old Queenslander house. This was demolished prior to settlement, leaving the couple with a blank canvas.

The focus in creating a new home was to maximise views and ocean breezes. “Our requirements were for a substantial house to complement the position, designed in a way that would blend into the sand dunes,” says John. “We are a small family [the couple have two adult daughters and two grandchildren, aged seven and 10] so the house was to have only three bedrooms, but all of generous size and with ensuites.”

Drawing inspiration from yachting design, architect Dan Sparks turned to elements such as titanium zinc and caulked timber to ensure this home would withstand the assault of the surf lapping at the back of the block. Characterised by clean lines and a modern aesthetic, the house consists of three levels, cascading down a slope from street level to the dunes. Each level has its own living space, bedroom and bathroom, which makes for a highly adaptable layout.
‘Skylights and glass floors, some of which have water above them, create beautiful, flickering patterns of light in the internal spaces.’  

Dan Sparks, Architect

From the street, stairs lead down to the entrance on the second floor. Living, dining and kitchen areas unfold within an open-plan setting, the space flowing out through glass doors to a large deck overlooking the beach. Downstairs, there’s a large cellar, wine-tasting room and bar, and an entertainment area that leads out to the lawn, garden and beach. The main bedroom suite, with direct access to the pool and barbecue deck, is on the third floor.

Inside and out, materials taken from a natural colour palette – including rock maple, oak and limestone – complement the seaside setting. Indoors, clay-plastered walls in pale grey, polished with beeswax, frame floors of caulked American oak. External decks are caulked beech, in the style of a boat cabin. Polished concrete floors on the lower level are designed to withstand beachcombers’ sandy feet and partygoers’ stiletto heels. “The family loves to entertain, which the house was ultimately designed for,” says Dan.

“It also works perfectly for much smaller groups or for a couple, as each level is almost self-contained,” he adds. “An entire day can be spent on one level.”

So, where is the couple’s favourite spot for soaking up blue skies and salty breezes? John doesn’t hesitate. “The see-through swimming pool up on the roof is a great place to be on a summer’s day.”

H&G

Sparks Architects, Mt Ninderry, Queensland: (07) 5472 7903 or www.sparksarchitects.com.
Holiday time

Intended as a weekender, this house is fast becoming a full-time abode. The owners stay in Brisbane one or two nights a week for work but find themselves spending most of their time in this home, where every day feels like a holiday. “We enjoy the proximity to the beach and the national park, where we walk most days,” says John.

H&G loves
Beach beauty

With ample space for extended family, this beautifully appointed holiday home on Queensland’s Sunshine Beach is a delightful home away from home.

STORY & STYLING KATE NIXON | PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER
The mid-level deck is used for alfresco dining and relaxing with Pacific views. Architect Dan Sparks designed many pieces of furniture for the home, including this dining table, made by Metal Trendz. Sofa and coffee table from Coast New Zealand. Cushions by Dawn Schaffer. Stacking glass doors from Lotus Folding Walls & Doors. OPPOSITE A sliding door behind the kitchen bench conceals the study. Joinery by Bain Kitchens. Stools and dining chairs from Stylecraft. Lights from Lumen 8 Architectural Lighting. For Where to Buy, see page 186.

This is the life
“...We do a lot of entertaining and make good use of the pool area and downstairs bar,” says homeowner John. The layout and facilities are excellent for get-togethers; in fact, the home has already hosted two wedding parties. Its summertime attractions are obvious but, as John points out, it’s comfortable in all seasons. “In winter we use the mid-level living area and the fireplace often.”