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AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

Just *beachy*

This apartment now has a kitchen that befits and amplifies its desirable, beachside location.

STORY *Elizabeth Wilson* | STYLING *Andrea D'Cruz*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Nicholas Watt*

Blessed with sweeping ocean views, this Sydney apartment is the perfect city bolthole for the owner, who lives here during the working week. But when he first purchased the 1980s apartment, it was unrenovated and showing its age. A tiny U-shaped kitchen was tucked into a corner and had little connection to the adjacent living space. A total refurbishment was in order, so interior designer Andrea D'Cruz was engaged to take charge of the image overhaul. The owner wanted his city pad to have a relaxed "beach-resort aesthetic" with easy-care surfaces and a light, cool-toned palette. "He also wanted the kitchen to have an integrated dining zone rather than an island bench," says Andrea. Removing a couple of structural walls created an open-plan layout, with the new space measuring 5.7x3.4 metres. The new kitchen was designed in a wide U-shape that wraps around the perimeter of the entire space. Two-tone joinery in white and grey fits the "sophisticated coastal" palette, while marble-chip tiled flooring ensures easy maintenance. The addition of elegant textural elements (fluting on the top row of drawers and a band of oak veneer on the wall) and jewel-like joinery details (matt metallic door handles and knobs), all make it an "interesting, inviting and pleasant space to spend time in", adds Andrea. ▶ ***D'Cruz Design Group; dcruz.net.au.***

For Where to Buy, see page 176.

KITCHEN *design notes*

JOINERY MDF with two-pack polyurethane in Dulux Natural White and Dulux Cashmere (grey).

WALL PANEL Rift oak veneer, Briggs Veneers.

BENCHTOPS Caesarstone Ice Snow, $450/m² installed.

SPLASHBACK Spanish handmade ceramic tiles in Jade (75x300mm), POA, Surface Gallery.

TAPWARE Icon mixer in French Gold, Astra Walker.

SINK Sonetto SN1072, Oliveri.

LIGHTING Kina bamboo pendant light by David Trubridge, from $600, Mondo Luce.

FLOORING Farrago White Honed agglomerate marble floor tiles (600x600mm), Skheme.

DOOR HARDWARE J-pull and Semi Round joinery handles, in finish to match the tapware, Index+Co.

FURNITURE Dining table, owner's existing. BCN slide base stools and Sharky dining chairs, all Fanuli.

APPLIANCES Pyrolytic oven and induction cooktop, both Miele. Integrated fridge/freezer and integrated double DishDrawer, both Fisher & Paykel.

PAINT Dulux Natural White.

Coastal *cool*

A petite ensuite is transformed to become big on style and warmth.

STORY *Sarah Pickette* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Nicholas Watt*

A coastal aesthetic was what the owner of this Sydney apartment requested for his ensuite – fitting since the property looks onto one of the city's loveliest beaches. "It had to feel cool and light," says interior designer Andrea D'Cruz, who worked on the renovation in tandem with Telgrit Master Builders. "It was important that it be low-maintenance too." Andrea's task was to make the compact ensuite – measuring just 2 metres at its widest point – feel as generous as space would allow. The Telgrit build team stripped the space back to its concrete shell, levelling the floor in the process. Andrea's design centres on some smart material choices: running the baby-blue tiles – a colour the owner loves and specifically requested – vertically draws the eye upward. "A tall skirting in the same terrazzo that's used on the floor also works to make the small space look larger than it is." Bronze fixtures and the oak used in the vanity add a little warmth to the ensuite, which is completely devoid of natural light. "Selecting lights with the right colour temperature to replicate daylight was absolutely critical," says Andrea. The owner's desire for a heated towel rail was met with the inclusion of a vertical fixture. "It was really the only possibility for the space." The bathroom now feels relaxed, sophisticated and well-equipped, says Andrea. "The owner gave us a lot of creative freedom and I'm thrilled to say he could not be happier with the result." ▸

D'Cruz Design Group; dcruz.net.au. Telgrit Master Builders; telgrit.com.au.

BATHROOM *design notes*

VANITY Oak joinery with Caesarstone top in Ice Snow, about $2000, custom-made by Scotts Kitchens for Telgrit Master Builders.

TAPWARE City Plus handshower slider set, $1146, and City Stik basin mixer, $951, both in Roma Bronze, Brodware.

TOWEL RAIL Hydrotherm 'Tube' heated vertical towel rail, about $900, ACS Designer Bathrooms.

WALL TILES Spanish handmade tiles in Mist Matt (75x300mm), $96/m², Surface Gallery.

FLOORING Farrago marble terrazzo in White, $141.80/m², Skheme.

For Where to Buy, see page 176.