

GONE SURFING



Barry and Lynda are lucky to be just a stone's throw from the beach in this bright, airy pad at Curl Curl – one of Sydney's popular surf suburbs.

STORY CARLA CARUSO PHOTOGRAPHY TONY POTTER STYLING KATHRYN BORGLUND



Most mornings, Barry Hodge can be found doing laps in a beachside rockpool while his wife Lynda walks along the sandy shore. The Hodges are sun-lovers, so it was only natural they were drawn to Curl Curl when looking for a spot to build a new home two-and-a-half years ago – the area’s known for some of the best surfing on Sydney’s Northern Beaches. The pair had knocked down a ’50s-style house, which Lynda describes as “unlivable”, before constructing an airy, modern, two-storey beachside home on the site. “We just fell in love with the area,” Lynda enthuses. “We had been coming to the beach here for years. The area’s unique;

it has a real family atmosphere and seems to be more of a ‘locals-only’ area. We don’t have the through traffic – you really only drive to Curl Curl if you’re coming to Curl Curl, so it’s very quiet.”

SHARING IS CARING

The couple shares the home with Lynda’s son, Phil and his partner, Hayley – both also keen surfers. The young pair has a self-contained space downstairs, while Lynda and Barry reside upstairs.

Downstairs comprises of the garage, entry foyer, laundry and the young couple’s space, which includes a bedroom, walk-through wardrobe to

an ensuite, and an open-plan lounge/dining/kitchen area.

Upstairs, there are two bedrooms, a bathroom with a spa, and an L-shaped, open-plan living and kitchen area.

“We all get on really well,” Lynda says of the shared abode. “In fact, it’s like having a corner shop downstairs, because we share a lot of things like spices and cooking utensils! We really enjoy spending time together.”

TOP: The oak dining table with stainless-steel legs is from Bay Leather Republic and the high-back, brushed, cream wicker chairs are from OZ Design Furniture. The boat print was a wedding gift to the Hodges.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Favourite things: “The external textures of the home are a favourite,” Lynda says. “The base of it is all sandstone to give the effect of an original beach house, with weatherboard and render – all very natural-looking. We get constant knocks on the door, with people saying, ‘Do you mind if we ask who the builder was and what colours you used?’ It’s very flattering!” Bangalley Building in Avalon, who constructed the home, had a major input into its style and quality.

Luckiest find: Lynda says simply, “Finding a level building block, opposite the beach.”

Favourite room: “It’s probably our balcony, if that makes sense,” Lynda says. “It has a roof over it, plus a barbecue, fridge, sink and heaters – it’s very self-contained.”

Biggest challenge: “Getting all the building work approved by the council,” Lynda says. “We had to comply with things like building to the landscape ratio. Hence, being a smaller-size block, our upstairs area is a bit bigger than the downstairs ‘footprint’, protruding from the balcony.”





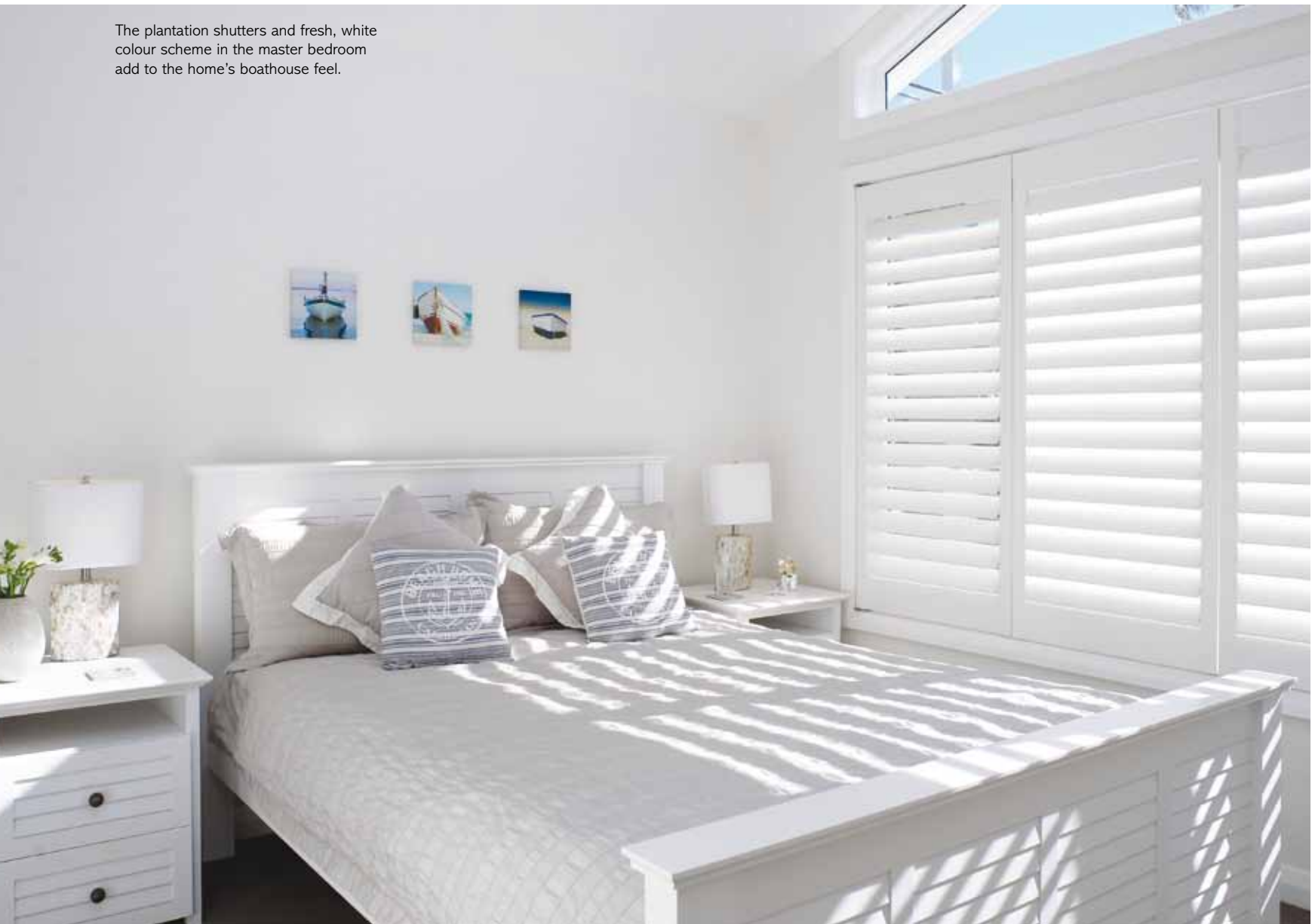
TOP DECORATING TIP

“Living near the beach, all stainless-steel features need to be top-level,” Lynda explains. “You don’t save money by using things on the exterior that are not conducive to the salt.” As well, she says: “Do your homework and try to stick to your budget as much as possible, but be realistic. Remember it’s for the long-term – some things are worth a little extra expense, like our cathedral-style ceilings, now a major feature.” Finally, Lynda says: “Rome wasn’t built in a day. We waited 12 months before we put the back garden in and another eight months before we did the front garden. You want to make sure you get it right, rather than rush it. Plus, live in the space first to really get a feel for what needs doing.”



The beige leather lounge from King Furniture hides a storage area underneath. Lynda says: "it isn't a big house, so we make the most of our storage. I have so much stored in there, like pillows, blankets, doonas and a toy box for the grandchildren! You don't even know it's all there – it's a great trick for smaller homes."

The plantation shutters and fresh, white colour scheme in the master bedroom add to the home's boathouse feel.



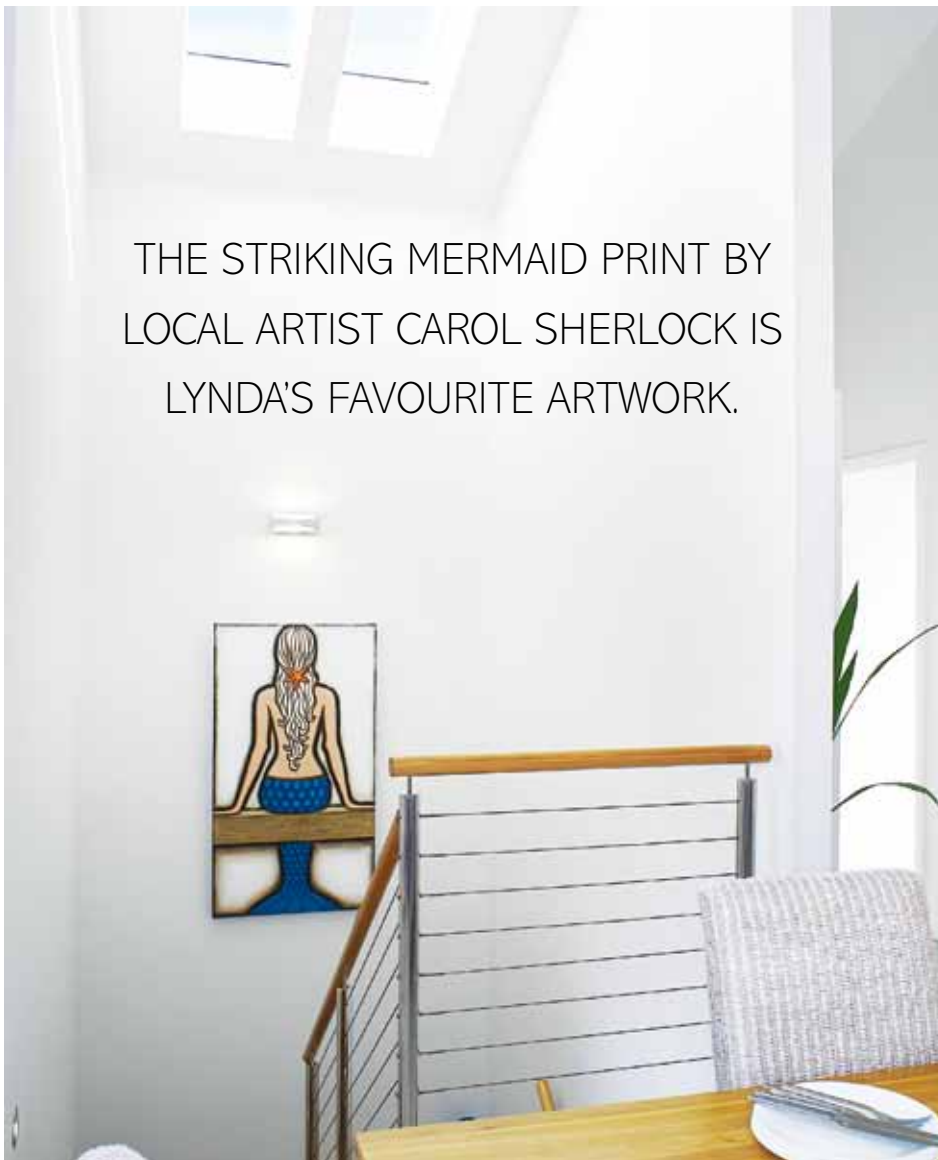
SEASHELLS BY THE SEASHORE

Lynda describes the home as having a “very beachy, boaty feel”, and a major feature is the bi-fold doors on the top level which run the full width of the house, with picture-postcard views overlooking the beach. “We have the doors open 85 per cent of the time – even in the winter, as we have heating on the balcony,” Lynda explains. “We literally live on the balcony and are always dining out there.”

The Hodges wanted a real indoor/outdoor feel to the home, with their open-plan living area spilling onto the balcony. The balcony itself is quite self-contained and includes a stainless-steel barbecue, sink and fridge. The Caesarstone finish used in the kitchen is echoed here for a seamless look. “When you’re outside you can even watch the TV, as you would in the dining area,” Lynda confides.



THE STRIKING MERMAID PRINT BY LOCAL ARTIST CAROL SHERLOCK IS LYNDA'S FAVOURITE ARTWORK.



COLOUR CODE

Dulux Candle Bark was used for the home's exterior timber and Dulux Linseed for the render. Inside, the walls are painted Dulux Antique White USA and the ceilings simply in white.

Dulux Candle Bark

Dulux Linseed

Dulux Antique White U.S.A.



The Hodges regularly dine on the balcony. The modern dining setting consists of a glass-top table and white mesh chairs from The Outdoor Furniture Specialists.



BEACHED AS

Interior designer Leanne Martz advised the couple throughout the building of the home. “She really has a natural flair,” Lynda says. One of Leanne’s ideas, which became a major feature of the home, was the white-painted V-joint, cathedral-style ceilings – “they give the effect of a boathouse,” Lynda says.

There’s also an abundance of light spilling in. “We wanted a bright look and to let the sun in – we’re really sun people,” she laughs. “So we installed three skylights –

one over the kitchen workbench, another in the stairwell, and a large one over the spa bath.” White-painted plantation shutters right through also add to the home’s ambience and work well with its sunny feel.

Adornments – like the mermaid painting by local artist Carol Sherlock in the stairwell – are dotted about the place, continuing the beachy vibe. “We have quite a big stairwell and it just needed something to be really striking and to add colour, as

the house is all white,” Lynda explains. “The painting was just what we wanted. It has a really nice aqua colour in the water and a bright orange hue in the starfish – just perfect for that shot of colour.”

A model boat in the foyer strengthens the seaside theme. “My husband’s very much into sailing and some friends who were moving gave it to us as a gift – it’s very special to us,” Lynda says. Indeed, it seems it completes the perfect picture of this home by the sea.