

queensland homes | andrew waller design

Pure bliss

A home that's all about the finer things in life





Words Annabelle Cloros Photography Nick Watt

Part of the Whitsundays in Queensland, Hamilton Island is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful corners of the Earth. Situated in Coral Bay, this residence was created from scratch, taking full advantage of the unrivalled views of Catseye Bay.

The home was designed by local architect Chris Beckingham — the man behind the iconic Hamilton Island hotel, *qualia* — and built by Coastal Edge Construction.

Sydney firm Andrew Waller Design was called on board to create a contemporary interior that's all about balance. "Our client had seen a few of the architect's designs and felt the relationship would work well," says interior architect Andrew Waller. "The property is a completely new build on level land facing north onto Catseye Bay. The building was planned as a pavilion-cluster structure with internal courtyard and large walls of bi-fold doors that allow the interior to flow seamlessly to the gardens, parkland and water's edge."

Given the family's size (four kids, two adults) and propensity for entertaining, it was essential there was plenty of room for visiting friends and family. "The main reception space needed to be open plan for living and dining along with a large kitchen with a covered barbecue area," says Andrew. "Secondary outdoor living and dining spaces were requested to extend continuously from the interior."

Separating the residence's common and private areas, the five bedroom suites are located away from the main reception areas and feature balcony/terrace spaces and full bathrooms. A games/guest room also formed part of the brief; it's a treat for the kids, who have their own space designed with fun in mind. When not serving as a play room, the space can easily be converted into a guest room and also contains a shower and covered terrace.

But it wasn't all smooth sailing when it came to creating this unique residence. "The project locality introduced its own set of difficulties when it came to the design and build process, along with the logistics for deliveries," says Andrew. "Building materials and fittings were mainly specified through Sydney-based suppliers for ease of selection and shipped to the island. The full interior furnishings also required a much greater level of detail in planning as we didn't have the luxury of regular site visits and needed to pre-plan all areas so the property interior set-up could run seamlessly."

The family was keen to establish an interior that was influenced by the home's locale, which was also a source of inspiration. "We were asked to design a contemporary Hawaiian/islander-influenced interior where we referenced the landscape through colour and materials while allowing the views to take prominence," says Andrew. "A relaxed, tranquil atmosphere was created where a base colour was specified in natural shades





throughout so as not to jar the eye. Sand-toned travertine flooring flows through the interior and covered terrace areas, while a soft parchment-coloured paint was selected to complement the rosewood timbers.”

The colours of choice for the interior include blue and green tones, a nod to the surrounding landscape. Upholstered sofas were specified in sand-coloured linen to complement the travertine flooring, with teal feature upholstery tying in with the infinity pool and ocean.

“Greens have been introduced in the verandah’s soft furnishings and powder room/master bathroom vanity stone which link to the garden foliage and planted urns around the verandah,” says Andrew. “Dark-stained bamboo has been used with loose furniture pieces and botanical-framed artworks to reference the islander style.”

With views for days and a blissful environment cocooning Coral Bay, this home offers a restful respite that’s all about relaxing in style.





EXPERT TIP: Consider the design holistically so there is a continuous flow throughout the spaces. We were responsible for both the building's exterior finishes and interior works, allowing us to create a seamless narrative throughout the home. With this property in particular, as the interior opens onto the gardens with views towards the Whitsundays, this design approach was essential.

The facts:

Location: Hamilton Island
Time taken to build: 10 months
Bedrooms: 5 plus games/guest suite
Bathrooms: 5 plus powder room
Floors: 2

The figures:

Size of home: 524m² internal and including covered verandahs (building footprint size excluding first floor)
Size of land: 1968m²
Awards won: Master Builders Queensland — Over \$2 Million category; Master Builders Queensland — Best Residential Bathroom; Master Builders Queensland — Overall House of the Year — Mackay & Whitsunday area.

The details:

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