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A customised Blackwood dining table which seats 10 has been given a casual feel with simple café chairs



The extra wide sofas were made especially for the home



COASTAL *charm*

A BEACH HOLIDAY IS PERFECT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR FOR THE OWNERS OF THIS HOME AT ENCOUNTER BAY

WORDS CATHERINE CLIFTON PHOTOGRAPHS RUSSELL MILLARD



Jill regularly uses fabrics from Mokum Textiles in decorating projects and chose a bold stripe for her own kitchen stools



Jill and Ken Flint are no strangers to coastal living but their new holiday home at Encounter Bay is giving them the chance to see the ocean in a different light.

A keen surfing and sailing family, they live at Somerton Park and their extended family has a house at Goolwa ensuring easy access to the water.

However, the Flint's new property on an elevated block at Encounter Bay gives them a chance to sit back and soak up marvellous views from the Bluff around to Granite Island.

The couple had been searching for a shack on the beachfront but was put off by the amount of work a lot of the properties needed. By chance, while attending a family wedding, they drove past an open inspection of a new townhouse at Encounter Bay and were instantly sold on the location and the low-maintenance of the building.

"The views and the spacious living area were the things that stood out. It's ideal for entertaining and great that everything was done – we want to spend our time here relaxing, not working," Ken says.

Jill, an interior decorator, says the only downside was the pale yellow colour on all the walls which she repainted white as soon as she got the keys.

The two-storey home is spacious, with four bedrooms – three downstairs - and two bathrooms. The main living space on the upper level encompasses lounge, kitchen and dining areas and can be extended further by opening up the doors to the balcony or rear deck.

The interior has a simple elegance achieved with a neutral colour scheme, and furniture and lighting chosen for their sleek lines. Customised furniture in white, stainless steel and wood finishes complements the Tasmanian Oak floors and helps soften the appearance of the sand-coloured kitchen; a reminder of the original colour scheme.

The kitchen has reconstituted stone benchtops along one wall and on a central island with gloss cupboards. The combination of stone and high gloss is repeated in builtin shelving in the living area.

Cushions and rugs add a sense of warmth and comfort, while decorative pieces, such as framed

shell pictures by the Designer Boys (of *The Block* fame), have a pared back feel to emphasise the holiday mood.

Jill says decorating the beach house has given her a chance to test out some of her design ideas and use favourite suppliers.

A wide four-seater lounge and two individual chairs which can be clipped together to form a second sofa were custom made, as was a 10-seater Blackwood dining table with stainless steel frame. The stools along the kitchen island and most of the cushions are covered in fabrics from Mokum Textiles, while the white two-pack cubes and Noguchi coffee table in the lounge area are from Bisque Interiors.

Jill says the beach house has a relaxed vibe which the couple enjoys year round.

"It's just an hour from home, so we can come for the weekend and unwind. The beach is close by or we go bike riding or we can just enjoy the view - in winter the water is different again," Jill says.

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