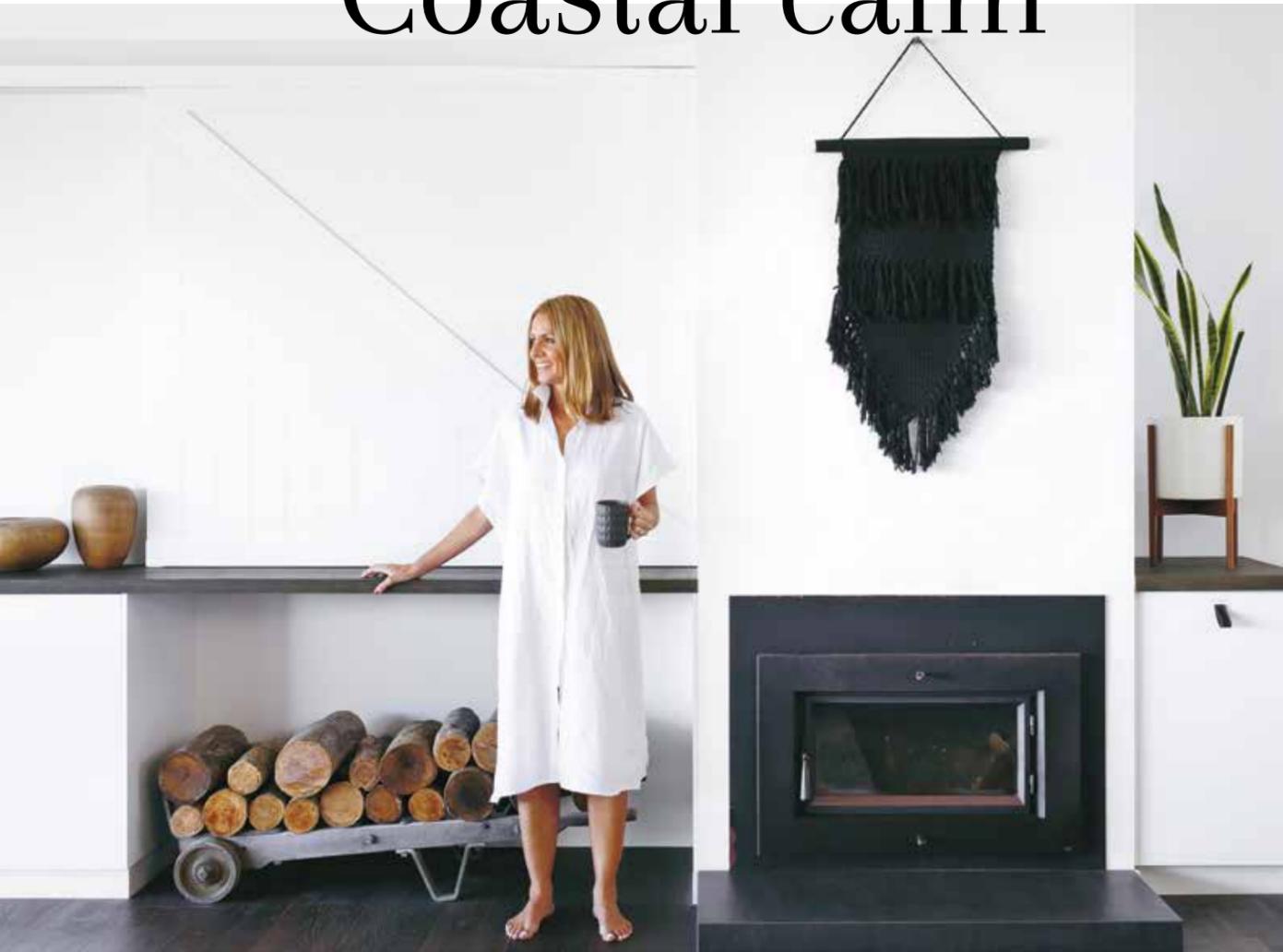


HOME

Living in style

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Coastal calm



Open house: The perfect block of land in an idyllic coastal town was just the beginning of the journey for this couple. Now they have a beautiful home that will stand the test of time.

WHO LIVES HERE?

Interior designer Brooke Marsh; her fiancée, Alex Rigby and their two dogs, Gretchen and Daisy, love their newly built home in Peregian Beach, Qld.

Built by their business, Altum Property Group, the couple really lived through the entire process and have made almost no changes since construction finished.

“I began with textures – concrete, timber, leather – and a palette of blacks, greys and white,” says Brooke. Here’s how to achieve something similar.



Living area

A big squishy modular sofa accommodates a family, and the use of movable coffee tables means if Brooke and Alex have guests, they can move them to the side and use the floor for more seating. The smaller nest of side tables will help keep glasses and mugs up off the floor.

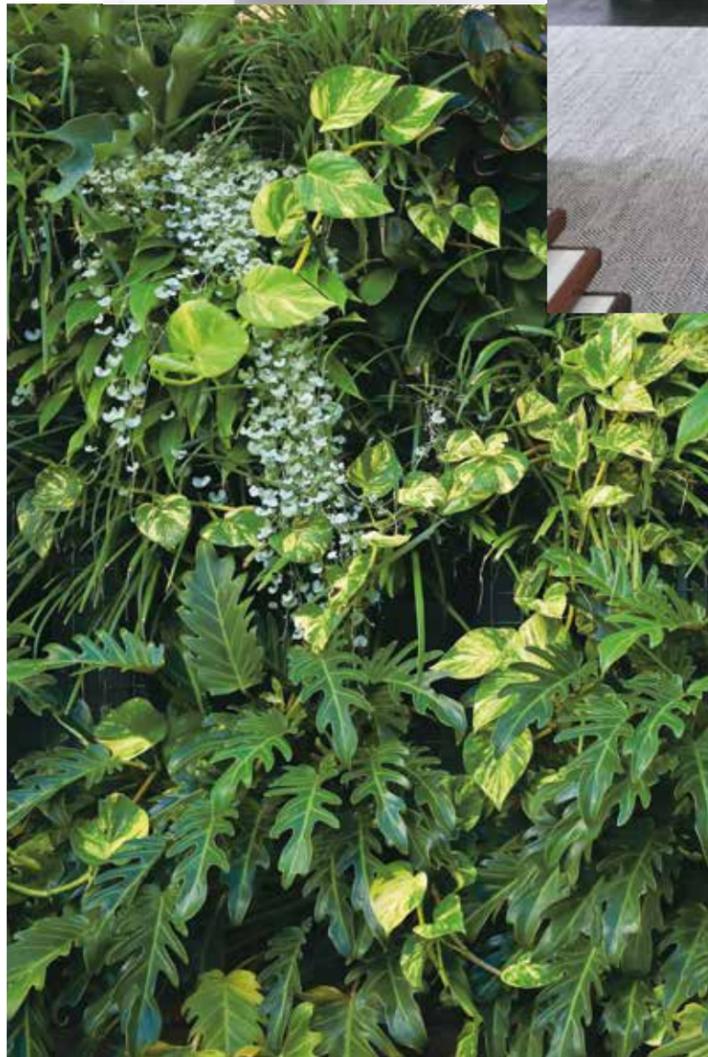
TIP: When buying a sofa, have a think about who will be sitting on it most often and if it accommodates everyone.

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TV wall

It's so lovely to see a home that doesn't revolve around a big black box. In this case, Brooke and Alex have hidden the TV behind a sliding barn-door style panel. When the couple aren't watching telly, the room feels clean and restful thanks to the black-and-white colour palette and textural wall-hanging. **TIP: Building in enough storage at the renovation phase will help you keep things clean and tidy down the track.**



ARTWORK: OH PEN AND CHOSE - A PORTRAIT OF YOUNG RIMBAUD AS JACK BY DAMIEN KAMHOLTZ, ANTHEA POLSON ART, ANTHEAPOLSONART.COM.AU



Entry

The entry to a home is all about first impressions, and as we know, they count. Brooke lived through the process of these poured and moulded concrete walls. She loved the finished product: "It feels like its own piece of art incorporated into the architecture." The louvres and windows let in light and keep things nice and airy – a taste of what's to come. **TIP: If you can go for an oversized door, it's worth spending the money. It's the first and last thing your guests will see.**

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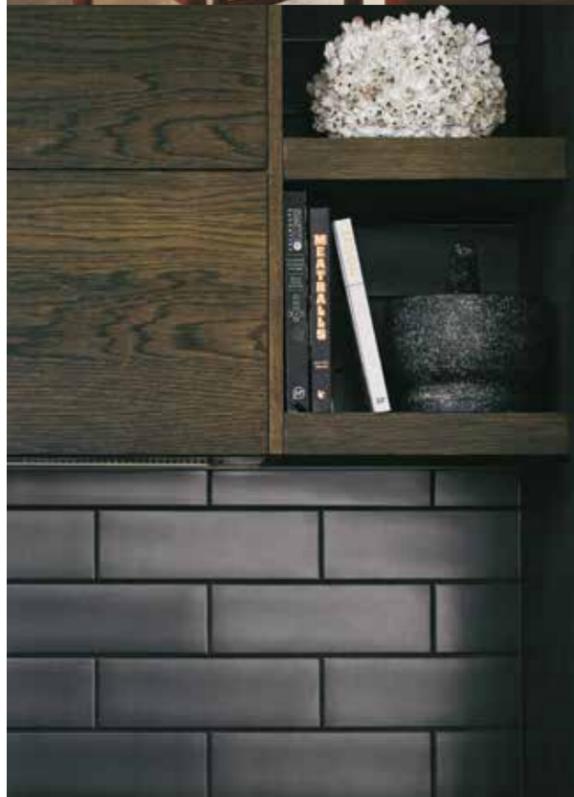


Open-plan living

Architect Tim Ditchfield designed the space and the result is a really flexible space. "It can be completely opened up for entertaining, or sectioned off when you want to turn your back on the ocean and, for example, enjoy a cosy winter barbecue out by the pool," says Brooke. This open-plan space is well divided by furniture, storage and lighting. **TIP: If you're planning to open all the areas up, make sure you build in enough places to put your possessions away, as that's the one downside of open-plan – everything is on show!**

Dining area

An oval or rounded table is a good choice if you like to entertain or often have extra kids joining the family. You can always squeeze a couple of extra chairs around an organic shape. Rounded edges also soften up the space and give a sense of extra room. Where you have a table in a relatively narrow path – in this case leading to the outdoor living space – it's the perfect choice. **TIP: Another way to designate an area is to use the wall space. Here the three pieces of art anchor the dining zone.**



Bathroom

Brooke wanted the look and feel of the ensuites to relate to the kitchen. It's nice to mix things up with different surfaces in each of the bathrooms, just keep them in the same palette. "I found the darker tiles made the perfect backdrop to show off tapware, basins and benchtops," she says.

TIP: Bathrooms need to be practical so the key is function over form here.

ARTWORK: LEITH MACGUIRE, LEITHMACUIRE.COM



Kitchen

The long concrete island bench, including bench seating, was the starting point for Brooke designing the kitchen. "I knew I wanted to work with Pop Concrete, and we needed a crane to get it in." She and Alex love the mix of function and beauty in this space: "What I like is the island bench is uninterrupted by a cooktop or a sink – it's one long seamless expanse of benchtop," says Brooke. "The beauty comes from mixing the beautiful textures and allowing space for purely decorative styling." Plus, there's the generous load of built-in storage. **TIP: Going for cabinets with no handles will give you a cleaner, more modern look.**



Kids' room

While there are no kids living in this home, Brooke says there are a constant rotation of nieces and nephews. With that in mind, she's created something that has a neutral base and can be accessorised depending on who's staying! Just a pop of colour in the bedside table and in the artwork and bed accessories. **TIP: If you want to keep the base of the room neutral, you can always give your kids free rein when it comes to the cushions and toys that go on the bed.**

Ensuite

The combined sink in the ensuite vanity is a really nice use of a long, thin space and is easy for two people to use at the same time. The bespoke concrete finish really highlights the black tapware and the open shelving at the end of the basin is practical, which is exactly what you need in a small space. **TIP: A bigger format frameless mirror will make the space appear larger.**

Bedrooms

The cool soft grey and white walls of the bedrooms are in keeping with the rest of the home. Brooke has kept the mood warm by combining textures in bedlinen, throws, cushions, wall-hangings and rugs. Even in warmer climates, it's nice to have something soft underfoot when you jump out of bed. **TIP: Use tactile artworks above the bed as a way to introduce another interesting texture to the mix.**



ARTWORK SOME THINGS CAN ONLY BE SEEN IN THE SHADOWS BY PETA HOUGHTON, ANTHEA POLSON ART, ANTHEAPOLSONART.COM.AU

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Art on display: Brooke is passionate about supporting new artists, especially if they're creating something new in an old way. "This is a wall-hanging from Arizona Story. Isn't it amazing?" says Brooke.



TIP: If you're choosing a new bedside table, make sure it's big enough to accommodate all the things you need, such as a books, light, jewellery.