

# SUPER *Natural*

A streamlined design and green credentials make the living easy at this family weekender on the Victorian coast

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**PURE COMFORT** {above} An abundance of organic textures and warm, honey tones ensure Greg and Celina's modern beach home feels anything but cold. A Mark Tuckey stool works as a compact side table, while a cream bamboo throw from The Works adds warmth to the home's clean lines. **DECK** {opposite page} The home's main living area is designed to take full advantage of the ocean views, with floor-to-ceiling glass doors extending the living room to the deck. The lightweight Ikea 'Frosta' stools used at the dining table also work well as outdoor stools and side tables. "We like to shift the furniture inside and out, keeping an easy connection between the two," Celina says. >



**LIVING ROOM** A wall of joinery in a pale veneer by Amerind, built by Grovedale Cabinets in Geelong, divides the living area and provides handy storage and a space for the integrated Jetmaster fireplace. This clever room divider is also one of the home's most family-friendly features. Celina says, "Even though it's one room, it feels like two different spaces, as the kids can watch TV and we can dine at the table and feel quite separate." The stone-hued Vibieffe sofa from Milk Furniture was chosen for its size and removable covers. "The L-shape lets us face out to the view," adds Celina. Large, leaf-print cushions from Spacecraft provide extra comfort.



*When you're surrounded* by the awe-inspiring beauty of the Victorian coastline, it's almost mandatory to build a home that sits in harmony with the environment. After three years of hunting for the best position to build their eco-sensitive seaside retreat, homeowners Greg Lloyd and Celina Clarke found just the right vantage point, looking out over a spectacular ocean vista that can never be built out. "We wanted to build something that was clean, simple and low-maintenance, so that our two young children could happily live there without us being too precious," Celina says. "Greg had holidayed in this area much of his life and we wanted a base here. The beach is just 50 metres away."

Greg, a builder, designed and constructed the house himself while Celina, an industrial designer and co-founder of furniture and lighting label ISM Objects, lent her keen designer's eye to the project. The simple, rectangular structure offers an open-plan kitchen, living and dining area on the top floor, at street level, opening onto a deck that runs the length of the house and captures the sparkling sea views. On the level below are three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a laundry. >



< The home's sleek architecture and contemporary interiors are a far cry from your typical beachfront shack. "We really wanted our home to have an indoor/outdoor living space," Celina says. "The big glass doors in the living area slide across to create a nine-metre opening."

Eco-friendliness was a top priority for this design-savvy couple, but also a necessity given that the only utility connected to the house was electricity. To deal with this challenge, they installed water tanks, a solar hot water system and on-site sewage treatment. "We also tried to use sustainable materials where possible," says Celina. Inside, the design allows for excellent natural light and cross-ventilation.

When it comes to interior finishes, the couple's design philosophy is pure simplicity, with pale-blonde veneers and built-in cabinetry creating a calm, efficient space. "When you close up the joinery you don't see all the bits and pieces, so it has a very clean look," says Celina.

The furnishings are equally streamlined, with just a few key pieces – such as the sofa and dining table – positioned to make the most of the views. Dynamic lighting pieces from ISM Objects provide ornamentation without compromising the cool simplicity of the interior. "It's all very simple, but that's just how we wanted it," says Celina. She and Greg, and their two daughters, Saskia, seven, and Freya, two, love their lazy weekends at their second home. "It's just a lovely space to be in."



**MASTER BEDROOM {top & opposite}** Each of the three bedrooms is positioned to take advantage of the ocean views. Celina and Greg have furnished the main bedroom with the same pared-back approach taken in the rest of the house, sticking to a plain ensemble bed and neutral-toned hemp and organic cotton bedlinen from Hemp Gallery. The only adornments are a fabulous 'Kapele' light from ISM Objects and a Mark Tuckey stool, made from recycled packing cases, which is taken as a bedside table and holds a rustic driftwood picture frame, a wooden bird and a textured vase, all from The Works. "We like to keep things very simple, and it's a look that doesn't date too much," Celina says. The remaining two bedrooms have been furnished so the house can comfortably sleep two families at a time, making it a breeze to have guests.

**ENSUITE {left}** The ensuite is finished in a sleek, modern style. Large white wall tiles and grey floor tiles are dressed up with a custom-made elongated vanity unit, topped with a Duravit basin. "The Amerind 'Vogue Willow' veneer is the same as in the living area, keeping the palette simple and adding some natural warmth to the bathrooms," says Celina. The frameless glass shower screen gives the room an airy spaciousness, while a slender, louvered window lets in light and fresh sea breezes to ventilate the space. "It looks out to a bush and garden view," Celine adds. >



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## we love ...

### < fire-savvy design

When Greg and Celina were designing their beachside retreat, they had to consider the very real risk of fire in their home's bush setting. To combat this, the exterior finish and deck were built from northern NSW blackbutt, a fire-retardant hardwood, over a steel frame. Water tanks with a combined 30,000-litre capacity were installed, with the tanks closest to the street accessible by the local fire department in an emergency.



**KITCHEN & DINING (left)** The kitchen is positioned so the main work surfaces look straight out to the view (below right). The kitchen cabinets are a mixture of plain white and the same blonde-wood veneer used on the joinery in the rest of the home. The benchtops are white CaesarStone, as is the splashback, keeping the kitchen's palette minimal. "It's the same look throughout, very clean and simple to maintain," Celina says. Greg made the dining table (right) himself by recycling leftover pieces of the extra-wide American oak floorboards, mounted on a steel frame. Scattered over the pale timber are bright ArtPlay tiles from Spacecraft.



### DECK & EXTERIOR (opposite)

Greg (pictured left with eldest daughter Saskia) used motorised blinds on the east side of the house to control the light and temperature year-round without the need for energy-guzzling appliances.

**HIDDEN STORAGE (right)** This ingenious wall of joinery, built by Grovedale Cabinets, includes a folding panel which slides across to conceal an LCD television, AV system and airconditioning unit. When open, the doors fold back at a 90-degree angle, so as not to obscure the view.

Contact ISM Objects on 1300 888 646 or visit [www.ismobjects.com.au](http://www.ismobjects.com.au). Contact Greg Lloyd at GL Building on [glbuilding@bigpond.com](mailto:glbuilding@bigpond.com).



## Inside story

**Who lives here?** Celina Clarke, an industrial designer; Greg Lloyd, a builder; and their daughters, Saskia, seven, and Freya, two.  
**What kind of style did you aim to create here?** Celina: "A very contemporary style, with a clean, simple interior."  
**What was the biggest building challenge?** "The site is very steep, but Greg wasn't put off by that, as he's done a lot of projects on similar sites in the area. He used a steel-frame design with very deep foundations."  
**Best eco-friendly features?** "We have rainwater tanks, solar hot water heating

and exterior screens to control the heat inside, as well as an effluent treatment system and a three-tiered effluent field planted with natives."  
**In what other ways do you try to live sustainably?** "The usual stuff - we recycle, make choices about products based on their environmental impact and we buy organic food, though not always."  
**What's your favourite aspect of the house?** "The view. Even at night, it's amazing, with the moon over the water. We open the windows and doors right up."

**Where do you like to shop for furniture?** "We try to support local design and manufacturing when we can. We buy things from our design colleagues, such as Milk, Map and Tait. And we use lights from my company, ISM Objects."  
**What's the secret to a clutter-free interior?** "We do make a mess, but we have more than 30 cupboards in the living area, so it makes it very quick and easy to tidy up."  
**Is your Melbourne house as tidy as your weekender?** "We have more stuff there but fewer cupboards, so it's a nightmare!"

