

THAT HOLIDAY FEELING

Seasoned renovator Bonnie Hindmarsh mixed her two favourite looks to create her family's forever home – a modern-coastal barn.

STORY *Elizabeth Wilson* | STYLING *Kayla Gex & Bonnie Hindmarsh* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Maree Homer*

This Sydney home is a dream come true for owner Bonnie, seen here in the airy white kitchen with her youngest son, Dodge, and British bulldog Miss Coco. The kitchen is the focal point of the central pavilion and has a 7m-high raked ceiling. "I wanted the kitchen cabinetry to look like furniture in the room because it is part of a beautiful, big open-plan space," says Bonnie. Polyurethane cabinetry with V-groove detail by Carrera By Design, painted Dulux White on White. 'Muriel Cloud' chandelier, Coco Republic. Island benchtop, Caesarstone Statuario Maximus. Dorf 'Madi' mixer tap. Stools, Space to Create. Bowl and vase, Water Tiger. ▶



Bonnie Hindmarsh's obsession with white weatherboards began as a young, beach-loving girl growing up in Sydney's bushy north-western suburbs. "I remember driving to the coast and seeing white beach houses and thinking that they were the most beautiful things I had ever seen," she says. "Whenever I envisioned my future home it always involved white cladding."

Fast-forward a couple of decades and Bonnie, who is co-founder and creative director of Three Birds Renovations, and her husband, former NSW Rugby League star Nathan Hindmarsh, have just completed their dream home for their four boys: Archie, 12, Buster, 10, Rowdie, nine, and Dodge, two.

Set on acreage in semi-rural Sydney, near where Bonnie grew up, it's a sprawling one-level home that combines a vast central pavilion with a soaring 7m ceiling, a breezeway, walls of glass and lashings of light, all wrapped up in a white-clad exterior. It's the type of dwelling you might expect to see perched on a coastal cliff-top, but it looks perfectly at home here, settled into an ocean of green lawn. "I wanted a relaxed, beachy feel even though we're 30km from the beach," she says. "I love the rural setting, too, so I've mixed the coastal vibe with a barn-like space. I'm calling it our modern-coastal barn."

Bonnie and Nathan bought the 2ha property five years ago and spent four years living in a 1970s-era home on the site. They had planned to renovate and extend, but when the house was declared dangerously termite-ridden, they had to demolish most of it, except for a fireplace and a couple of walls. "We basically rebuilt the footprint of the old house and then added to it," says Bonnie. After the squeezey dimensions of their old residence, in which there was only one living area, Nathan wanted large, open spaces with multiple living zones and the option to close off some rooms. "We were lucky to have enough land so we could allow the house to sprawl," he says.

The result is a four-bedroom home of super-generous proportions. There are formal and casual options for living and dining, and every space feels luxurious because of its size and detailing. Bonnie devised the entire scheme and engaged an architect to help nut out the structural technicalities. ▶

This casual dining zone adjacent to the kitchen showcases Bonnie's aesthetic: a white-on-white palette with touches of timber and raw materials. The built-in window seat features family-friendly, wipeable fabric. A 2.5m-diameter 'Orbit' dining table from The Wood Room is teamed with 'Malawi' chairs from Coastal Drift. 'Paris' pendant light, Les Interieurs. 'Indra' jute and leather rug, Zanui. European oak flooring (throughout), Woodcut. Artwork by Libby Watkins.





'I've used rattan, washed timbers, cream rugs and greenery to create warmth. These large spaces could have looked cold and formal, but they don't at all because of the textures and layers.' Bonnie Hindmarsh

FORMAL DINING This room is connected to the formal living room via glass panelled doors. "I wanted the flexibility to create intimate spaces, so it's lovely to be able to close off this area," says Bonnie. The fireplace is from the original house. Pendant light, Deer Willow. Dining table, Oz Design Furniture. 'Lennox' dining chairs, La Maison. 'Jardine' cane chairs, B Seated Global. 'Pia Ivory' rug, Tribe Home. 'Lollipop' print, Nathan+Jac. **FRONT BAR** Located in the formal dining space, this drinks station is a real treat. Caesarstone White Attica benchtop and splashback. **FORMAL LIVING** Bonnie's eclectic aesthetic is on display here. '6015 HO GS2' gas fireplace, Lopi Fireplaces. 'Bronte' coffee table and slipcovered chairs, Lounge Lovers. Rug, Freedom. ▶



Living with white

WASHABLE CHAIR COVERS Simply throw cotton or linen covers into the washing machine and add a little bleach if they need a refresh.

WASH&WEAR PAINT Bonnie used a Dulux product with barrier technology to make her walls stain-, scratch- and scrape-resistant.

TEXTURED FLOORING Choose a light but grainy timber floor to conceal dirt and dust.

POLYSATIN SHUTTERS The Luxaflex ones in this house are a breeze to clean, unlike many regular plantation shutters that can't be wet-wiped.

STAIN-RESISTANT CARPET In the bedrooms, solution-dyed nylon carpet from Stainmaster not only resists spills, it repels them.





OUTDOOR ROOM With its high raked ceiling, huge fireplace, Bahamas-style pergola, fan and ample comfy seating, this is a luxurious spot to hang out in. Rowdie (left) and Buster take advantage of the play space at their disposal. Classic Triple cane lounges, Coastal Drift. Cushions, Koskela and Considered. Australian House & Garden throw, Myer. Lanterns, Country Road. Rug, Koskela.

BUTLER'S PANTRY Perfect for keeping prep mess contained and hidden from view. Scyon 'Axon' cladding. Caesarstone Statuario Maximus benchtop. 'Titan' kitchen mixer, Caroma. French doors from Wideline Windows & Doors.

OUTDOOR KITCHEN/BAR Nathan and Bonnie, pictured with British bulldog Peanut Butter at their feet, enjoy the fruits of their labours. Scyon 'Linea' cladding painted Dulux Snowy Mountain Quarter. The decking is fire-resistant HardieDeck boards. *For Where to Buy, see page 196.*

Integral to the new design was the inclusion of a swimming pool, positioned centrally at the rear, its reflections bouncing into the living areas. The result is 'water views' from almost every room. "It gives the house a resort feel," says Bonnie. "Our life is pretty chaotic with four boys, so I wanted to evoke the feeling of always being on holiday." It also means the couple always have sightlines to the pool when the kids are swimming.

Reinforcing the coastal feel is a white-on-white palette, and the use of cladding inside and out. Instead of using traditional timber weatherboards - not permitted in this bushfire-prone area - Bonnie opted for Scyon 'Linea' cladding. Made from a cement composite, the boards have a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating of 40, which makes them a perfect choice. Inside, Scyon 'Axon' has been used to line the raked ceiling in the central pavilion, the feature walls in the children's rooms, and to highlight the fireplace in the dining room. "What I love about using the cladding inside is that it adds texture," says Bonnie. "It brings a different dimension to the spaces."

Bonnie and Nathan are forever hosting family and friends at the property, so the home is set up for entertaining a crowd.

The kitchen, with its mammoth 5x2m island bench, is the heart of the home, flowing through to the adjacent living and dining zones and family room. Located behind the kitchen is a well-equipped butler's pantry to keep a lid on prep mess - a boon when hosting. A servery with sliding windows connects the kitchen to the vast rear deck, where a high bar and stools, outdoor sink and fridges are located poolside.

Outside, there are multiple relaxation zones, ranging from an outdoor room with sumptuous sofas and a suspended day bed to a sunken lounge beside the pool, and bench seating in the outdoor kitchen/bar area. "I've designed it so that people can easily connect with each other in lots of different areas of the house," says Bonnie. "I want people to feel relaxed here."

While it's a very social home, it's also very family focused, designed to cater for the four boys as they grow. The kids have plenty of spaces indoors and out to call their own, too. Bonnie knows her white walls will see their share of scuff marks, but that's life. "I don't like things to be too precious because they can't be in my life," she says. "They have to be robust and able to handle some rough and tumble." **H&G**

Take a tour of the house on Three Birds TV with Bonnie and her colleagues Lana Taylor and Erin Cayless. Go to threebirdsrenovations.com.