



Making *Memories*

This North Bondi home by CplusC Architectural Workshop is a place for family and friends to make memories that will be reminisced about in years to come. Rebecca Gross visits.

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Nostalgia is the sentimental longing for the happiness of a former time or place, the fond recollections of days gone by. For those lucky enough to design and build their dream home it is often with the aspiration of creating a place where future memories will be made. Are these homes, therefore, designed with consideration of anticipated memories and with the forethought of how we hope to remember the past?

Long-time North Bondi residents Walter and Laura wanted a home in which they could entertain family and friends and their three young-adult children could live now and always return to in the future. They engaged architect and builder Clinton Cole along with Ryan Ng of CplusC Architectural Workshop to design and construct a new home on their existing site; a home to suit their social and family-oriented lifestyle, and a place to make future memories.

Walter and Laura’s brief entailed an open-plan house facilitating all the things they love; spending time with family, cooking and entertaining guests both indoors and outdoors. The house also needed to maximise natural light and privacy and incorporate a swimming pool and greenery. “All of which provided challenges on a narrow and overlooked site,” says Clinton. “But as there was little opportunity for outlook it was all about making the house the view.”

From the street the house appears deceptively modest yet intriguing with a timber and steel façade that conceals its form and depth. Behind that exterior, the house is a pressed rectilinear volume that extends almost the full length and width of the south-west-facing site. Punctuated with openings influenced by the impact of sunlight at different times of the year, the home takes advantage of the dramatic and atmospheric effects of light. Large sliding timber and glass doors and windows, internal and external gardens and the adjoining lap pool obscure the distinctions between indoor and outdoor space, as does the metal grate screen that envelops two sides of the house. “Like Malaysian architecture, it was about turning inside into out and outside into in,” says Clinton. “It’s a brutally honest building and the expressed structure and exposed materials increased the complexity of the build.”



The façade is inspired by the ancient and mysterious Hanging Gardens of Babylon with LED-lit planter beds that transform the screen into a living green wall, hindering views from neighbours and passers-by. Made with fibreglass reinforced plastic grating, the screen required on-site experimentation and speaks to Clinton's design ethos: "If there's an easy solution, make it harder. You're guaranteed to reach something unique and to find something that people notice and feel something about," he says.

The same can certainly be said for the above-ground lap pool that shares a vibrant blue acrylic wall with the open-plan kitchen, dining and living area. With open sky and the master bedroom above the pool, sunlight strikes the water in different ways. Surrounded by greenery it evokes the feeling of a secluded grotto. Inside the house, refracted light illuminates the burnished concrete floors, soft grey walls and high ceiling and is suggestive of the sea and sand at nearby Bondi Beach.

This open living area is an interconnected and interactive space for family and friends to gather, while also serving as a sanctuary for those who live there. The galley kitchen has a protracted spotted gum and Calacatta marble island benchtop that extends from the base of the stairs. It's a place to cook, eat, chat and work on a daily basis, and on social occasions it's a place to gather and serve drinks and food.

Stepping down from the kitchen, the dining and living area stretch alongside the pool and open to a deck at the rear of the house. Walter and Laura engaged interior designer Jason Sullivan, a long-time friend, to furnish and decorate the house. With a focus on creating comfort and interest, Jason chose rare twentieth-century pieces that by the very nature of being vintage come with their own history.

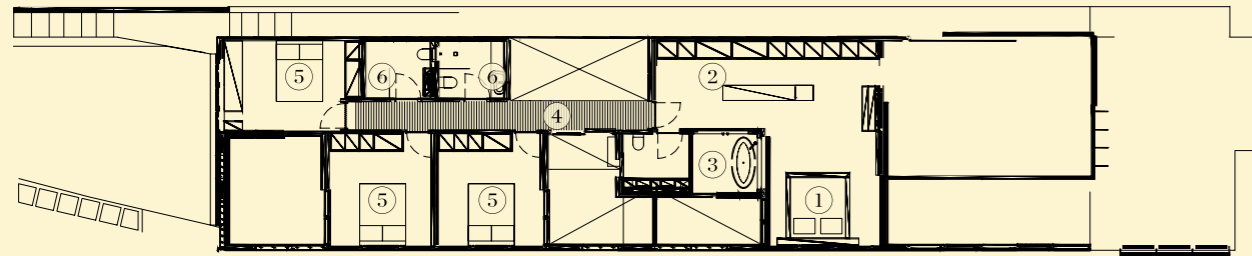
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A 1970s three-piece sofa set by Brazilian designer Percival Lafer sits across from a built-in banquette and stainless steel Stilnovo Spinnaker lamp of the same era. Custom brass coffee tables by Don Cameron complement the raw material palette of the architecture, and vintage whalebones and a Gregarious Works coral sculpture reflect the seaside suburb. A custom elliptical dining table – conducive for conversation – is surrounded by Borge Mogensen dining chairs and unexpectedly positioned at an angle with sculptural copper and glass pendants suspended above.

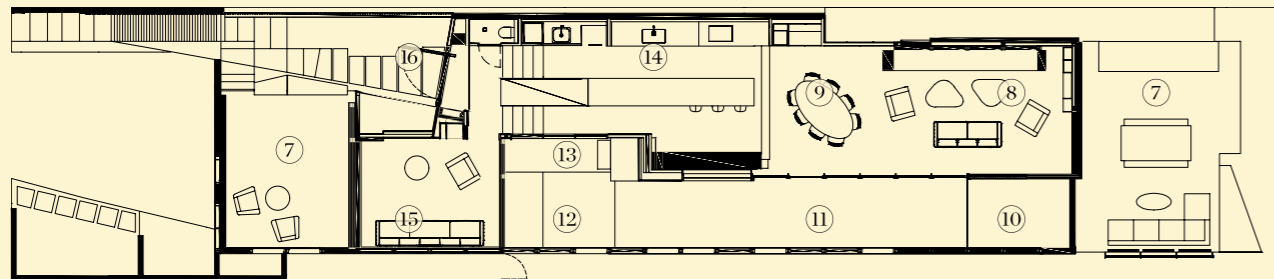
The soft, rounded forms and natural textures of the furniture and objects create a strong juxtaposition with the rectilinear volumes and articulated structure of the house, as does the more circuitous layout. But this contradiction imbues personality and warmth and a more organic flow.

At the front of the house, the media room is positioned between the pool and front courtyard. Here, the rich rosewood and leather of Jean Gillon's Captain's Chair complements the tones and textures of the cedar-lined wall, while two retro pool chairs are from Walter and Laura's first Bondi home and the lush plants are saved from the site pre-build.





FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| ① MASTER BEDROOM | ⑤ BEDROOM | ⑨ DINING | ⑬ STONE GARDEN |
| ② DRESSING ROOM | ⑥ BATHROOM | ⑩ POND | ⑭ KITCHEN |
| ③ ENSUITE | ⑦ OUTDOOR LIVING | ⑪ POOL | ⑮ MEDIA ROOM |
| ④ HALLWAY | ⑧ LIVING ROOM | ⑫ POOL DECK | ⑯ ENTRY |



The room has a Japanese sensibility with a low platform bed custom designed and built using timber rafters salvaged from the original home.



OPPOSITE | PLANS. ABOVE | THE MEDIA ROOM AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE ADJOINS THE POOL, WHICH, SURROUNDED BY GREENERY AND WITH DIFFERENT CEILING HEIGHTS, EVOKES THE FEELING OF A GROTTA. BELOW | THE MASTER BEDROOM HAS LARGE SLIDING GLASS DOORS THAT OPEN TO THE VIEW AND TO THE BATHROOM, BLURRING THE DISTINCTION OF SPACES.



Bedrooms and bathrooms are zoned on the first floor with the master bedroom at the rear. The room has a Japanese sensibility with a low platform bed custom designed and built using timber rafters salvaged from the original home. “It brings traces of the old house into the comforts of the new one,” Clinton explains. And like downstairs, the distinctions of space are blurred upstairs as large sliding glass doors open the bedroom to the bathroom.

This house is a place for Walter and Laura and their three children to spend time with the people they love, and for making memories that will be looked back on fondly in years to come. “I can’t see us moving out for a long period of time,” says Laura. “The kids will, but they’ll always come back and eventually they’ll bring their children too. We look forward to it being like that.”

