



THE REGENERATION GAME

In this award-winning sustainable Sydney home, there's a surprise around every corner

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Above Reflections of the recycled-stained-glass windows in the water of the courtyard's pool
Living room The 'Soniah' floor lamps by Faina, Pierre Paulin 'Ribbon' chairs and a bespoke table from Denholm all draw their palette from the windows. The rug is from Cappelen Dimyr, the sofa is the 'Gio' by Luca Erba for Hessentia and the pendant lights are by David Pompa ➤



Featuring expansive views of Sydney Harbour on one side and a dense national park on the other, Holocene House reimagines what it means to live in balance with the environment. Regenerative thinking is embedded into every aspect of the architecture, interior design and the furniture selections, making it Australia's first carbon-positive residence to be certified by the global Active House Alliance. Setting its impressive sustainability credentials aside, this home has a strikingly unique aesthetic. Stained-glass windows wash it in an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour, and a greenhouse-like exoskeleton encases one side of the structure.

'When I first met the client, Mondrian was the initial reference,' says interior designer Jase Sullivan. 'That is where our inspiration for the windows came from. The challenge was balancing those with the home's stunning aspect. We had to be bold in our choices but make them feel cohesive and connected to the landscape.' Using deep browns and neutrals to ground the design allows the jewel-bright colours to feel integrated yet playful. 'Everything from the charred timber to the lighting and internal finishes was the result of a fruitful collaboration between all of us,' says Jase, referring to the close working relationship between himself, CPlusC Architects and the owners. Notable elements include stools made from melted-down fridges, 3D-printed beds crafted from recycled-plastic bottles and a coffee table designed from pink-dyed limestone.

Water also plays a crucial role. Fed through a biofiltration system of reeds, pebbles and charcoal, a stream originates at the rear of the house. 'Water tumbles from the entrance and flows into a natural swimming pool that runs along the living spaces,' explains Jase. 'It is one of the closest connections to nature I've ever felt in a property. The clients wanted the house to feel like an adventure, where every turn offers something new. It wasn't just about the obvious vistas; it was about creating surprises.'

Holocene House now represents a rare convergence of art, sustainability and architecture – it is a home that invites its inhabitants to reconnect with nature, while leading the way in regenerative design. For Jase, the project embodies a new paradigm. 'It's not about building bigger,' he reflects, 'it's about building better, for ourselves and the planet.' jasesullivan.com.au; cplusc.com.au

Courtyard An open courtyard runs the length of the home, and the integration of water, planting and operable canopies was integral to allowing this space to breathe and respond to the elements. The structure is made from recycled hardwood. For loungers similar to the ones beside the pool, try the range by Kedas, available at Sklum. At the far end of this unique side extension sits a separate office pod, with a spiral staircase leading to a small roof-terrace garden with views of Sydney Harbour ►





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Kitchen The island, made from recycled wood treated with orange oil, extends into the adjoining room, where it becomes a dining table. At this end, it features a Vola tap in a natural-brass finish. Opposite, a custom-made window seat, upholstered in ‘Tobacco’-coloured ‘Maroua’ fabric from Larsen, affords views out over the courtyard. **Snug** Sitting to the rear of this architecturally interesting home and raised up to afford better views of the outside, this space is clad in recycled hardwood, with the yellow ‘Togo’ sofa and armchairs by Michel Ducaroy for Ligne Roset adding a pop of colour. The coffee table is from Sydney-based mid-century-furniture store Rudi Rocket, while the sideboard is a bespoke piece. The rug is a design by Cappelen Dimyr ►



Courtyard seating Situated between the kitchen and the raised snug, this cosy space is open to the adjoining pool and planting. It features a cluster of four 'Pacha' chairs by Pierre Paulin for Gubi around a 'Meltingpot' table by Dirk Van Der Kooij, made from third-life recycled plastics. The pieces sit on an outdoor rug from Cadrys. On the table, there's a selection of 'Tetsuya Ozawa' tableware from the Dea Store ►



USING DEEP BROWNS AND NEUTRALS ALLOWS JEWEL-BRIGHT COLOURS TO FEEL INTEGRATED YET PLAYFUL

Hallway Bespoke shelving transforms this mezzanine area into a walkthrough library, its design recalling the house's Mondrian-inspired glazing. Here, you can see the unique banister made from multicoloured, powder-coated mild-steel rods of varying heights. At the end of the corridor, recycled-wood doors reveal a glimpse of a quaint living area, with a coffee table by Jase Sullivan and a pink 'Anfibio' sofa by Alessandro Becchi from Tigmi Trading

Bathroom Drawing inspiration from the surrounding natural elements, the primary ensuite is its own haven, with a bathtub by Apaiser, brushed-brass fixtures from Brodware and pistachio-hued wall tiles from Ceramica Vogue. The floor tiles are 'Garonne Cobblestones' by Eco Outdoor

Bedroom Jase Sullivan designed the bespoke bed, while the bedside table, also a custom piece, is from Denholm. They are paired with an 'Origo' pendant light by David Pompa and vases by Elizabeth Lewis, available at the Dea Store ➤



HOLOCENE HOUSE INVITES ITS RESIDENTS TO RECONNECT WITH NATURE, WHILE LEADING THE WAY IN REGENERATIVE DESIGN

Office The scalloped ceiling draws the eye to the coastal view. An 'Invader' desk lamp by Atelier Henri for Tigmi Trading and a sculpture by Joshua Yeldham sit on the desk from Arthouse Gallery **Exterior** Looking back from the pool area towards the dark-timber-clad exterior, the multi-coloured glass window panels glow with colour, with vintage Pierre Paulin 'Ribbon' chairs, sourced from 1stDibs, just seen in the downstairs living room **See Stockists page for details** [ED](#)

