



HANG LOOSE

A property developer put his experience to good use in creating his own family nest, a Sydney home that's equipped for relaxation and wired for entertainment.

STORY & STYLING JUDY BAROUCH | PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER



Custom joinery in the living room incorporates a buffet storage unit as well as low-profile seating that continues around a corner window. Chair from Spence & Lyda. Coffee table from Globe West. Peony rug from Designer Rugs. *Lost City 01* artwork by Katherine Boland from Artduo. **OPPOSITE** Owner Mia reads in a hanging chair from Equator Homewares. Sushi outdoor table and bench from Fanuli Furniture. Table napkins from Altamira. **For Where to Buy, see page xxx.**



The kitchen mixes walnut veneer, Calacutta marble and satin polyurethane finishes. Joinery by Asteria Joinery. Pilo stools from Fanuli Furniture. **OPPOSITE top** The dining area serves up restful garden views. Table and chairs from Mark Tuckey. Kai 'O' light from Ke-zu. **OPPOSITE bottom** Owner Rob with daughters Taylor and Dana in the barbecue area. **For Where to Buy, see page xxx.**



Clever solutions

THE JOINERY "The walnut veneer joinery creates an extra dimension but at the same time is integrated into the architecture," says interior designer Meryl Hare.

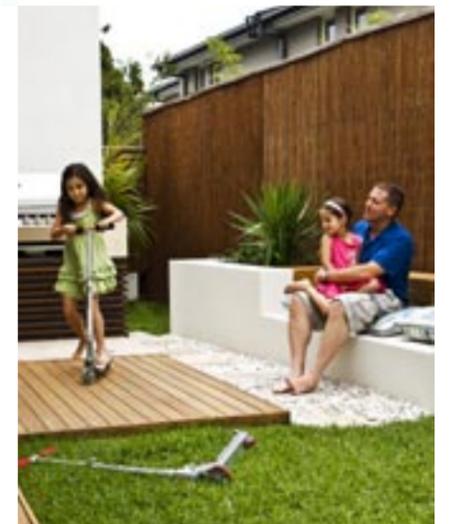
THE STAIRWELL "I fell in love with the Japanese vitrified porcelain strips from Artedomus," says Rob. "We splashed out on them for the staircase wall. A two-storey glass wall on the eastern side of the stairs brings extra light into the centre of the house."

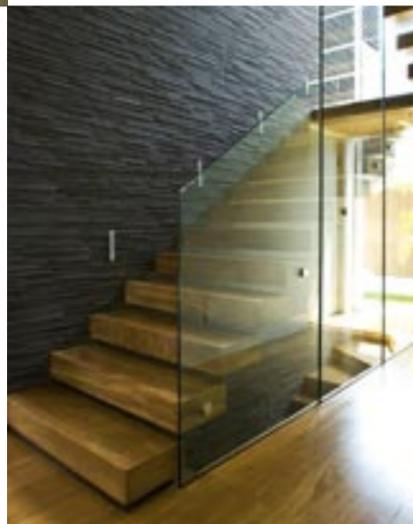
THE COURTYARD Folding glass doors open up the living area to a north-facing courtyard and a pool that wraps around a timber deck. "Recycled timber was used so that tannins wouldn't leach into the pool," says Rob.

A meeting of minds proved a fertile laboratory for creating this modernist house in Sydney's eastern suburbs. The owner, Rob, used his experience as a developer to assemble a team of architects, interior designers and builders he had successfully worked with, in order to create an ideal home for himself, wife Mia and daughters Taylor, seven, and Dana, five.

"When it came to working on a home for Rob and his family, there was already a good level of understanding between us all," says Meryl Hare of Hare + Klein, who headed an interior design team that also included Sarah Marriott and Belinda Chippindale.

Having purchased a pair of 1930s semi-detached homes on a long, narrow corner site, Rob demolished the houses and cleverly realigned the boundaries. This created two almost-square blocks on which he could then build freestanding houses, keeping one as his family's own residence. This plan also had compelling environmental benefits. "Instead of the east-facing aspect of the semis, each >





< house could be sited so that major living rooms faced north," says architect Brian Myerson of BMA, who collaborated on the project with colleagues Hernan Alvarez and Robin Bristow. "And by designing wide eave overhangs, the windows could be shaded in summer while allowing lower-angled sunlight to penetrate in winter."

As someone who has developed many properties for other people, Rob knew exactly what features would suit his own family. "Mia and I had also collected piles of magazine clippings," he says. "We wanted an entire ground floor for informal living areas, flowing onto a resort-style pool area, and a dedicated entertainment level."

The new home, built by Jaycorp Constructions, fulfils all these wishes and then some. Enter is through a supersized pivoting >

ABOVE The ensuite has a calm spa ambience. Bath from Apaiser. **RIGHT** The light-filled stairwell. **OPPOSITE** This built-in bedhead with storage screens a dressing room behind it. Linen bedcover from Globally Travelled Designs. Angora/merino throw from Bemboka. **For Where to Buy, see page xxx.**



'The bedhead in the main bedroom is upholstered in natural linen, reprising a subtle textile theme that's used throughout the house.' SARAH MARRIOTT, INTERIOR DESIGNER

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How they live

Rob and Mia have created an informal, lived-in home where no area is out of bounds. Each member of the family has his or her favourite spot: Rob loves the home theatre, Mia the luxurious parents' ensuite. For Taylor and Dana, it would have to be the pool and deck. The children's activity room, designed for both study and play, gets a thumbs-up from all parties. "From the kitchen we can see into the room to monitor the girls," says Mia, "but it's not open to the living room, so it doesn't have to be kept tidy at all times."



< timber door, with a home office tucked neatly to the left. The hallway leads to a generous open space with kitchen, dining and living areas. Floor-to-ceiling folding doors meld these family areas with a sheltered inner courtyard and pool. There's also a framed view of the pool - though a low, horizontal window - from the children's activity room, situated between the living room and garage. Cantilevered timber treads lead upstairs to four bedrooms, two with ensuites, and a family bathroom.

The project also included the excavation of an entire basement level that houses part entertainment central. It incorporates a home gym with both adult and children's treadmills, a games room with air hockey table and billiards table, and Rob's particular pride and joy - a home theatre equipped with surround-sound technology and deeply luxurious, cinema-style armchairs. It's a top-billed curtain call for a bravura co-production.

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OPPOSITE Taylor in the activity room. Belinda Chippindale of Hare + Klein created the linen pinboard with storage pockets. **THIS PAGE** Bifold doors promote effortless indoor-outdoor flow. Sofa from Jordan. Cushions in fabrics from South Pacific Fabrics. **For Where to Buy, see page xxx.**

PLANS

Caption plan room

