

# A BEACHSIDE CLASSIC

A fresh interior design has given this classic 1950s beach house a touch of retro glamour.

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Set on the high side of Pacific Road in Sydney's exclusive Palm Beach, this stunning 1950s beach house is less than an hour from the city and offers everything necessary for a perfect getaway. Not only is the house blessed with spectacular views and close proximity to the beach, it has also been given a glamorous retro interior design, inspired by the stunning surroundings and the original era of the building. It is managed by Contemporary Hotels, a group that looks after holiday homes worldwide, with properties in Positano, Paris and Bali. "It's a company that started with boutique hotels and branched into beach houses, villas and apartments," explains the proprietor of the group, Terry Schwamberg-Kaljo. The Pacific Road house has been under the company's wing for a couple of years now, and the interior was re-done by Greg Natale of Sydney interiors team Greg Natale Design, so it definitely fits in with Contemporary Hotels' collection of high-end holiday villas.

"The structure of the building is 1950s and it has the glamour of one of the Hollywood houses," Terry says. The new design gives it a fresh, modern look that brings it into the present without losing the wonderful atmosphere of the past.

#### GETTING IT RIGHT

The simple and relaxed style of the house was created to maintain that casual beach-holiday feel, and Greg only had to glance out the window to find his inspiration. "Basically I just looked at all the colours that were outside," he says, "and the design became about bringing them in." He based the scheme around the blue of the sea and sky, the yellow of the sand, the warm grey of the rocks and the white of the house.

ABOVE AND LEFT: Cushion fabric from Radford and retro carpets from New Regency add splashes of soft seaside colours to the crisp, white background.



LUCKIEST FIND

"The Eva chairs in the entry by Vittoria Bonancini from Dedecce," says Greg. "They really just say it all."

The tone of the overall design is set immediately at the entrance by the two fabulous Vittoria Bonancini chairs from Dedecce, the blue Egg chair from Corporate Culture and the blue side table from Anibou.





Greg created an interior design that works harmoniously with existing features such as the unique fireplace.

“When I look at interior design, I observe everything in context and tie it together, and that becomes my starting point,” he explains. The already white-painted walls provided the ideal backdrop for the coastal colour scheme, contrasting beautifully with the dark-stained wooden flooring. “The floorboards were pine and initially looked terrible, so we stained them dark,” Greg says. Over the floorboards is a fantastic array of rugs from his own collection, New Regency, conceived in collaboration with Designer Rugs. All of them feature repeated geometric patterns reminiscent of the 1950s, and have been chosen in blue, taupe and white to tie in with the overall look. Greg, who describes his work as “retro forward”, managed to keep the era of the house very much to the fore in his interior design. “It’s really important to respect the past,” he says, “and tie everything back together so it works as one.”

**Favourite feature:** “The rugs,” says Greg. These were selected from his personal range New Regency, created in collaboration with Designer Rugs. “I love the fireplace as well,” he adds.



GREATEST SUCCESS

For Greg this is definitely the final look of the lounge area, complete with all its furnishings such as the fabulous blue Egg chair from Corporate Culture.

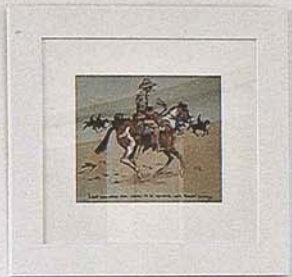








The dining area features a simple table and informal chairs from Poliform, with blue ceramic decorative pieces from Anibou.



Thanks to large windows and glass louvres looking out to sea, this sleek, modern kitchen can be enjoyed without missing out on the breathtaking view.

### CLASSIC COASTAL CHIC

Every piece of exclusive designer furniture was carefully selected to fit the overall picture – such as the iconic Egg chair from Corporate Culture in the lounge room. “Because the house has a 1950s vintage, the client wanted to include some classic furniture from that period,” Greg explains. The look is instantly created at the entrance with two fabulous circular chairs designed by Vittoria Bonancini from Dedece, as well as the Egg chair at the foot of the stairs. These chairs have all been upholstered in blue to create a relaxed and informal look. In fact, the furniture fits perfectly with the very simple yet stylish

coastal feel. “There’s no metal, it’s all timbers and it’s really relaxed,” Greg says. “Even when selecting the sofa, we went for something with a sand-coloured timber frame.” This theme is carried throughout the house with the casual look of the dining table and chairs from Poliform, and the bamboo four-poster bed in the master bedroom from Anibou, which Greg describes as “raw and rustic, very beachy”. With a combination of appropriate furniture items, simple decorative pieces and original artwork by local Sydney artist Scott Petrie, this house has a unique and refreshingly vintage feel that certainly makes it stand out from the crowd.

### GREG NATALE'S TOP DECORATING TIPS

All you need in a house or a room are a few elements. Select a couple of these and repeat them, but don't choose too many because then the interior will be too busy and become a mess.

Everything has to work as a whole. Tie all the elements in with each other so they work as one. That's how you have a successful interior – then you can make anything work.









### A TOUCH OF HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR

As well as a stylish look, this one-of-a-kind beach house offers all the luxuries a top-end holiday villa simply can't do without. The layout on the ground level is open and relaxed with a large living space that combines lounge, dining and kitchen areas, and features a fantastic retro curved brick fireplace that works perfectly with the overall design. This entire space is flooded with natural light and has glass sliding doors that open onto a big sandstone terrace with a north-easterly aspect and views to die for. Fabulous outdoor fixtures from Space Furniture make entertaining alfresco a smart yet leisurely affair. The house also boasts an additional outdoor courtyard with

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ABOVE AND LEFT: The large terrace, with spectacular water views over Barrenjoey House, Palm Beach and Pittwater, is paved with sandstone tiles and is perfect for outdoor entertaining.

**Biggest challenge:** "There was this awful stencilling on the verandah and we put sandstone over it," Greg recalls. "We had to do it, it was terrible!"





a bamboo screen offering relief from the summer sun. The large, open kitchen was renovated previously and features an ultra-modern fit-out with smart stainless-steel benches and white cabinetry. With room to accommodate seven people, and only moments from the south end of Palm Beach, there's no doubt this beautifully decorated beach house, meets all the requirements of an exclusive Hollywood Hills holiday spot – but it's a lot closer to

home and has much better views!

Greg Natale Design did a fabulous job of giving the classic building a fresh look, simply by enhancing what was already there, and drawing on the beautiful surrounding environment. Greg found this an obvious way to approach the project, because for him everything has to function as a whole. "The entire house has got to become one," he says. "It's all got to work in the space – and together."

ABOVE: This very glamorous bathroom was renovated previously with Vola fittings – all designed by Arne Jacobsen. Fresh flowers make an eye-catching decorative feature in the very clean, white bathroom and add a splash of colour that ties it in with the overall colour scheme.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The unique four-poster bed, with bamboo bedhead from Anibou, really does create the feel of a tropical-island resort.



