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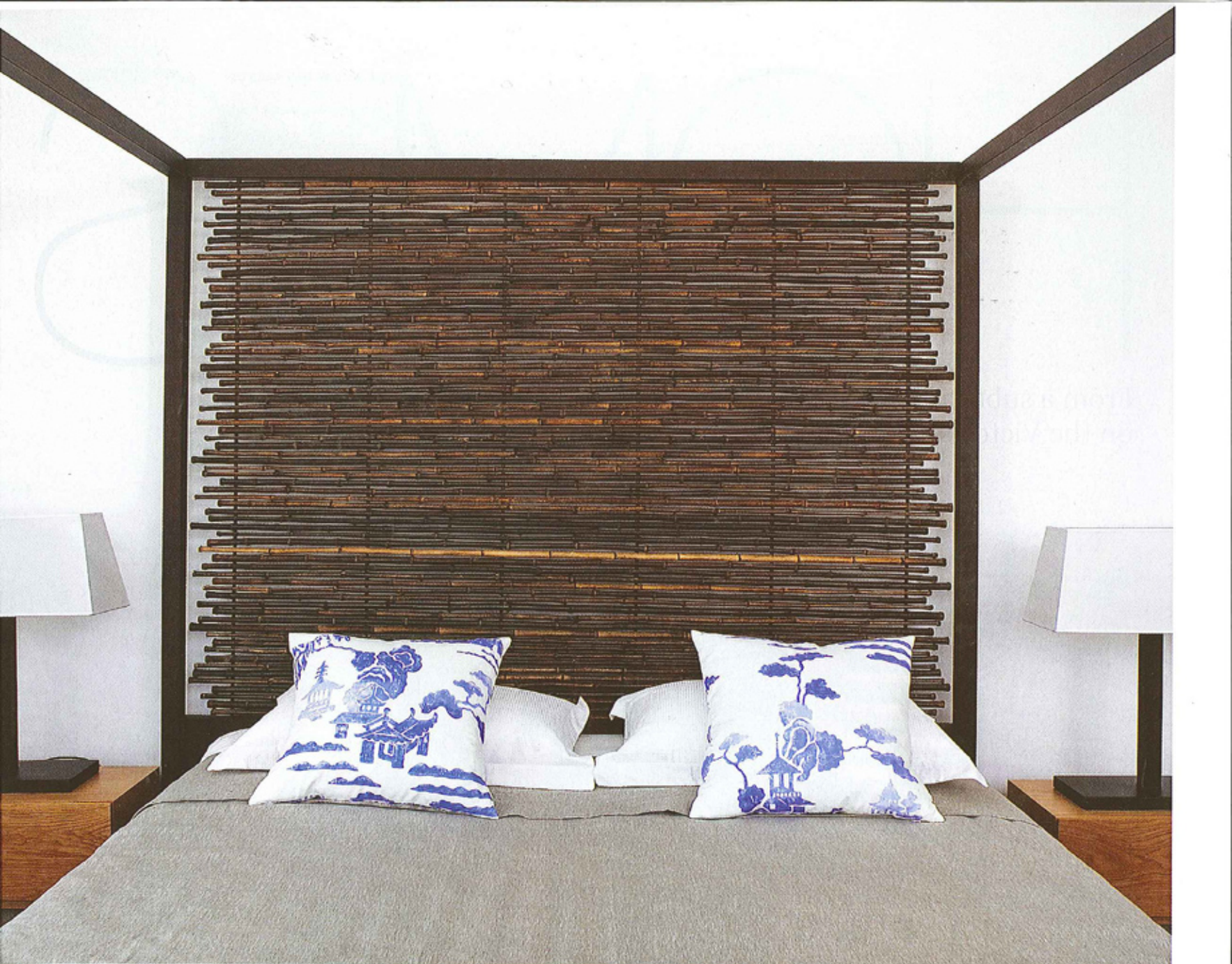
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INTO THE BLUE

Reflecting its position overlooking Palm Beach in Sydney, this stylish weekender has a relaxed coastal vibe enhanced by a fresh, cool colour palette and natural wicker and wood.

PHOTOGRAPHS ANSON SMART WORDS + PRODUCTION MEGAN MORTON



THIS PAGE In the main bedroom, an Egg chair from Corporate Culture, designed by Arne Jacobsen in 1958, and upholstered in Kvadrat 'Divina' fabric in Seafoam, sits alongside a Gervasoni 'Woody' stool on a rug designed by Greg Natale and made by Designer Rugs. *Celebration* (left) and *Moroccan Market* by Scott Petrie make a strong visual statement. OPPOSITE PAGE Gervasoni 'Otto' canopy bed and table lamps in American walnut from Anibou with bed linen from Poliform and cushions in Designers Guild 'Pagoda Toile' from Radford Furnishings. Bedside tables from Orson & Blake.



THIS PAGE Eames chairs from Living Edge update the clients' existing dining table. Minotti vases from De De Ce on the table and kitchen bench. In the foreground, an Alison Iroko for Minotti sofa from De De Ce sits on a rug designed by Greg Natale and made by Designer Rugs. OPPOSITE PAGE Eva chairs by Vittorio Bonacina from De De Ce flank an Eero Saarinen 'Tulip' table with Calcutta marble top in the entrance area.

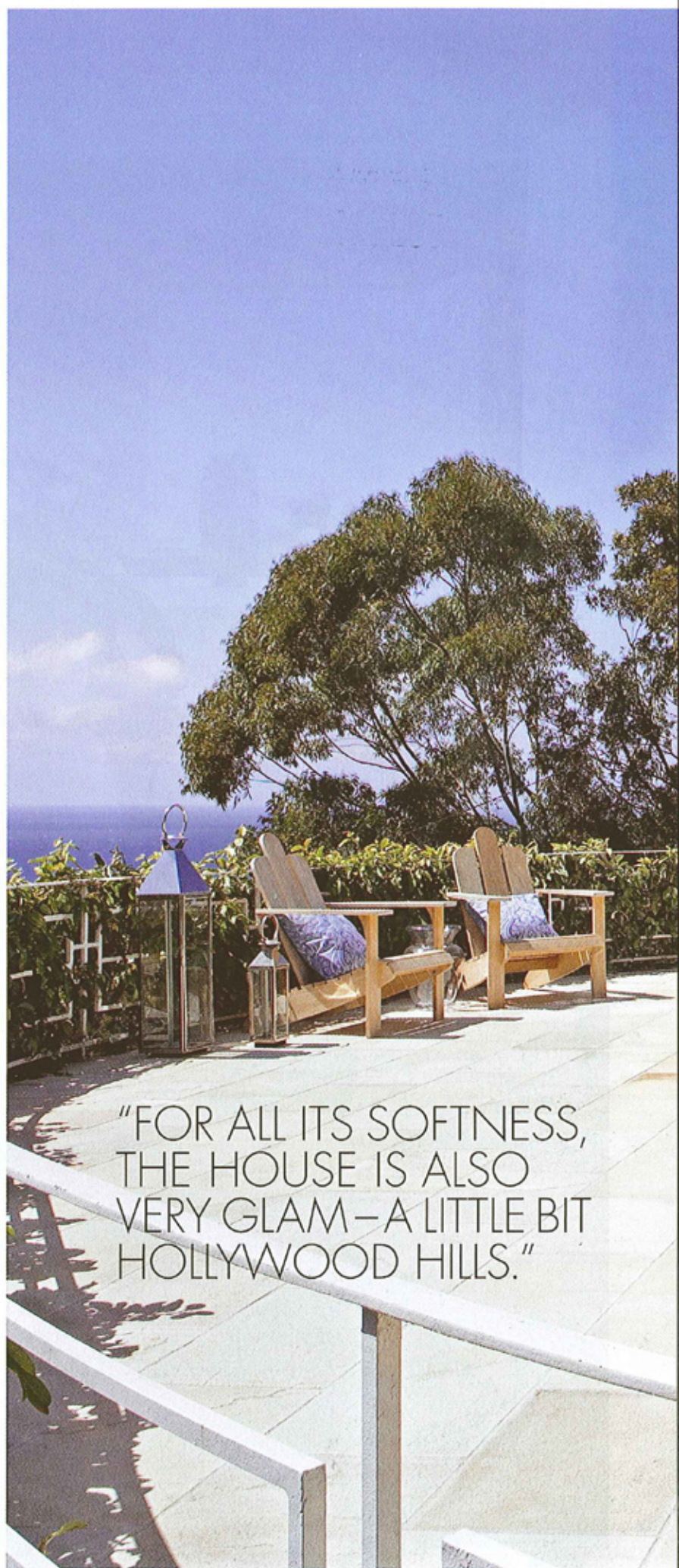




Assumptions about decorating can be dangerous. When a designer who's made his name harnessing darkness turns his hand to a beach house, the point could easily be missed. Yet, when the said designer has already worked for the owners of the beach house in question, there's a good chance he'll be capable of second-guessing their requirements. Such was the case when Greg Natale of Sydney-based interior-design firm Greg Natale Design was asked to work with Gary Hardwick and his wife Tana Turnbull again – this time on their gloriously light and sunny weekend retreat in Sydney's Palm Beach.

So was Greg worried about working on this house, with its strong architectural bones and light-filled spaces? "I treated the house with the same design principles I would any other, but I worked really hard, and deliberately, to consider its existing elements and the surrounding environment." The brief for the three-bedroom, two-bathroom split-level house also presented the added challenge of not being as straightforward as the previous one Greg had been given when designing the owners' primary residence. "This house had to be part weekender, part office, and part playpen [the couple has four children between them]," he explains. Having known the family for four years, Greg knew how to anticipate the couple's needs, but, as they all discovered, a new project brings with it a whole new set of surprises.

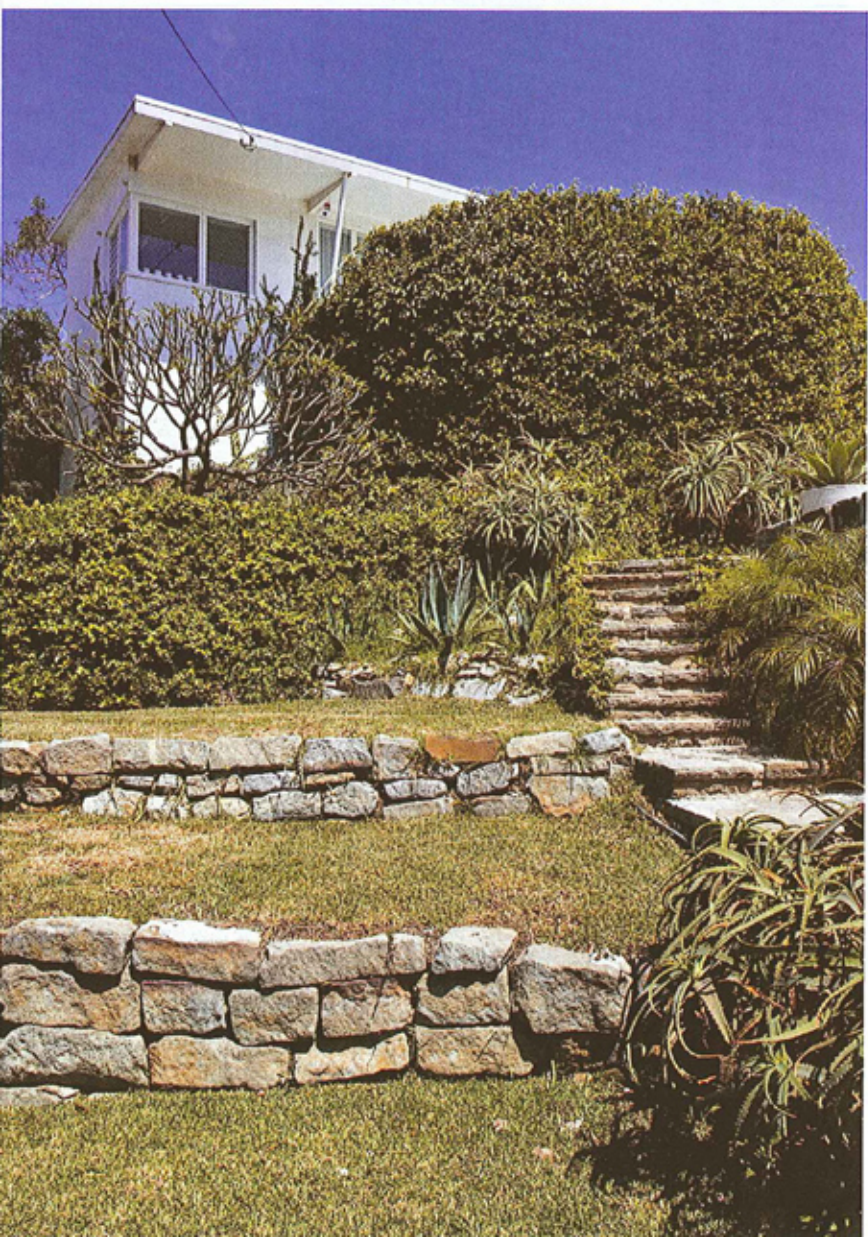
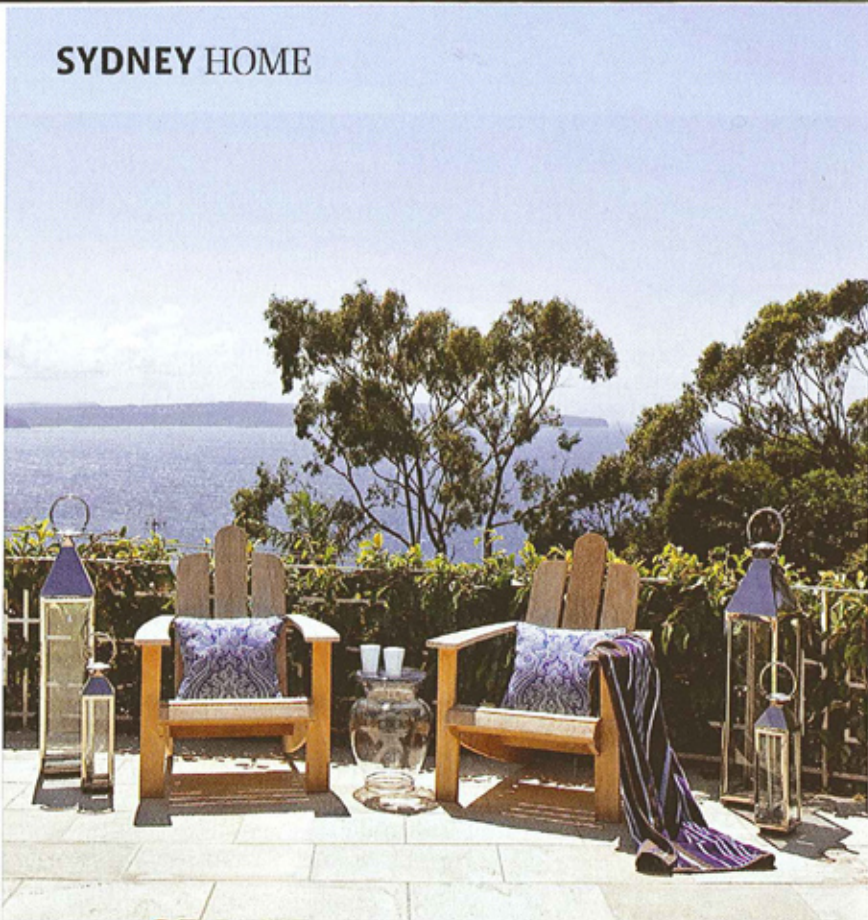
When the house, which previously had been owned by a couple well versed in Danish design, was cleared of all possessions, it became the ultimate blank canvas. "The white on white space was very pure, so I tried to explore some of my ideas, but this time with a beach-house sensibility." Greg has clocked up myriad successful projects that pushed fantastically graphic and colourful elements to their limits, so he was well aware that a successful interior is, indeed, a holistic process. "There are so many elements that need



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THIS PAGE Royal Botania sun loungers with cushions in a Ralph Lauren Home paisley fabric from Radford Furnishings invite relaxation. In the background is a Roda Network teak table, with Verner Panton chairs by Vitra from Format. OPPOSITE PAGE Sheer curtains from Earlwood Curtains feature throughout the house.





to come together in order for a house to be one," he says. "That's why I'm now so interested in the coordination of traditional interiors, modern ideas and mid-century elements."

Although this project enabled Greg to explore his love of pattern and contrasting colour, he deliberately trod a softer path, which has brought a distinct freshness to his work, and this home. "I am a real believer that the overall palette needs to be site specific," he explains. "It can so often fail if you don't consider the climate and environment that the house exists in."

Greg has combined sea-foam blue, green, yellow and mouse grey into a palette that has an undeniably relaxed feel. "I deliberately overlooked stainless steel, metal or anything else I considered too urban in its form for this house," he says. Tempered by dark timbers, natural weaves and some tried-and-true classic mid-century furniture pieces, the house's heritage is still in evidence, but in this incarnation, it feels as if it has a swimsuit on.

Ralph Lauren Home and Designers Guild have been sourced for both indoor and outdoor fabrics. Minotti, Royal Botania and Gervasoni have been thrown into the mid-century furniture mix. Rugs in subtle hues that mimic the colours of the nearby beach surroundings work in with the mixed array of furniture in natural tones. Art has been chosen so as not to compete with the impressive views from the north-facing windows.

The result? Working with light and white has been such a departure for Greg, but he has handled it impressively. So much so that the owners Tana and Gary love the outcome a little too much. "It's extremely hard to leave this place," says Tana. "It has all the true luxuries of a real working house and the spirit of a beach house." Greg, clearly not wanting to be seen in a long-term 'beach bum' phase adds, "For all its softness, the house is also very glam – a little bit Hollywood Hills." Indeed, the decor is the perfect mix of relaxed coastal luxury encased in classic architecture. Sure, Greg has borrowed the colours of the surrounding sea and sand, but there is not a predictable piece of coral in sight. 15

THIS PAGE American oak bed from Orson & Blake is dressed in linen from Poliform and a throw from Chee Soon & Fitzgerald. Cushions in Designers Guild fabric; bedside lamps from Bloomingdales. *Moroccan Desert* by Scott Petrie hangs above the bed. OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Ralph Lauren Home paisley fabric cushions echo the colour of the sea and sit on Paddlepop chairs from Porch, which are flanked by lanterns from Parterre; Palla wicker chair by Vittorio Bonacina is a focal point in the main bedroom; the elevated block enjoys a sunny aspect.



SPEED READ The owners chose Greg Natale, a designer known for his dark and moody interiors, to work on their light and bright Palm Beach weekender. • Greg rose to the occasion, delivering a relaxed, beachy feel with a colour palette that reflects the sand and sea. • A collection of classic mid-century furniture and natural weaves further enhance the casual ambience.