

HOMELIVING

Coastal flair

Be inspired by these six savvy design ideas from a Mornington Peninsula home, writes **Natasha Perera**

ONE of the challenges people face when designing a big house is trying to make the spaces feel intimate.

But this was a hurdle designer Kate Walker, founder and director of KWD, was able to easily navigate when creating the interiors scheme at this expansive home on the Mornington Peninsula.

"All we had to do was bring in some texture," she explained.

Built for a couple and their three young children, the home has a light and refreshing coastal palette with plenty of tactile elements.

They include timber floors hand-scraped for a distressed look, slabs of veined stone surfaces and chunky sisal carpet.

"We have gone with a coastal luxe look to make the large interior spaces feel relaxed and casual," Ms Walker explained.

Here are more of the home's top ideas.

1. VERTICAL TOWEL RAILS

Ms Walker said sleek metal towel rails in the main bedroom's ensuite complemented the home's contemporary slant and were an elegant companion to the soft-grey Turkish tiles.

"If you hang a towel over a traditional heated towel rail, you're actually only heating the part that's folded over the rail; whereas, this vertical design turns that idea on its head because you are able to drape the towel in a way that dries it all," she said.

The towel rails are also sensibly within arm's reach of the shower.

2. STORAGE NOOKS

Part of a mud room off the garage and laundry, the home's handy storage nooks are one of Ms Walker's favourite features.

"Kids come with a lot of paraphernalia – ballet bags, soccer bags, basketball bags, school bags – and to be able to live effectively in a home, you need a spot for everything to keep things neat and tidy," she said.

With this in mind, each child gets a storage nook and each storage nook is divided into sections.

There are hooks to hang bags and coats, overhead storage, a place to sit and a drawer to keep shoes, while little details such as rope handles and lining boards add coastal flair.

Ms Walker said outdoor fabric was chosen for the upholstered seats because it was more durable for everyday use, and the jewel colour matched the pool tiles, linking indoors and out.

"This type of storage is functional but should also look beautiful," she said.



Photos: Armelle Habib

3. STUDY

The study's built-in L-shaped desk provides room for two children to work along the longer end, while a third can use the shorter end.

The design means computer screens are visible to parents as they walk past the room. Storage also has been thoughtfully considered.

"We went with overhead storage rather than under-bench so chairs could be easily slipped underneath the desk," Ms Walker said. "And putting the storage up high made the space look bigger."

4. SHOWER ROOMS

The beauty of a shower room is you barely know it's there – and there's no glass to clean.

This home has two bathrooms with shower rooms, both showers blending into their spaces as

they feature the same tiles as the rest of the room.

Ms Walker said a space needed to be quite long to accommodate a shower room, largely because the showerhead had to be located on the back wall, away from the entrance, to keep water contained in the absence of a door.

"I love the privacy you get with a shower room. It creates a bit of a sanctuary feel," she said.

5. POWDER ROOM

Being an internal room with no windows, the powder room presented style challenges.

But Ms Walker has managed to set a luxurious and moody tone by painting the walls a deep blue.

"It's somewhere you can afford to be a bit bold with colour," she said.

A white stone bench and timber lining boards bring in finishes used elsewhere in the home, while a glass pendant provides soft lighting and an elegant touch.

6. OUTDOOR FIREPLACE

A fireplace is a highlight of the backyard by landscape designer Nathan Burkett. It also influenced Ms Walker's interior palette.

"The white fireplace outside blends with the colour we've used on the fireplace in the living room, which creates a connection between the spaces," she said.

She added the outdoor fireplace was large enough for people to gather around.

"And being set towards the back of the garden means it becomes more of a destination – something to draw you outside," she said.

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