




entry

Once inside, visitors are greeted by a grand staircase and an oak-veneer *Classique* table from Big Chair. Cabinetry, two-pack polyurethane in Dulux *Snowy Mountains Quarter*. Sustainably harvested coral, *Coastal Living*. The approach to the home (opposite) takes in the weatherboard-style BGC *Nuline Plus* cladding, painted Dulux *Grey Pebble Quarter*.

DREAM IT. DESIGN IT. DO IT.


new hamptons

East Coast elegance goes casual on the Mornington Peninsula



cheat sheet

Style of home A four-bedroom
Hamptons-inspired weatherboard house
on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

 This project was 18 months from
design to completion, including
the six-month construction phase.



exterior

The pool area wraps around the living space and vast limestone fireplace with Tuscan Rubble finish from Limestone Australia. Delray day bed, Coastal Living.

With the sea and sand little more than a stroll away, this new yet established-looking home on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula offers a welcome leave pass from the frenetic pace of everyday life. Its coastal vibe is a constant reminder of the lifestyle on offer.

For owners Jade and Chris, who built the house for their young family through their construction company, Headline Builders, the home was always intended to be as relaxed as it is stylish. Dappled with sunlight and anchored by vast expanses of white, it's Hamptons in spirit but with a contemporary Australian-coastal treatment. "We've always loved white weatherboard houses, and our brief was bright spaces with cathedral ceilings and the extensive use of natural stone – with a colour scheme that would stand the test of time," says Jade.

The home's airy layout and design came courtesy of local company The Little Brick Studio, while Kate Walker Design (KWD), based in Mount Martha, took charge of the interiors, imbuing the residence with a light and natural palette. Texture plays a crucial role, with occasional bursts of playful colour coming to the fore. "We were very excited about this project, because the aesthetic of the home really allowed us to explore some of our favourite materials," explains KWD founder and

director Kate Walker. "It came naturally to us, and we were able to dive deep into the design style with ease."

DREAM IT

As the owner-builders, Jade and Chris relished the opportunity to start with a clean slate in an area renowned for its village atmosphere, waterfront eateries and glorious beaches. Most of all, the parents to Xavier, 4, Goldie, 2, and now Paris, 8 months, wanted to build a carefree family home that reflected their love of all things light and organically beautiful.

"We love this part of the Mornington Peninsula – it's right near our favourite beach, where we've spent many summers, and there are great shops and cafes nearby," says Jade.

When the family are at home, there are plenty of design features to enhance their lives. Near the entrance, a sweeping staircase makes a strong sculptural statement as it twists around a ground-floor table and centrepiece, while stacked sliding glazed doors at the rear open to the covered deck and bring the outdoors in. At the heart of the home, the 'rock-star' marble kitchen with built-in workspace and charging nook merges classic Hamptons elements with family-friendly function.

In addition, there's a mudroom off the garage, which enters straight into the laundry. "It was designed with this active family in mind," says Kate, who is thrilled with the result.

Jade and Chris's wishlist

- **A sense of space** "This was achieved through the cathedral ceilings and large open-plan zones," says Jade.
- **The celebration of daylight** "This house oozes natural light," says designer Kate. "It streams in through the expansive floor-to-ceiling windows downstairs and the plantation shutters upstairs."
- **A strong link with the outdoors** "For us, the outside is as important as the inside," says Jade. "The turquoise pool brings such a resort vibe."

living & dining areas

Engineered European oak flooring graces the main spaces. Custom sofas and armchairs by Coastal Styling are paired with Cesta rattan dining chairs and a Norfolk teak dining table, both from Safara. A Rinnai gas fireplace keeps the space warm.



kitchen

Five-star finishes abound, with Super White Dolomite stone through KWD, weathered-oak doors from Farmers, and Armac Martin 'Leebank' handles from The English Tapware Company. Wicker pendant lights, Coastal Living.

laundry

White wins out again, with small details such as stainless-steel tapware and open drawer pulls as points of difference. Square white tiles make a simple but effective splashback. Cabinetry in Dulux Snowy Mountains Quarter.



mud room

In winter, it lives up to its name; in summer, this is a great spot for shaking off the sand. Cushions in Umbria fabric in Peacock from Elliott Clarke. Hooks and pulls, Hepburn Hardware.



DESIGN IT

Interior designer Kate was convinced that the style of the home should be 'gutsier' than that of a traditional Hamptons house.

"With the large spaces and bayside location, a coastal vibe felt like the right choice," she says. "A coastal luxe aesthetic, which features a more casual contemporary look using very high-end finishes, was perfect."

Projecting a peaceful yet exuberant vibe, layers of white have been introduced to luminous effect in every zone. "The colour was integral to the design, which was all about openness and space," says Kate. "Texture was also important. While we used white in the kitchen, we added texture as another element with the Farmers door panels. And sheer white linen curtains flow in the breeze when the doors are wide open."

For those who envisage white as the colour star of their home, Kate has some advice. "White changes in every single space," she says. "There are blue, pink, yellow and grey whites, so choosing the right shade [to go with the light level and decor of the room] is essential. Here, different tones of white were selected for each room, depending on how the paint worked with the natural light."

And, perhaps best of all, Jade and Chris ventured a little out of their comfort zone by including a feature colour – a deep sea-like navy – throughout. They are excited with the result. "Some risks were taken by using navy blue in the bathroom," says Kate, but it works so well across the board, everyone is happy.

the moodboard



FROM TOP LEFT Aubrey woven pendant light, \$495, Coastal Living. Dulux paint in Blue Quarry and Snowy Mountains Quarter, both \$94.40/4L, Bunnings. Scala 25 wall outlet, \$319, Sussex Tapware. Wool fabric in Wolf (to cover a pinboard), POA, Warwick. Jute and satin-brass rope hook, \$21.95, Hepburn Hardware. Bridgeport European engineered oak boards in Riverstone, \$119.90 a sq m, KWD.

*main
bedroom*

Seen through the ensuite, the four-poster timber bed from Coastal Styling is a tonal match for the Bamboo lounge chair from Satara. Sisal carpet in Kempston, through KWD.





ensuite

In a home of great features, these grey Tundra 600mm x 200mm limestone tiles sourced by KWD are right up there, as is the grand Omnia bath from Kaskade Stone Baths & Basins. Mirrors by KWD. The sconces, Articolo.

lessons learnt

“Have everything to scale. To make the expansive spaces in the home warm and inviting, we had to design joinery that was proportionally correct and didn’t look diminutive”

KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER



bathroom

On the vanity, weathered oak Farmers Doors in Dulux Oolong provide well-considered colour. Elsewhere, the cool white subway tiles and marble keep things calm.



powder room

The integrated basin is Super White Dolomite marble, which also features in the main bathroom. V-grooved ply panels in Dulux Blue Quarry, Lumi pendant lights, Articolo Lighting.

DO IT

This bespoke design was brought to life by Headline Builders in six months, with the interiors fitted out by KWD in 16 weeks. "It was one of the fastest-moving projects we've been involved in," says Kate. "With the time frame and sheer size of the job, we had to be on point in terms of specifying materials that would be available to meet the installation dates."

Light-filled rooms and a great spatial flow and an easy connection to the garden are standout aspects of the living space. These extend to the parents' retreat with its own dressing room, and a luxurious ensuite sporting Tundra limestone.

"We wanted the hard finishes to suit both the aesthetic and the scale of the house," says Kate. "We grounded the design by taking the joinery to full height in the kitchen, with the sweeping staircase that links the Hamptons-style exterior with the coastal-luxe interior, and other strong design elements."

Julie Miskin of Coastal Styling filled the rooms with an array of timeless pieces, but plenty of concealed storage keeps clutter at bay. Meanwhile, landscape designer Nathan Burkett has surrounded the home with lush greenery, and an alfresco area with outdoor kitchen near the pool makes for easy entertaining.

Though Jade and Chris recently sold the house, to another family, the new owners have all the benefits of a home that lives and breathes its location. Just as everyone intended. **10**

Jade and Chris's company is at headlinebuilders.com.au. See Kate's work at katewalkerdesign.com.au. Connect with The Little Brick Studio at littlebrickstudio.com.au. Find landscape designer Nathan Burkett at nathanburkett.com.au. Visit Coastal Styling at coastalstyling.com.au

the best bits

- + The white walls** "We love the timelessness of the colour, Dulux Snowy Mountains Quarter Strength, and the fact that it always appears fresh and bright," says owner Jade.
- + Tactile treats** "There is so much organic texture in the home, which was an important part of our brief," says Jade. "The Super White Dolomite marble in the kitchen is a real feature, as is the limestone around the pool and in the alfresco area."
- + Internal courtyard** "It brings so much natural light into the living areas and kitchen," says Jade.

exterior

Outdoor entertaining in winter is a pleasure with this open fire and chimney by CK Formwork (from a Nathan Burkett design). Tait 'Trace' lounge, armchairs and coffee table with a 'Lily' side table, all from Coastal Living. Garonne limestone pavers, Eco Outdoor.



“

The landscape design provided the inspiration for this space. We created a subtle link to the indoors, keeping peace and tranquillity in mind

KATE WALKER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

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RENOVATE

welcome to a reassuringly familiar new build

It's not too much of a stretch to refer to the Mornington Peninsula as Melbourne's equivalent of New York's famous Hamptons. So the owners of this weatherboard home, designed by local experts Little Brick Studio with interior design by Kate Walker, had a clear idea of their inspiration as they created – or should that be recreated? – their tailor-made family home. Turn the page for more of this thoughtfully designed home.

