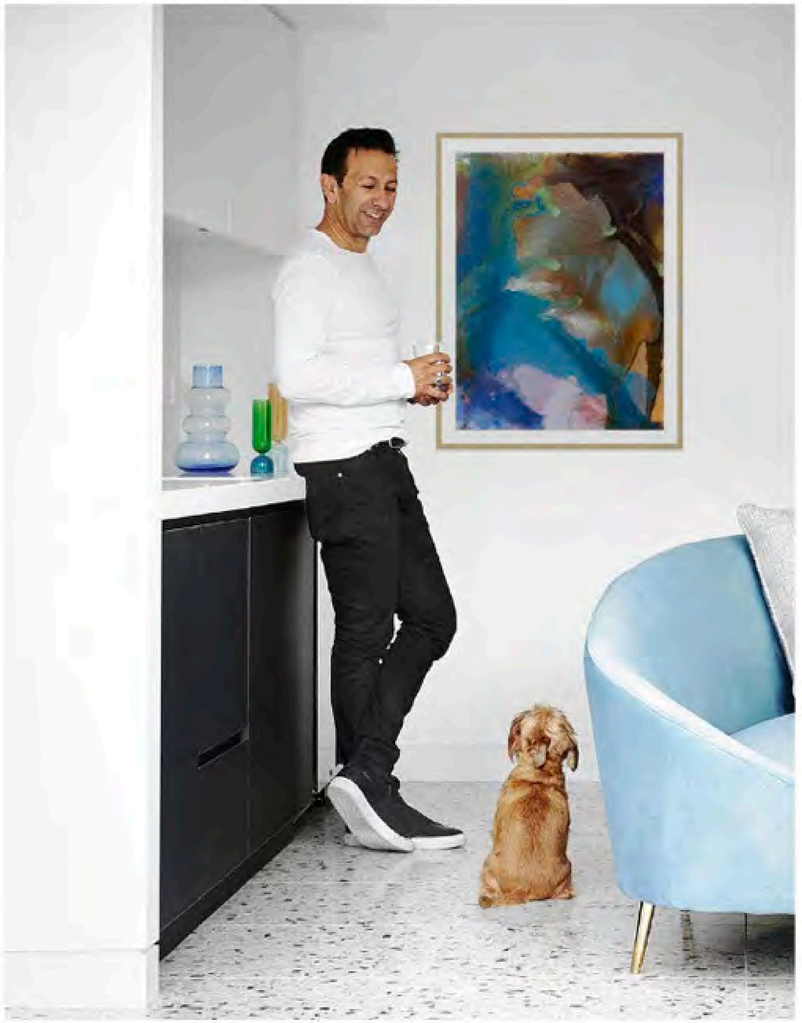
FAMILY ROOM *This page and opposite* Homeowner David Zacharia and Garry the griffon bruxellois take time out. The family room is designed as a teen retreat and includes a kitchenette with Caesarstone benchtop. Kennedy 'Curl' sofa, Globe West. Abel vase (on table), Aerin. Normann Copenhagen 'Tivoli Balloon' vase in Pale Blue. Bouquet bud vases, Jardan. Vintage side and coffee tables. Artwork by Scott Petrie.



Level best

Having seized the opportunity to live in their dream location, the owners of this home on the NSW Central Coast built a glam retreat they never want to leave.

STORY *John McDonald* | STYLING *Stewart Horton*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Alexander McIntyre*

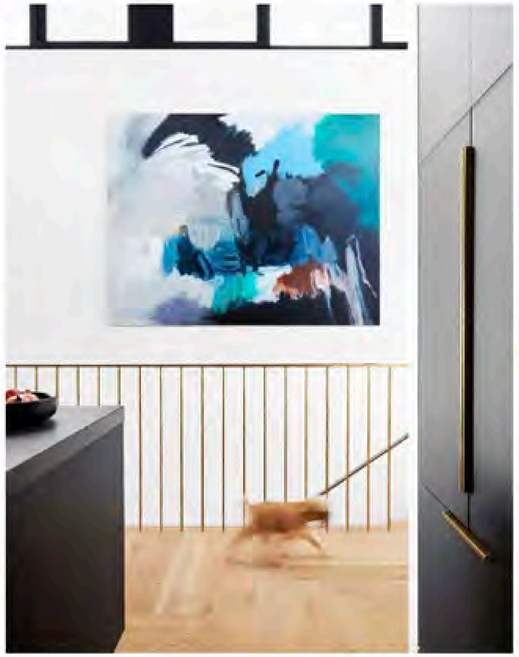
Sometimes, people think they've settled into a home for the long haul, only to have an unmissable opportunity to change everything in an instant. For David and Karly Zacharia, spotting the perfect site in the perfect street in the perfect suburb was a gamechanger. "We weren't looking to move at all – the house we were living in at the time was only four years old. But the opportunity to build a house with beach views and night views of the city was an opportunity we couldn't pass up," says David.

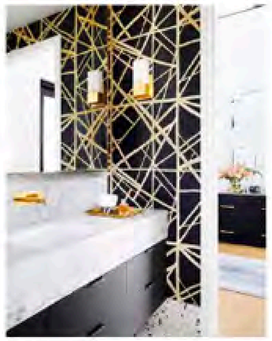
The sloping 405m² block had a knock-down house on it and was ripe for development. As the site is elevated, the family – Karly, David and their two daughters, Lucy, 16, and Ruby, 13 – decided to build their home over three levels to maximise enjoyment of the outlook; the slope ensures views from surrounding houses are not impeded.

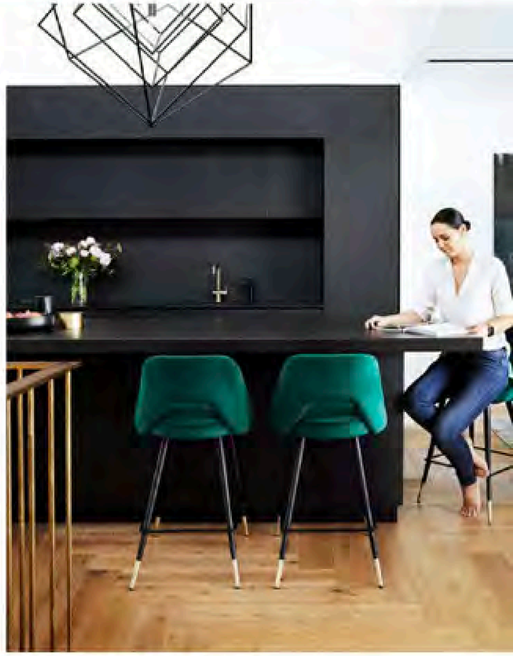
The Zacharias engaged local architect Scott Bradley to design their new home and contracted a local builder, Daniel Ledbury, to construct it. They had to overcome a few challenges before they could turn the first sod, however. Since the area had once been coal-mining country, the risk of subsidence meant there were strict regulations about the type of property and materials used. They hit another snag when unstable soil and a large rock needed to be removed. "We also discovered that a stormwater easement wasn't properly registered with the council, and that the water pipes were old and broken. Both issues had to be remedied before moving ahead," says David.

Outside, grey-beige bricks and Colorbond steel cladding give the home an uber stylish face. The interior is equally impressive, both in terms of design and decoration. It's also high-tech thanks to a C-Bus system that delivers complete home automation.

The second floor – at street level – is given over to an open-plan kitchen/living/dining area and adjoining terrace in order to take advantage of the home's beach and city views. David and Karly's luxe main bedroom suite, guestroom, study and home cinema/music room. The ground floor is Lucy and Ruby's domain, accommodating their ▸







KITCHEN Dramatic black joinery is the star of the home's generous kitchen, with voluptuous colour in the form of velvet-upholstered Avorio Roche stools from James Said. Cubist chandelier, Kelly Wearstler. Scala sink mixer in custom brass finish, Reece. Eco filtered water tap in Matt Black, Billi. Dekton benchtop in Doomos, Dekton. Joinery in Venette veneer, Polytec. V-Zug ovens. Oslo oak floorboards, Tongue N Groove Flooring. **STAIRS** Brass balustrades tie in with detailing in the adjacent kitchen. Artwork by Sharon Candy. **POWDER ROOM** Located off the entry hall, this decadent room features a vanity made from Super White Dolomite, SNB Stone. "It's a showstopper," says David. Kelly Wearstler 'Channels' wallpaper in Onyx Almond, Elliott Clarke.

"WE WANTED LOTS OF BLACK, WHITE AND BRASS WITH SPLASHES OF COLOUR FROM FURNISHINGS AND ART."
David Zacharia, homeowner

TERRACE *This page and opposite top left* Garry the griffon bruxellois 'helps' Karly prepare for an alfresco family lunch on the second-floor terrace. Colorbond steel cladding in Monument adds texture. Natal Alu sofa and Illum dining table and armchairs, all Cosh Living. Kartell 'Invisible' coffee table, Space. **LIVING** *Opposite, top right and bottom* In summer, the floor-to-ceiling sliding doors are often found wide open, allowing cool breezes to flow in. The TV is mounted in a recess to prevent it from dominating the space. Custom modular sofa, HJ Furniture. Minotti 'Blake-Soft' armchair, Dedece. Cassina 'Mex' coffee table, Space. Antiqued mirrors, Spectrum Art Glass, with frames by James Custom Framing. Artwork by Sarah Kelk.

The palette

Dulux Lexicon Quarter (interior, throughout)

Dulux Domino (doors)

Fibonacci Stone 'Abstract' terrazzo tiles (ensuite)

THIS IS THE LIFE

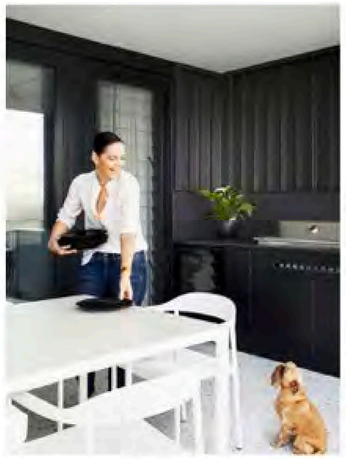
After the initial hiccups, the project ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of Daniel, Scott and Stewart, and the family moved in just before Christmas in 2018. "Our first Christmas after moving in was actually spent in New Zealand – we didn't even have a Christmas tree! This year will be different. We love to entertain and decorate for Christmas so the house will be filled with people, Champagne and Christmas lights."

bedrooms, a shared bathroom, and a family room with kitchenette and direct access to the pool.

Karly and David engaged Stewart Horton of Horton & Co to take care of the interiors, from designing joinery and selecting finishes, fixtures and fittings through to furniture and soft furnishings. The couple's brief to Stewart was "modern noir with a touch of Hollywood glamour", says Karly. "We wanted lots of black, white and brass with splashes of colour from furnishings and art." While the couple had intended to have polished-concrete flooring throughout, engineering constraints meant timber had to be used on the first and second floors. It's laid in a chevron pattern for visual interest.

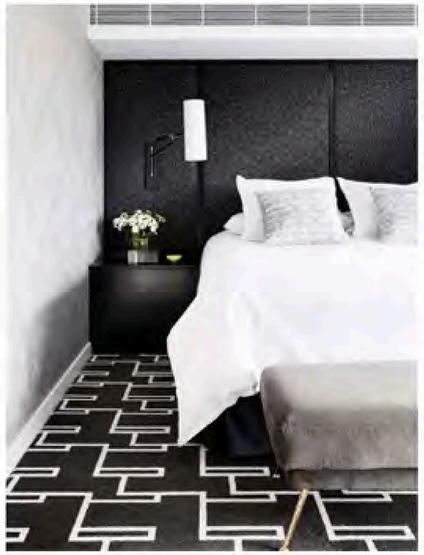
Today, the Zacharias have a sophisticated and thoroughly liveable home. "I still feel excited every time I walk through the door," says David. "Our home is the perfect blend of comfort and style." ▸

***Scott Bradley & Associates**, Arcadia Vale, NSW; (02) 4975 3400. **Horton & Co**, New Lambton, NSW; (02) 4957 1672 or hortonandco.com.au.*



"THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A HOUSE WITH BEACH AND CITY VIEWS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY WE COULDN'T PASS UP." *David*

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



MAIN BEDROOM Contrasting wall treatments add a dash of sparkle. Rear wall upholstered in Designers Guild 'Brecon' fabric from Radford. Avenue Deco Squares wallpaper in Silver, Baresque. Frankfort wall light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Dianne carpet by Greg Natale for Designer Rugs. Tahoe bench, James Said. **MAIN ENSUITE** The Abstrakt terrazzo tiles, from Fibonacci Stone, are a visual and textural feature. Extreme Black tiles (shower recess), Earp Bros. Super White Dolomite benchtop. **LUCY'S ROOM** The cosy bed features an L-shaped bedhead, custom-upholstered in a Warwick Fabrics fabric. Vintage mirror. Diamond Gem lamp, Pottery Barn. Penelope bedside table with marble top, West Elm. Escape Twist wool carpet in Wanda, SuperTuft. ▶

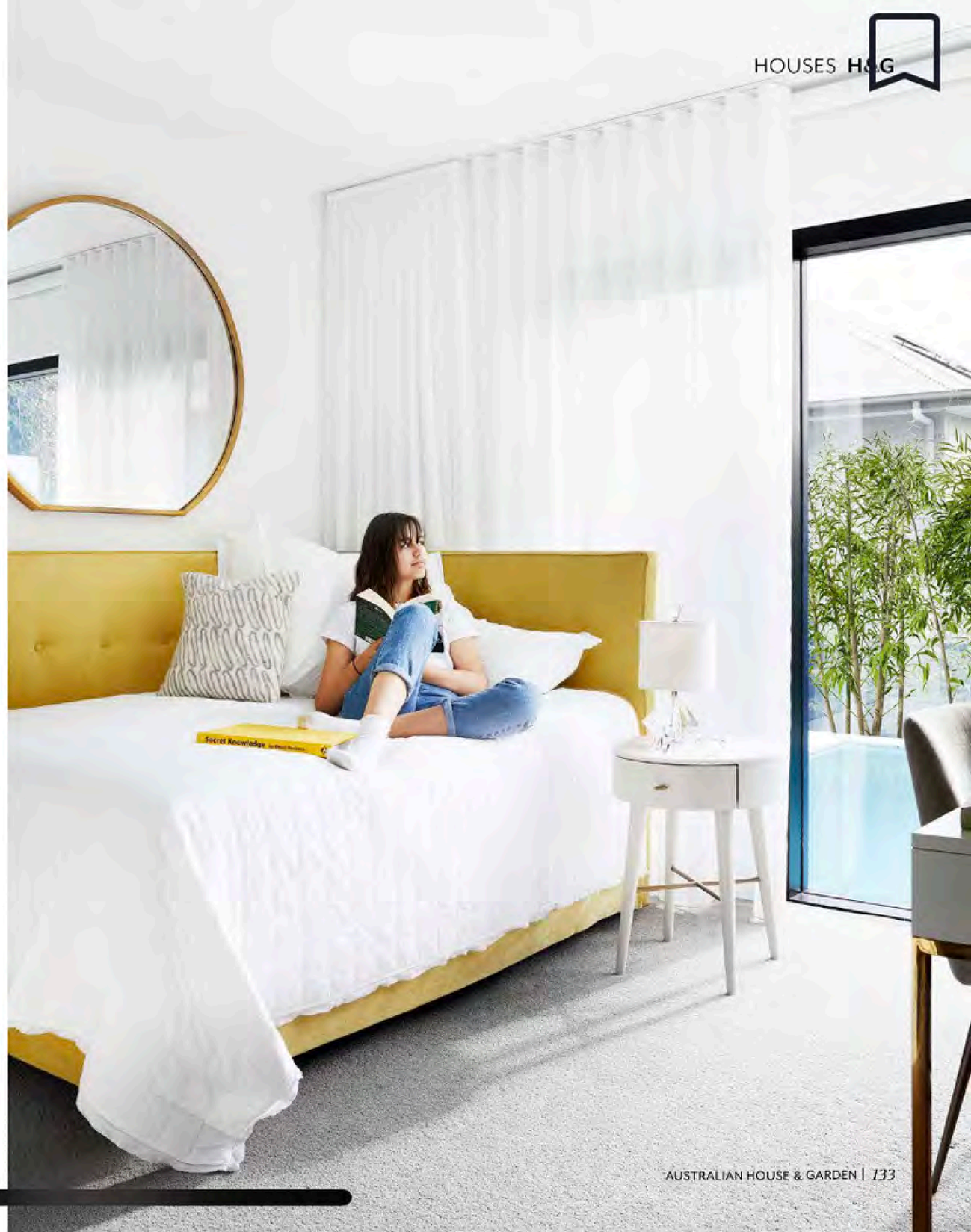
"OUR HOME IS JUST BEAUTIFUL. IT'S THE PERFECT BLEND OF COMFORT AND STYLE." *David*

The layout

SECOND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

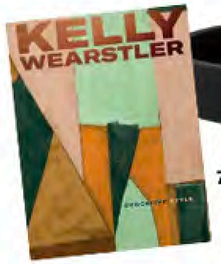
GROUND FLOOR



POOL TERRACE The brickwork in this appealing zone is the same as that used at the front of the home, beautifully linking the front and rear outdoor areas. Cancun Ali outdoor sofa, armchair and sunlounger, Globe West. Malachite cushions, Greg Natale. Coffee table, Space.

"WE LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN GET-TOGETHERS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS BY THE POOL." *Karly*

Main image: Artwork by Rob Cleworth. Filmore Cameron dining chairs, James Said. Dining table, Roy Burns. Rug, Designer Rugs.



FESTIVE STYLE

A *RESTRAINED* palette *makes* a *statement* without saying a *WORD.*

1 Aerin 'Yves' brass-plated **coasters,** $199/four, Palmer & Penn. **2** Tanka ceramic **vase,** $150, Space. **3** Luxe cotton **tea towel,** $20/three, Adairs. **4** *White Silence* **artwork,** POA, Sharon Candy Artwork. **5** Copper **vase,** $245, Garden Life. **6** Mette Ditmer 'Play Tray' polyresin **tray,** $109, Designstuff. **7** *Evocative Style* **book** by Kelly Wearstler, $110, Angus & Robertson. **8** Bleecker Bar glass **ice bucket** with metal **tongs,** $89/set, Pottery Barn. **9** Bouquet blown-glass **vase,** $165, Jardan. **10** Atollo 239 aluminium **table lamp,** from $1807.30, Euroluce. **11** Aalto glass **bowl,** $29.95, Iittala. **12** Fatto A Mano Performance crystal **cabernet glass,** $149.95, Riedel. *Where to Buy, see page 198.* H&G