

DESIGN DETAILS

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT Armchairs, upholstered in 'Perennials' outdoor fabric from South Pacific Fabrics, by Casadei Furniture. Sofa fabric from the JR Weave outdoor/indoor fabric range. Custom-made 'Flash' rug from De Poortere. Baker 'Porter' ottoman/leather coffee table with bronze tray from Cavit & Co. Mangowood bowl from Orient House. Floor in Grigio Argento honed marble from Surface Gallery. TOP RIGHT 'Max' parquetry dining table in recycled timber from Fanuli Furniture. Dining chairs by Casadei Furniture. Hermon & Hermon pendant lights. Artwork by Joanna Kitas from Artduo. BOTTOM The family room features an ultra-comfortable BPA International 'Manhattan' modular sofa, from Fanuli Furniture. Maxalto 'Kalos' armchair and ottoman from Space. 'Tulip' floor lamp from Spence & Lyda. 'April' side tables from Zuster. 'Zebrano' rug from De Poortere. Blue artwork by Marisa Purcell.

# SUMMER BREEZY

Andrea D'Cruz has designed a space where swimmers and sophistication sit together.

**RLD** Andrea D'Cruz and Ruth Levine formed RLD in 2005 and together lead a team of interior designers. While the design studio's portfolio is varied, it is known for clean, contemporary lines, neutral palettes with bold highlights, and use of rich texture. Andrea began her career in 1994.

**THE BRIEF** Andrea was asked to convert a penthouse and the three-bedroom apartment below on the upper levels of a Sydney northern beaches building into one large five-bedroom apartment. While the client left the brief open, Andrea says she formulated the following: "A sophisticated, resort-like aesthetic that is easy to live with and maintain. 'Easy to live with' was interpreted as being able to come into contact with all furniture in your swimmers. We created a relaxed, simple and harmonious environment."

**THE INSPIRATION** With views over the beach, a relaxed, resort style was the logical choice, says Andrea. A level of sophistication injected in the design is a direct reflection of the client's personality. "The ability to easily maintain surfaces in a coastal environment was of great importance; this heavily influenced material choices, in particular the use of outdoor fabrics indoors."

**THE PALETTE** Natural materials in diverse textures, such as leather, hide, linen, timber and stone, dominate, chosen not just for their looks, but also for their practicality, says Andrea. Splashes of bold colour, in the art and accessories, have been added to this neutral background. Dulux 'Natural White' was used on nearly all walls, while a feature wall in the living room has this in a polished-plaster application. Handmade tiles from Onsite Design Studio extend from the kitchen into the dining area, while all floors are honed marble.

**STYLE NOTES** Sand and surf may dictate the mood, but sophistication is never far away. The coffee table, for example, blends the two. "In elegant leather and bronze, it was selected for its grounding effect," says Andrea, "but it also provides the flexibility of casual sitting, or allowing you to put your feet up."

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