

Coast is Clear

#4

Hanging on to the small-town charm it has always enjoyed, Flinders Bay is a southwest treasure and home to one of the most unique holiday properties in the state.



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It sounds somewhat incredulous to say that a property with the capacity to sleep 12 people is rather easy to drive past without notice. And yet, completely masked from the street front by towering native gums, every detail of Flinders Bay House in WA's southwest – including its distinct sense of privacy – has been flawlessly accomplished.

Unequivocally Hamptons-esque in aesthetic, the magnificent home is one of more than 100 in the impressive portfolio managed by Private Properties, and one that director David Moyes says is a clear stand out. “There are many things that make Flinders Bay House distinguishable from anything else we have in our portfolio and the holiday home market generally, including its physical scale and the amazing interiors.”

Designed by Peter Moran Architects in a project that was 12 years in the making, Flinders Bay House is the ultimate getaway steeped in family history for owners Jane Moffat and her husband Tim Andrew.

“My grandparents built a home on the site in 1968, which we enjoyed visiting whilst growing up, but when the house literally started falling down we had to think about what we wanted to do,” says Jane. “We never considered building anywhere else.”

Living in New York for five years and owning a home in East Hampton during the design and build phase, Jane and Tim were never going to fall short on inspiration.

“Much of our time there was spent with sleeping kids strapped in car seats while we enjoyed going for drives, taking stock of the divine architecture that is unique to the region,” Jane says. It was the beginning of a love affair that they are now sharing with local and international holidaymakers in WA.

Located 350km from Perth and just south of Augusta, the hillside Flinders Bay House comes with uninterrupted views across the treetops to the horizon, and is just 150m from where the Blackwood River meets the sea. A playground for adults and children alike, every room across three levels displays awe-inspiring architecture and an eclectic collection of soft furnishings, which saw Jane collaborate with Rebecca Wood Interiors to fully realise the dream.

Designed to share with family and friends, all five bedrooms are appointed an ensuite, while multiple living areas provide just the right amount of separation.

While the “no TV” rule was overturned to allow for the Boxing Day Test and Jane and Tim’s daughter’s Hawks football obsession, it is refreshing to see that the only screen in the home is tucked away upstairs, out of sight from the main living areas. “We grew up running around the bushes and beaches of Flinders, and I wanted my kids to get outdoors and smell the same smells, have the same scrapes on their knees,” Jane says.

The children’s quarters on the ground floor accommodates an expansive bunkroom that sleeps eight and opens out to the front deck, plus an ensuite with an exquisite shower recess where a floor-to-ceiling mosaic by Perth-based artist Maureen Elphick depicts an underwater scene complete with mermaid.

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An additional bedroom with ensuite, laundry, powder room, mudroom and wine cellar finish the ground floor, before a wide staircase that gives pride of place to an antique map that always hung in the house leads down to the main living areas and guest rooms on the first floor.

Two lounge rooms are connected by a showstopper of a kitchen, anchored by a large central island bench where aqua subway tile splashbacks merge with the crystal blue sea visible through French windows. Equipped with a freestanding Viking gas cooktop and oven, two additional electric ovens, two dishwashers, a commercial fridge/freezer and a cheese fridge, it literally has everything that opens and shuts.

Just like the rest of the home, the kitchen exemplifies Jane's unwavering dedication to sourcing the right pieces for every space. "I was determined to have authentic TK Collections bistro stools for the kitchen counter," she explains of the "to trade-only" product that they struggled to access from Australia. "So an interior designer friend of mine who now lives in Chigaco – Cookie Weber – ordered them for me from Paris. They were shipped to New York, 'received' by her and then sent to Perth."

Similarly, Jane was set on incorporating a piece by UK-based mixed media artist, Ann Carrington. While living in New York, Jane and

Tim spent their weekends hunting for the perfect "Hamptons map" for their Australian home, but never found it. Ultimately, they merged the two desires. "I commissioned Ann to make a map for us that included the Hamptons points of interest that were meaningful to us, such as where the kids went to summer camp and 'Billy Joel corner'. It was a dream to work with Ann but also to see our vision come to fruition through her artistry."

Bruce Springsteen memorabilia in the form of artwork and biographies lie amongst the hundreds of hardcover books that adorn coffee tables and bookshelves. "I'm a huge Bruce Springsteen fan, and have followed him all over the globe," says Jane. "When some limited edition lithographs came on sale 10 years ago I knew I had found my perfect piece of over-the-mantle art." The Born in the USA cover now sits in the lounge alongside a large piece by Massimo Vitali, which shows Amagansett Beach where the couple used to take their children as toddlers.







Spectacular exposed beams and a soaring panelled ceiling complement the warm atmosphere of the second lounge, dining and bar, where a stone fireplace roars in wintertime. The adjoining circular sunroom stuns with a coral-shaped chandelier found at Hamptons store, Mecox Gardens. “It’s actually made of iron and was shipped to us in a crate as big as a car!” says Jane.

While the front open deck on this level offers the prime position for a morning coffee or sundowner overlooking the ocean, the rear deck has an entirely different feel with a cosy lounge setting in front of the outdoor fireplace, while tiered gardens beyond that produce lemons, avocados, rosemary and lavender.

The upper level of the home is reserved for the master suite and is the epitome of luxury; his-and-hers ensuites and dressing rooms, a connecting library, and a private balcony offering the highest viewpoint across the ocean.

Overcoming heritage issues, height restrictions and site difficulties, Flinders Bay House is an undisputable labour of love that answers every possible wish for a getaway. It is a celebration of quality and history, and a direct reflection of the values found in Jane’s other project, Jordan Baker, the Cottesloe-based retail store she co-owns with Amanda Perkins. Lamenting the lack of availability of their favourite American brands and their penchant for the US shopping experience, the two women envisaged something akin to a boutique in East Hampton, Santa Monica, Aspen or Nantucket. Maintaining a “resort” feel in giftware and luxury fashion, the store boasts more than 30 US brands. What better complement to a beachside break in Flinders Bay?