

# HOUSES

Sunlight streams into this upstairs media room, part of a project home collaboration between Three Birds Renovations and Rawson Homes. The artwork is a print of *La Concha Beach Club* by Slim Aarons from Fineprint Co. Wall battens, Intrim Mouldings. Side table, Harpers Project. Rug, Miss Amara. To see more of this airy, sun-loving home, turn the page.



Photograph by Jacqui Turk. For Where to Buy, see page 200.

FAMILY HOMES WITH SPACE, GRACE AND STYLE

**EXTERIOR** A collaboration between Three Birds Renovations and Rawson Homes, this project home exudes the coastal, resort-style feel synonymous with Three Birds designs. Exterior clad in James Hardie Linea weatherboards painted Taubmans Cradle White. The roof is Colorbond in Surfmist. Double-hung windows, Stegbar. Porch tiled in Annangrove travertine-look tiles in Grey, TileCloud. Bacardi plant pot, The Balcony Garden. Panelift garage door in Dover White, B&D Doors.

## Simply the best

When the team from Three Birds Renovations decided to create a namesake project home, they put all their favourite elements together under one roof.

STORY *Elizabeth Wilson* | STYLING *Three Birds Renovations*  
 PHOTOGRAPHY *Chris Warnes, Maree Homer & Jacqui Turk*

As the CEO of home-design company Three Birds Renovations, Candice Fernandez knows a thing or two about the business of achieving a dream home. Recently, she and her family experienced first-hand just how life-transforming that journey can be.

Candice and her husband Drewe Letchford had always known it was a matter of time (and savings) until they renovated. With three growing children - Mia, 13, Joe, 11 and Hunter, four - in a single-storey 1930s home, the irrefutable fact was that they needed more space.

They loved the neighbourhood and didn't want to move, so they developed plans for a second-storey extension. They had

selected a builder, paid a deposit and were poised to commence work - when they had an extraordinary change of plans.

It just so happened that Candice had been busy overseeing an altogether different building project as part of her work. In collaboration with building company Rawson Homes, she and the 'Birds' co-founders Lana Taylor, Bonnie Hindmarsh and Erin Cayless were finalising plans for a Three Birds project home. The concept? To create a beautiful design within a budget, built to reflect the Three Birds signature 'look', with finishes and fittings all selected by Lana, Bonnie and Erin. After a long design phase, they had arrived at a template floor plan: they just needed to find a real-life knock-down/rebuild test case. Cue Candice's lightbulb moment.

She came home from work with a proposition for Drewe: that they be the first ones to build this Three Birds project home. "I knew we'd have to forfeit the deposit we'd paid, but I also knew the value of building a dream home versus working with what we had." Drewe was open to this curve ball.

After weighing up the pros and cons of 'renovating versus detonating', they felt a rebuild would deliver the best outcome. "It would give us a much better layout, including a second living space which we weren't going to get from a reno," says Candice. "We'd also get a double garage with internal entry and generally make better use of our block. We knew we'd get a huge amount of value and utility from a new home. And being a Three Birds home, we knew it would be beautiful." ▶

**THIS IS THE LIFE**

When Candice and her family opened the front door for the first time, "it immediately felt like home," she says. "The spaces feel light and airy and there's a relaxed-lifestyle vibe that is just perfect for our family." They feel vindicated by their dramatic decision to rebuild. "It's a beautiful home, with luxe finishes and design integrity. Everything is quality. It's testament to the fact you can create a beautiful home on a budget."



**LIVING** Double-height windows and a 6.35m void send light throughout the home. Fireplace, Lopi. The chimneybreast is clad in James Hardie Axon cladding. Windows, Stegbar. Pendant light, Lighting Collective. Sofa, Oz Design Furniture. Monty swivel chair in Camel, Freedom. Savvy armchairs in White, Capri coffee tables and Neo side table, all Few & Far. Hermes side table, CLO Studios. Artwork by Rikki Day. Rug, Miss Amara. Engineered-oak flooring in White Oiled, Woodcut (throughout). **ENTRY** The sculptural curved staircase wows at the front door. Forster dining table and vases, Oz Design Furniture. Stoneware side table, House of Orange. Maitai rug, Freedom.

THE PALETTE

Taubmans Brilliant White (interior, throughout)

Dulux Cat Mint (laundry joinery)

Colorbond Surfmist (roof)



Portrait photograph by River Bennett. Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



**KITCHEN** *This page and opposite top* Drewe and Candice with their children (from left) Mia, Hunter and Joe in their dreamy kitchen. The rounded ends on the island bench were inspired by a previous Three Birds Renovations project, House 9. Custom joinery by Carrera by Design, in Taubmans Brilliant White. Benchtops and splashbacks all Caesarstone White Attica. Shaws Lancaster single butler sink and Mizu 'Drift Mk2' gooseneck sink mixer with pullout spray, both Reece. Cabinet hardware, Lo&Co. Appliances, all Electrolux. Hermosa pendant light, Few & Far. Barstools, Satara. Hermes white bowl, CLO Studios. Tulu vase, Papaya. Ceramic jar in Mustard, House of Orange. Laciles rug, Freedom. **BUTLER'S PANTRY** *Opposite bottom* Console, Oz Design Furniture. Shaws Lancaster butler sink, and Mizu 'Drift Mk2' gooseneck tap, both Reece. Tahiti wall sconce, Gypset Cargo. Artwork by Whitney Spicer. ▶

**MAIN BEDROOM** Custom bedhead, Create Estate. Bedlinen, Bed Threads. Nesting side tables, The Organic Ceramics Co. Chloe swivel armchairs, Lounge Lovers. Slab coffee table, Trit House. Marble plinth side table and vase on coffee table, Harpers Project. Tilly Beni Ourain rug, Love Moroccan Rugs. Wall sconces, Enlightened Living. Artwork by Sophia Lind, Designstuff. Zion curtains in Raw, Luxaflex Window Fashions. **ENSUITE** Custom vanity, Carrera by Design. Caesarstone Pure White benchtop. Bath, basins and tapware, all Reece. Carrara-look floor tiles and Kit Kat feature wall tiles, all TileCloud. Hermes side table, CLO Studios. Russes wall light, The Society Inc. Floor mat, The Dharma Door. Artwork, Lounge Lovers.



From that point, things moved quickly. The old house was demolished (“I shed a few tears,” admits Candice), the slab went down and the new home took shape. In terms of vital statistics, it is a two-storey, four-bedroom, three-bathroom home, clad in James Hardie Linea weatherboards with a footprint of 387 square metres including balconies and garage. Downstairs, a spacious foyer leads to an open-plan kitchen/dining/living area featuring a light-filled 6.35-metre high void. A sculptural, curved staircase leads upstairs to a main bedroom suite, three children’s bedrooms, a bathroom and a media room/office.

This is the fourteenth house developed by the Three Birds team, and it’s designed to represent “the best of the Birds”, says Lana Taylor. “We’ve taken all the elements we’ve loved from our previous projects and rolled them into one,” she says.

There were some non-negotiable Three Birds “signature items” built into the design. “It needed to have a coastal vibe – that’s always been at the heart of our projects. Then of course it needed weatherboard cladding and our signature white-on-white aesthetic,” says Lana. “We also wanted it to have a void, wide hallways, statement engineered stone in the kitchen, quality timber flooring, amazing tiles and a spacious main bedroom/retreat.”

Many of the design elements are unexpected for a project home, says Lana.

“We’ve pushed the envelope by including things like the amazing curved staircase,” says Lana. “The double-height ceiling in the void space and extra wide hallways are special, too, and they’re crucial to the whole open, airy feeling we wanted for the house. And the luxe detailing is next level.”

The CEO of Rawson Homes, Nick Chandler, admits the Three Birds house challenged many of the conventions of the project-home genre, but he’s thrilled with the result. “This project is a game-changer,” he says. Clearly, many people agree: in the first week of its release, 1400 people had registered interest in this home, testament to the popularity of the ‘staycation’ lifestyle goals of the Three Birds brand.

Lana says the project home is perfect for people who want the “full, immersive Three Birds experience... We’ve made all the decisions for you, right down to the selection of the taps, the grout colour, the handles and knobs.”

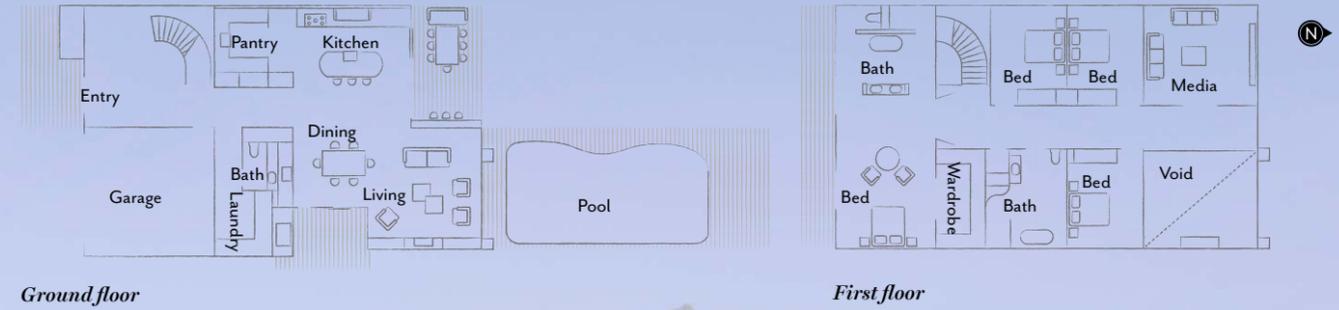
All of which was music to the ears for Candice and Drewe. “We were very happy to know all those things had been selected for us. We knew we’d end up with a gorgeous new home where every detail is luxe and lovely,” says Candice. “As Drewe said, we never need to have another conversation about renovating ever again.”

*Three Birds Renovations;* [threebirdsrenovations.com](http://threebirdsrenovations.com). *Rawson Homes;* [rawsonhomes.com.au](http://rawsonhomes.com.au).



**JOE'S BEDROOM** *Above left* Linen half-moon bedhead, Create Estate. Bed base and mattress, Freedom. Bedlinen, I Love Linen. Cushions and wall banner, Pony Rider. Surfboard, Maywood. Gingham wallpaper, Olive et Oriol. **MAIN ENSUITE** *Above middle* Artwork, Lounge Lovers. Custom vanity, Carrera by Design. Caesarstone Pure White benchtop. Basin and tapware, Reece. Kit Kat wall tiles, TileCloud. Russes wall light, The Society Inc. **HUNTER'S BEDROOM** *Above right* Bedlinen, I Love Linen. Throw, Pony Rider. Cushions, Bonnie and Neil. Rattan sideboard, Lounge Lovers. Rattan chair, Hunter and Nomad. Wallpaper on ceiling, The Society Inc. Rug, BoConcept. Artwork, Olive et Oriol. **FAMILY BATHROOM** *Below* Kado Neue wall vanity in white, Kado 'Lussi' basin, Kado 'Lux Petite' freestanding bath and Phoenix 'Vivid Slimline' bath mixer, all Reece. Carrara-look floor and wall tiles and mosaic tiles, all TileCloud. Rattan shelf, Lounge Lovers. Stool, CLO Studios. Wall light, Gypset Cargo. Floor mat, The Dharma Door. **EXTERIOR** The house was sited close to the existing pool for water views throughout the living space. Landscaping with palm trees completes the coastal look. "We modelled the landscaping very much on Bonnie's own home, Three Birds' project number 8," says Lana. "Nothing says 'relaxed coastal lifestyle' like a palm tree." ▶

THE LAYOUT





**OUTDOOR DINING** *Above and below left* The outdoor dining area is perfect for relaxed family dinners – or open the gas-strut servery window to create a bar and the whole area moves into entertaining mode. Myles dining table, House of Orange. Tablecloth and napkins, Bonnie and Neil. Glassware and cutlery, Freedom. Bench seat, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. Tsuna stools, Uniqwa Collections. Dining chairs, Lounge Lovers. Bobby barstools, DesignByThem. Ceiling fan, Beacon Lighting. Servery window, Stegbar. **LAUNDRY** Custom joinery in Dulux Cat Mint, Carrera by Design. Shaws Lancaster single butler sink, and Mizu 'Drift' gooseneck tap in Brushed Gold, both Reece. Stool, Lounge Lovers. **FIREPIT/FRONT GARDEN** Filled with white crushed pebbles, this circular cut-out in the front lawn forms a perfect firepit and conversation corner. Firepit, Yagoona Design Australia. Armchairs, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. Umbrella, Basil Bangs.



1 Pretzel **armchair**, \$750, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. 2 Carrara marble **finger tiles**, \$33/280x292mm sheet, Perini. 3 Muuto 'Strand' **pendant light**, \$1447, Surrounding. 4 Zip 'HydroTap G5 Celsius Arc' **mixer tap**, \$3695, Harvey Norman. 5 Stripes **outdoor cushion**, \$260, Lucy Montgomery. 6 Zig Zag **stool**, from \$795, Mark Tuckey. 7 Franklin Vintage **wallpaper** in Riverkeeper, \$380/10m roll, The Society Inc. 8 Russes **wall light**, \$465, The Society Inc. 9 Stone-composite **surface** in White Attica, \$600-\$800/m<sup>2</sup> (supply only), Caesarstone. 10 Bermuda **console**, \$649, Oz Design Furniture. 11 Dagar **planter**, from \$425, Garden Life. 12 Rock **vase** in Light Horn, \$295, Dinosaur Designs. 13 Paros **bath towel**, \$49.95, Aura Home. *For Where to Buy, see page 200.* H&G

THE SOURCE

*A white-on-white palette punctuated with timber, rattan and stripes evokes a relaxed coastal vibe.*



Produced by Shayne Burton.