

The West Australian



**Carrier and Postmus Architects
design the ultimate coastal abode
for stylish Scarborough family**



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Architects Justin Carrier and Steven Postmus are used to clients expecting utter perfection when it comes to the finishes and details of their homes.

To the point that Carrier jokes some anticipate space shuttle-like pinpoint precision at completion.

This was not the case when the directors of Carrier and Postmus Architects worked with Ryan Johnson and Ashlee Bradshaw though, with the Scarborough couple requesting a raw finish to their forever home. Johnson even remembers reminding a builder of this after he saw him patching up part of an interior concrete wall.

While Carrier explains laid-back expectations aren't for everyone, they were reflective of the couple's coastal lifestyle.

On the list of must-haves for Johnson and Bradshaw was a rooftop deck to check the surf, a garage large enough to drive into with surfboards still on the roof and an outdoor shower. In terms of floorplan, the design-savvy couple who love to entertain wanted a space where guests felt so comfortable they didn't want to leave.



There is even a swing in the lounge room. Credit: Jackson Flindell/The West Australian

“I’ve always really liked voids and they’re often in the entry where you walk past it. I wanted it to be the main living area, where you’re always around it,” says Johnson. “Even though it’s a compact space, it feels roomier than it is.”

If the airy and stylish living area isn’t enough to encourage guests to stay for one more wine, rolling it into a backyard with lush greenery, pool and outside dining space surely will.



“You can hang in the pool and still watch the TV from the lounge,” Johnson says. “It’s really about tricking people not to go home.”

The home also needed enough space for a growing family – the couple have two young sons and dog Kanye – so a rough and ready approach that allowed for little sandy feet and spillages made even more sense.

Using Alita Constructions, which specialises in building warehouses and workshops, also allowed them to stick to a more modest budget that would have risen if they’d engaged a premium builder for more refined finishes.

Despite this different approach to building, the architects were able to design a home that feels surprising and grand. While Carrier hates the term “wow factor”, he admits the 347sqm, with 45sqm of outdoor built spaces, home has it.

To save on unused space, it doesn’t have any corridors to get into rooms and has been split across six levels that are all organised around the central family area where the lofty void sits.

Across the levels are four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a balcony off the master and roof terrace.

Carrier explains the striking facade uses a coastal palette of materials – robust Austral bricks and concrete ribbed blocks – that don’t need a lot of maintenance, which is ideal for homes by the coast and the heat, wind and glare that comes with it.



The curated collection of furniture, art and homewares selections are packed with personality. Credit: Douglas Mark Black

An airy void area makes the home feel more spacious and adds an overall wow factor. Credit: Douglas Mark Black

The backyard further induces this oasis feeling with a range of feature plants, including plenty of natives that Johnson avidly cares for, and the pool has been cleverly used as retaining wall as well as doubling as a pool fence.

Building the home in Scarborough was a no-brainer for the couple, particularly for Johnson who had moved there 20 years prior from Kelmscott.

This home, however, is an elevated experience from the ageing share houses or cottage style homes they'd lived in prior. Johnson says even two years after moving in he still pinches himself sometimes to live in a house they're so proud of.

It was his hometown that served as the inspiration for one of his favourite pieces in their abode too.

"Coming from Kelmscott, there was nothing to do there growing up in the 90s, so we did burnouts and caused havoc," he laughs.

"Having this picture of a burnout (by photographer Kane Skennar) makes me feel at home, it brings back memories of where I came from."

The curated collection of furniture, art and homewares selections are packed with personality, with other standout pieces including Cleon Peterson prints, Benjamin Barretto (a former professional skateboarder Johnson is a fan of) weaves and an original Hans Wegner table and chairs, despite it being a bit weathered by the kids.



It's not just the team who are elated with the project, but countless people across Perth too.

After a friend, a photographer for surf brand Rusty, borrowed the home for a shoot and gushed over its lighting and ideal photo locations, the couple began hiring their home out weekly for shoots which has proved fruitful.

It was an entry in the Think Brick Awards in 2022 and received a commendation in the 2022 Australian Institute of Architects Awards.

The architects and couple agree that the success of the project was thanks to a collaborative approach from the very start of the process.

“We were able to put forward things which can only be done in a trusting and respectful manner which the clients afforded us, it was key for this project,” says Postmus.

While Johnson anticipates the family living in the home for the foreseeable future, he'd love to one day use Carrier and Postmus Architects to design a home in the South West. Other than the location, he says they wouldn't change a thing.



📷 The kitchen leads out to a lush backyard with pool. Credit: Douglas Mark Black