





BLACK DIAMOND

YSG STUDIO TRANSFORMED A THREE-STOREY FAMILY HOUSE
BLANKETED WITHIN OPPRESSIVE GREY WALLS AND ENCLOSING
PARTITIONS INTO A TACTILE HAVEN WITH INCREDIBLE VIEWS OF
SYDNEY HARBOUR.

Photography by Anson Smart



“Our clients wanted a home that felt like a boutique hotel with a lavish yet tranquil tonal intensity that was rich in substance, not excess trimmings.”

A kin to hotel delights, entry points of this 345 m² house nourish a sense of arrival, welcoming surprises. Brightening the upper level’s entrance (given the home’s sloped hillside location), a new feature glass brick wall abuts the re-designed staircase, its offset amber seam adding a sunny disposition on overcast days. Descending the stairs, pale timber

treads switch to stained ebony, acknowledging the transition to the living area where a rich subaquatic world of teal highlights float beneath the toffee ceiling that melts across the balcony, visually expanding the room's footprint.

Scale was important given its restricted space, so the

designers

selected one sofa and a chair devoid of arms. Given this corner was

exposed to ample sunlight, teal curtains

cool its composure as do

black mosaics

cladding the fireplace and

floor. Timber shelving draws

the eye upwards to emphasise the

vertical volume of the space, cosying

the room without enclosing it. Other

space enhancing features

include oversized pivot timber

doors that soften angled margins

and expand the dimensions of the

rooms, plus tactical

positioning of mirrors, most noticeably along the living area's rear wall where curved Poplar Burl cupboard doors bracket mirrored doors. Performing triplicate roles, they amplify the dimensions of the living area, bounce natural light throughout and reflect harbour views.





Whilst no quantum structural additions were required, the transformative alterations were made within the main living area that required innovative structural support solutions. Internal space was sacrificed to enlarge the balcony

entertaining area given a curved glass alcove originally housing a dining table significantly encroached upon it, dividing the outdoor space into two small and under-used areas. Removing this bulge was integral to the home's re-design. The



designers installed glass sliding doors, aiding access to the generous rectangular area (especially from the kitchen), and created an outdoor lounge setting within the reclaimed real-estate.

Additionally, two central partition walls were demolished, and the interior walls replaced with structural steel modifications that blend into the space. A smoky quartz glass brick partition frames three steel mullions, masking their architectural purpose. Golden light now filters through the room, also cosying the new dining area. Beside it, a lithe circular teal column performs an additional supportive role. Standing parallel to enhance its sculptural appeal, a canary yellow light pole spans floor to ceiling like a beam of sunlight.

Adding monochromatic magic with its shimmering black mosaics and leathered marble, the island bench is like a giant reef.

Glowing glass bricks aid surface relief dividing the seating from meal preparation areas and storing cooking aids amongst integrated shelving. The mosaics extend onto the floor like a path across the length of the room framing the glass doors, enticing outdoor activity by flowing across the balcony's floor. Combined with the dark timber floors and ceiling, they provide sheltered respite from the brilliant glare and frenzied harbour activity, enabling the room to take an inward-looking approach.

The house is full of precious personal spaces among which we find the service bathroom characterized by a customized sink made of Artedomus Stone Tiberio combined with Bisanna Tiles Rosso Travertine mosaic tiles.







In the lower level the design team reduced the size of the children's rumpus room by relocating one wall. This allowed to increase the laundry's size and enabled a door to connect the guest bedroom directly to the bathroom. In addition, another room was converted into a private office. Floors are clad with clay tiles, whilst the teal shades from above transition to deep greens and ocean blues.

At the back of the house we find a garden and the adjacent swimming pool: here the gray wooden cladding and surrounding hard surfaces have been replaced with light flooring to unify the area, adding a fire pit and an alcove with cushioned seating to encourage the perennial entertainment. Clunky glass balustrades were replaced with custom rounded, blackened steel posts to enhance views of the harbor and safe open areas. Maintaining the amoebic profile of the pool, a cantilevered platform was designed that supports an upholstered sofa that extends on a curve, refreshing the scene with a retro Palm Springs feeling.







“Restricting overhead lighting to the hard-working areas, myriad sculptural pendants, sconces and lamps emit intimate warm glows at head-height, providing atmospheric calm.”

The master suite required substantial reconfiguration to maximise wardrobe space and introduce practical navigation. A pony wall now frames the bedhead enabling additional joinery behind it, connecting to the existing walk-in-robe via a new entry (originally, it could only be accessed from the en-suite). Removing awkward furnishings within the room’s adjoining glass alcove, the designers included a curved sofa with a soft alpaca and wool herringbone weave lining, plus nubby woven wool on the neighbouring swivel chair. While the en-suite’s lilac joinery internals reference the Jacaranda trees surrounding the home.

