

HOUSE

AND LEISURE

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play

a kaleidoscope of colour

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harmonious



haven

A seaside home with carefully considered interiors and expansive ocean views feels like stepping into a summer holiday

Words by Murray King Photography by Emma Jude Jackson

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Previous spread Golden afternoon sun warms the pool deck and trickles into the main lounge, dappled by the screen wall that offers privacy from the front door. The owners' love for local design is evident throughout the house – seen here is a lamp by Arrange Studio and outdoor furniture by Haldane. **This spread** Designed to meet the needs of two toddlers, the kitchen balances utility with warmth and comfort. The induction cooktop is seamlessly and invisibly integrated into the stone island, keeping distractions minimal – a reminder that the true focal point lies outside. As the owners explain, "We love being surrounded by nature – it inspired us to use tactile, sustainable materials that blend with the outdoors. Everything else is just the framing."





Walking down the aptly named Sunset Avenue you could easily miss a home that, from street level, barely interrupts the sweeping westward view of the Atlantic Ocean as the dwelling leans into the slope.

Behind the duo behind its renovation, ATTIK Design, insisted on the brightest, sunniest day and as I climb the stairs to the front door, I see why: it feels like stepping into a holiday. The stairs carried on down the steep cliffside, they'd lead right to the rocky edge of Llandudno beach.

The concept for this home was 'barefoot luxury' – beautiful yet practical. 'Our kids were the biggest inspiration,' say its owners. 'We wanted a safe, comfortable space for them that we'd enjoy. Since we spend a lot of time at home, everything had to align with this vision.'

Armed with a bland short-term rental, fully furnished but lacking in personality, ATTIK's Brigid White and Cecile van Suijck explain their approach: 'Our goal was to infuse intimacy, time and depth into the home, creating a sanctuary for the family to connect and thrive – together and individually.'

To realise the vision, they worked closely with the family, letting their dynamic and needs inform every choice. 'We balanced nature, grounding elements with playful pops of ochre, green, blue and burgundy.' During my visit, the parents of two worried the house wasn't 'at its best'. But it was the perfect way to experience it: that it truly is – not just a family home, but a giant playroom.

The entryway, reclaimed from a large open lounge, serves as a necessary intermediary space, cleverly divided by a 'screen' of white bricks turned on their sides. This creates a landing area that shields the family lounge from the afternoon sun, making it the coolest room in the house. Stepping over a toy car, a plush animal, another car, I learn that this lounge doubles as the main playroom, complete with a luxurious rug to roll around on. The palette is quiet and earthy with soft lighting and brass fittings keeping the mood warm and relaxed. Brigid notes, 'The layering of textures – soft, raw, and polished – creates a rich sensory experience that invites interaction and curiosity.'

Further in, the double-volume middle floor is bathed in sunlight, with a breathtaking panorama beyond expansive sliding doors. The front deck wraps around the house, offering a 180-degree view thanks to its slightly protruding position on the slope. There's no shortage of spots to sit, lounge or recline, with outdoor furniture by local designer Haldane adding hints of playful pastels to the freshly sanded palette. 'We bought the outdoor furniture first, long before the renovation began,' the owners laugh. Priorities, right? Blisse-soil walls and slatted pergolas temper the elements, allowing light and air to flow freely, while sleek steel balustrades ensure child safety without interrupting the view.

The expansive living space feels remarkably intimate, with no

neighbours in sight on either side. This floor houses the kitchen, dining area, and casual lounge – the literal and spiritual heart of the home, where the family spends most of their time, often gathered around the table on its curved dining bench. The brushed engineered wood flooring by Bestwood, rough and textured, recalls a previous renovation where the owners used reclaimed oak beams. Similarly, the ceiling is clad in slatted cedar, softening acoustics while filling the space with its woody scent.

Upstairs, the main character of the boy's bedroom is an elevated play pen: a dream come true for any child. This cosy loft above the bed embraces a 'big city' philosophy of maximising floor space and can be safely locked.

Another wall of bricks filters light into the bathroom that separates the children's bedrooms. The girl's room, perched above the kitchen, offers a view over the lounge and out to the waves. The inward-facing window features a perforated steel screen and curtains for privacy.

Descending from the family level to the master bedroom means stepping into an entirely different mood. Passing a large picture window, a door to the pool deck, and a cosy study clad in dark-roasted cork, the atmosphere shifts to one of calm and quiet, wrapped in soft sandy tones.

The bed faces a breathtaking, larger-than-life postcard view of the sea – it's a wonder anyone ever gets up! In the generous dressing area behind the bed, the cupboard doors are stretched with fabric in a subtle geometric print, adding visual interest, absorbing sound, and providing ventilation while the family escapes winter in Europe.

At the lowest point of the home, the pool deck is anchored by Haldane's canopied Contour daybed and winding Songololo sofa. Cecile explains, 'Creating a strong connection between the family, garden, and ocean was key. Designing outdoor spaces across multiple levels ensured seamless integration with the home. The lower deck was thoughtfully reconfigured to include ample seating, an outdoor kitchen, a child-friendly pool, and a dedicated wellness zone – offering a versatile retreat for both solitude and gatherings.'

This level extends over the plot below, which the owners purchased simultaneously and plan to transform into a garden with grass, veggies, and perhaps a guest cottage or retreat for gatherings or quiet moments. Brigid explains, 'The home was designed to grow with the family, with flexible, adaptable spaces that can evolve with their needs.'

As we head back upstairs, the day warms, but open windows and doors on all sides allow the sea breeze to flow through effortlessly. The one-year-old lets us know that she's had enough of this interloper and it's time for lunch, so I step out through the front door and climb the stairs, stealing one last glance at the waves before I go. ● @attikdesign

Opposite The dining table by James Mudge has an inlaid brass top, which will patina as family memories are made. During winter, the dining area and casual lounge are switched around, so that the Togo Loveseat by Ligne Roset is nearer the fireplace.