

Outdoor fabrics and furnishings are robust and keep maintenance to a minimum.



A photograph of an outdoor courtyard. In the foreground, a wooden bench with a blue and white patterned cushion and a white pillow sits on a wooden deck. To the left, a window looks out onto a lush green landscape. The right side of the image is dominated by dense, vibrant green foliage. The text 'Many happy RETURNS' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Many happy RETURNS

North Stradbroke Island is a short hop from Brisbane yet feels a million miles away. With a weekender like this, it's little wonder architect Shaun Lockyer and his family make the trip time and again.

STORY *Tamarah Plenaar* | STYLING *Kate Nixon*
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INTERNAL COURTYARD What was once a walk-through space is now a lovely spot to linger after the 200m trek back from the surf. Banquette seat cushions covered in 'Quill' polyolefin fabric from Woven Image. Soft furnishings made by Refresh Interiors (throughout). For similar dining table, try Tai. Replicate Philippe Starck Masters' chairs, Matt Blatt. For similar pendant light, try Fat Shack Vintage. Wall cladding, banquette and decking, all made from spotted gum. ▶



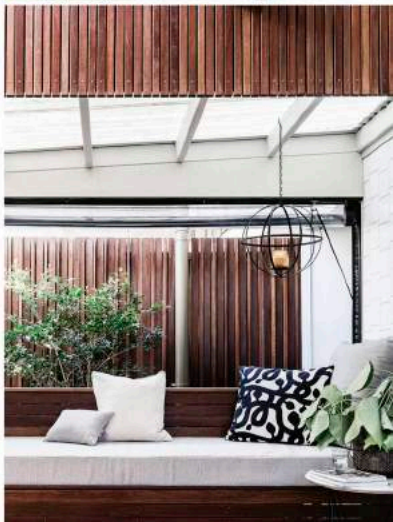
DINING Shaun enjoys a moment of solitude. Dining table, The Banyan Tree Furniture & Homewares. Replica Eames chairs, Miss Black Vintage consignment. Artworks by Robert Moore (left) and Belynda Henry. **Smart buy:** 'Regoli' floor lamp, \$79, Ikea. **KITCHEN** The wall designed and maintained kitchen didn't need any updating. Benchtops, stainless steel. **ENTRANCE** Shaun nominates the outdoor shower just inside the front gate as one of his favourite features. **INTERNAL COURTYARD** Roll-up, bistro-style blinds are ideal for this indoor outdoor space; for similar, try Bunnings. A feature wall of white tiles creates another point of visual and textural interest. For similar as a chandelier, try Zest Lighting. Bouquet cushion in 'jamaica' olefin fabric, James Dunlop Textiles. Back and white cushion, Ikea.



After years of weekend sojourns and family holidays, North Stradbroke Island, about three hours' drive from Brisbane, felt like a second home for architect Shaun Lockyer, his wife Julie and their children: Josie, 19, and Eddie, 16. Shaun and Julie had long toyed with the idea of buying a property on what locals call 'Straddie', but the pieces never quite fell into place. In 2015, however, they were offered an architect-designed villa in a prime location before it went to market - and couldn't resist.

"I love the work of [original architects] Donovan Hill so the idea of owning a home by them and putting my own spin on it was really exciting," says Shaun. "The fundamentals were great, but I knew I could do more with the central courtyard and the rear of the house, which opens onto Crown land."

The 135m² home with four bedrooms is arranged over two levels, wrapping around an internal courtyard. To create more useable floor space in this area, Shaun decided to extend the decking almost to the boundary and cover it with a new roof, making it habitable in all weather. The result is a light-drenched indoor/outdoor room that gently eases visitors into the heart of the home. Its built-in banquettes provide ample room for lounge lizards to stretch out, and oodles of seating for the ▶



JUST ADD WATER

Spotted gum
screens, fences,
decking

Woolblende
Quill fabric
Cushioning

Stainless
steel
kitchen
benchtops

This is the life

"Straddie remains one of the most unspoilt and unpretentious spots on Earth," says Shaun. "On our first visit, we fell in love with its natural beauty, the crystal-clear waters and the relaxed vibe. Since then, it has become a real home for us, a place of sanctuary and friendship. The surfing and world-class scuba diving just add to the reasons for us loving the place! It has to be one of Australia's best-kept secrets."



family's frequent guests. "Creating a good flow through what is otherwise a very small home was critical," says Shaun. "We have up to nine people staying at times, so flexibility was important, too."

The Lockyers' desire for a "casual, robust and relaxing" retreat shines through in every aspect of the design. The materials - spotted gum, ceramic tiles, stainless steel and outdoor fabrics - are lovely to look at, hard-wearing and conveniently easy-care. As well as the built-in furniture, there are various tables, chairs and floor cushions that can be arranged to suit any social situation.

Shaun says he and Julie had an idea of what the interiors should look like and asked his colleague, Lucy Jeffries, to help pull them together. "The furnishings are a collection of new, recycled and serendipitous finds," says Shaun. "It was a fun, collaborative process of addition and subtraction on Pinterest boards, culminating in final, more strategic selections." New artworks have completed the picture.

It's been two years since the family settled on the island and there's no turning back. "We come here as often as possible, on most weekends as well as an extended break over Christmas," says Shaun. "I love every aspect of the house, especially the way it deals with the seasons and copes with groups. It's such an inviting and relaxed place to be." **H&G Shaun Lockyer Architects, Newstead, Queensland; (07) 3257 7288 or lockyerarchitects.com.au.**

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MAIN BEDROOM An eye-catching artwork by Robert Moore is the hero here. Lamp, The Beach Furniture & Accessories. Side table, Globe West. Existing wall light. **UPSTAIRS BATHROOM** The green shower tiles - an original feature - informed the size, shape and laying pattern of the tiles in the courtyard. For similar, try Perini. **DECK** Thanks to new built-in seating, there's room for everyone to enjoy sunset drinks in comfort. Timber coffee table, The Banyan Tree Furniture & Homewares. White side tables, both Adairs. **Smart buy:** Bench seat cushions with 'Quill' polyolefin fabric in #315, \$48/m. Woven lounge. **For Where to Buy, see page 188.**

Island time

There's no shortage of things to do on Straddle. The Lockyers love spending the day at Cylinder Beach, which is great for swimming and surfing. They also highly recommend scuba diving off Point Lookout, and say the Myora Springs and Gorge Walks are not to be missed. When it's time to relax, Blue Room cafe is Shaun's pick for breakfast or lunch. His dinner choice is Stradbroke Island Beach Hotel, for its fabulous food and views.

FEATURE TREES

Bottlebrush
Moreton Bay fig
(*Ficus macrophylla*)
Lilly pilly (*Syzygium*)