

My Home

'As an architect, I had a burning desire to design and build our own home,' admits Randal Ashford, Director of Ashford Group. 'It's ironic that it's taken the same amount of time to design and obtain approvals as it has to physically build our dream family home. We still had our business, day jobs, and fixed budgets, so every element was taken into consideration. Doing much of the work ourselves helped.'

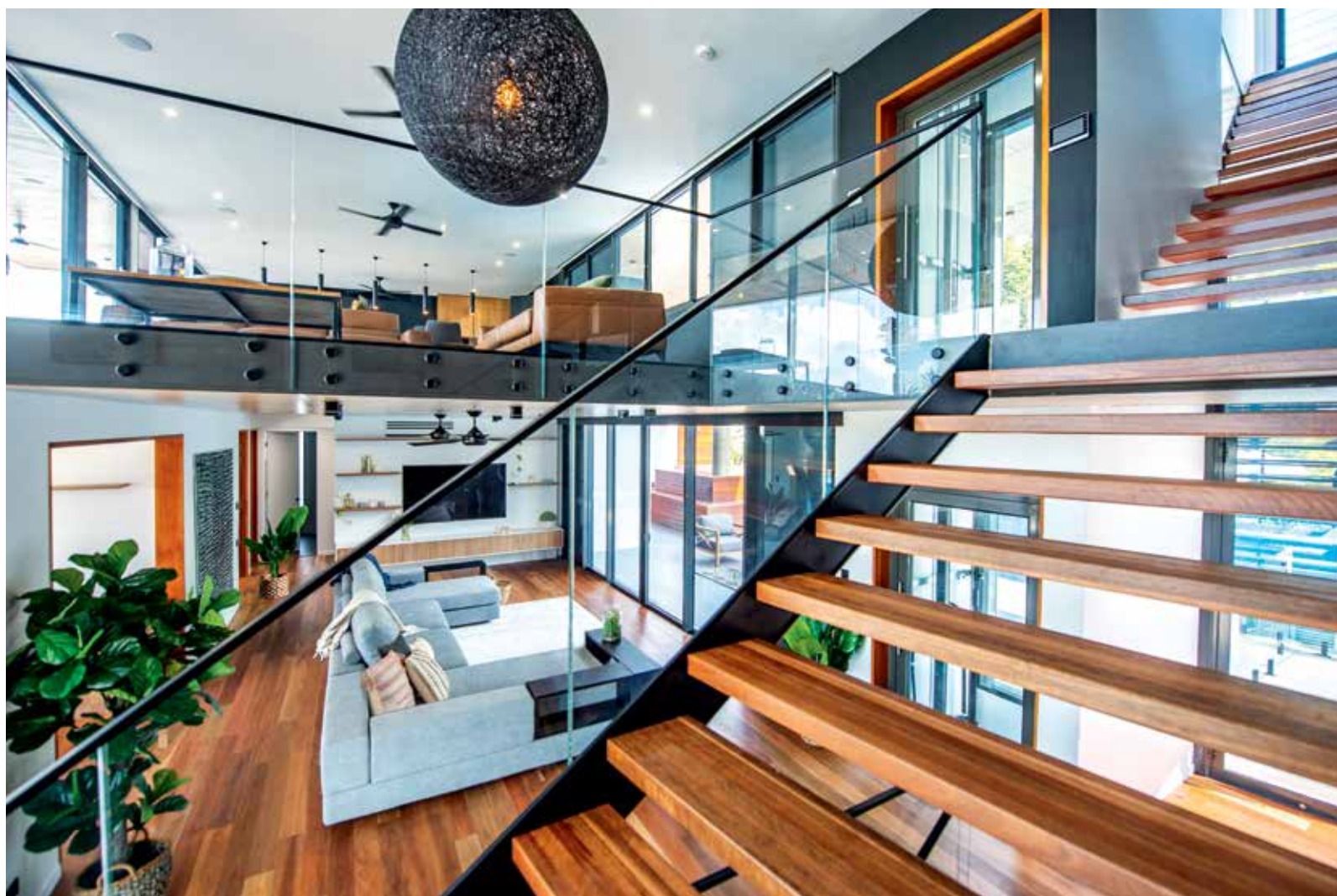
PHOTOGRAPHY **MARK AND TIM**
WORDS **NANNETTE HOLLIDAY**
STYLIST **JO MOO**
STYLIST ASSISTANT **LEANNE SCOTT-TOMS**
MAKE UP **BEC BROWN**
HAIR **ALYCIA SOARES**

Stingray dress from Raw Cloth, fabric from Babbarra Women's Centre Maningrida. Jewellery, stilettoes and men's shoes from Stomp Shoes. Emporio Armani watch from Hoskings Jewellers, shirt and jeans from Country Road, cushions from Adairs, Casuarina Square.





A JOSHUA BONSON PAINTING FROM KAREN BROWN FINE ART COMMANDS ATTENTION ON LEVEL ONE COMPLEMENTING THE GREY MODULAR SOFA FROM KING FURNITURE.



Stingray dress from Raw Cloth, fabric from Babbarra Women's Centre Maningrida. Jewellery, stilettos and scented candles from Stomp Shoes. Emporio Armani watch from Hoskings Jewellers, shirt and jeans from Country Road, cushions, potted Bird of Paradise, plant basket from Adairs, Casuarina Square.



THE GRAND ENTRANCE IS AN ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE DESIGNED FOR MAXIMUM WOW FACTOR.



As the owner of award-winning Darwin architectural and construction firm, Ashford Group Architects, Randal managed all the construction elements himself. Both he and Olivia spent most weekends during the last 18 months preparing each stage correctly, plus on-site cleaning. 'With multiple levels and the staggered site it was like building four individual houses,' he explains. 'It was hard work and many long hours, but it was worth every ounce of effort, we're stoked at the outcome, and to get our weekends back!' During the build, Olivia and Randal also married and enjoyed a honeymoon. 'Plus I still had the business and other clients to look after, so I had to prioritise, and the house often came last,' he explains. 'But now we can begin enjoying the space.' The home sits majestically against the cliff-face in Frances Park. Every single room in the four-level, five-bedroom, three-bathroom home has views south of the city skyline, with the top two levels also having north views over the Duke Street parklands. The various balconies have 180-degree views. Even the master bathroom enjoys 180-degree views from the stone bathtub. The homes north/south orientation also means they enjoy no direct sun and there is always a breeze year round. 'Being only one room deep it allows us to alternate which louvres, windows or doors are open to capture the best breezes,' adds Randal. =>

Bed linen, cushions, linen throw, potted Birds of Paradise, baskets and terrarium from Adairs Casuarina Square. Glasshouse candles from Stomp Shoes. Artwork by Nancy McDinny from Karen Brown Fine Art.



THE MASTER BEDROOM IS DRENCHED IN SOFT MORNING LIGHT - A PERFECT WAY TO START A FRESH NEW DAY.

'All the walls are insulated with additional small openings on the east/west walls.' The south-facing frontage is encased in floor-to-ceiling glass, allowing sufficient natural internal light penetration and continuity from the exterior to interior spaces with unobstructed views over the street to the city and Darwin Harbour. 'We've focused on maximising the city and harbour views with multiple living and entertaining areas staggered over the four levels,' Randal continues. The triple height light-filled entry void located by the internal stairwell and vertical garden wall amplifies and accentuates the ceiling heights, merging the tropical and contemporary architectural design. Under the stairs on the ground level is a glass-encased climate-controlled wine room. If you're not keen on getting your daily exercise by taking the polished Spotted Gum timber stairs to any of the four levels, there's also a two-way opening glass lift beside them that comfortably accommodates up to six people. The natural material selection of timber, glass, raw concrete and steel is embodied throughout to produce a state-of-the-art example of luxury residential architecture in the tropics. The multiple levels allow for generous living and habitable areas while still maintaining a comparatively small ground footprint. The Ashford residence pushes the boundaries of modern architectural design and theories while simultaneously allowing natural elements to be showcased in a modern, innovative way, such as the exposed rock walls of the cliff face on the ground level and green planter boxes on every level. The bold, clean design of the façade creates a folded effect clearly defining Randal's modern vision while creating a difference from the majority of residential developments currently seen in Darwin. There are also two entrances. Guests walk through a large timber arch or gateway to access the main ground level entrance. The other access, off the park in Duke Street, opens to the pool and outdoor entertainment area. Large glass sliding doors open the entire second level to this area. ⇨



T shirt, shirt and pants from Just Jeans, bed linen, throw, cushions, potted Bird of Paradise, Fiddle Fig, baskets and terrarium from Adairs, Casuarina Square. Glasshouse candles from Stomp Shoes. Stewart Hoosan illustration and Joshua Bonson painting from Karen Brown Fine Art.

RESIDENT BEAUTIFUL HOMES

'The home office is one of my favourite spots,' smiles Randal. 'The city views over the floating garden beds are breathtaking. The planter boxes soften the hard architecture with greenery and allow for herbs and fruit trees to be grown. Plus add a cozy homely feel. We didn't want the clinical all white architectural house you see in magazines.' The ground level features polished concrete floors, with timber floors elsewhere. Natural stone finishes and massive three metres by one metre white and stone charcoal tiles cover walls and floors in the wet areas. 'Olivia not only got her hands dirty during the build but also assisted in choosing the materials, colours, kitchen and butler's pantry functionality and more. She's been great,' he adds. 'I also insisted on lots of

storage,' she adds. 'I hate seeing clutter.' 'Another major criteria was low maintenance,' Randal continues. 'In Portugal, they still use externally tiled walls for cladding which last hundreds of years, don't age and reflect heat. So we added these as well to create an exterior cladding that never needs painting and will always look new.' The home has multiple environmental initiatives and smart activation. Level three has a green roof that's self-irrigated and drained, protecting the level below. The top-level roof is covered in solar panels that are already producing savings for them. Low E-glass and 40mm insulation with 10mm plasterboard assist in keeping the house cool too. If needed, the efficient ducted air-conditioning system can be sectioned off. ⇨



THE LARGE OPEN AIR MASTER BEDROOM ENSUITE PERSONIFIES TROPICAL LUXURY AND STYLE.



Shirt and pants from Just Jeans. Potted Bird of Paradise, baskets from Adairs, Casuarina Square. Outdoor seat and cushions from Z Furniture.



Bed linen, throw, cushions, potted Bird of Paradise, Fiddle Fig, baskets and terrarium from Adairs, Casuarina Square, Glasshouse candles from Stomp Shoes, Stewart Hoosan illustration and Joshua Bonson painting from Karen Brown Fine Art. Outdoor seat and cushions from Z Furniture.



RESIDENT BEAUTIFUL HOMES

THE NATURAL MATERIAL SELECTION OF TIMBER, GLASS, RAW CONCRETE AND STEEL IS EMBODIED THROUGHOUT TO PRODUCE A STATE-OF-THE-ART EXAMPLE OF LUXURY RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE TROPICS.



Jumpsuit from Cue, pants and polo top from Country Road, Emporio Armani watch from Hoskings Jewellers, Casuarina Square. Stilettos and men's shoes from Stomp Shoes. Paspaley Monsoon Tsavorite chandelier earrings and Strand bracelet.



Cushions, potted Bird of Paradise, plant basket and terrarium from Adairs, Casuarina Square. Joshua Bonson artwork from Karen Brown Fine Art.

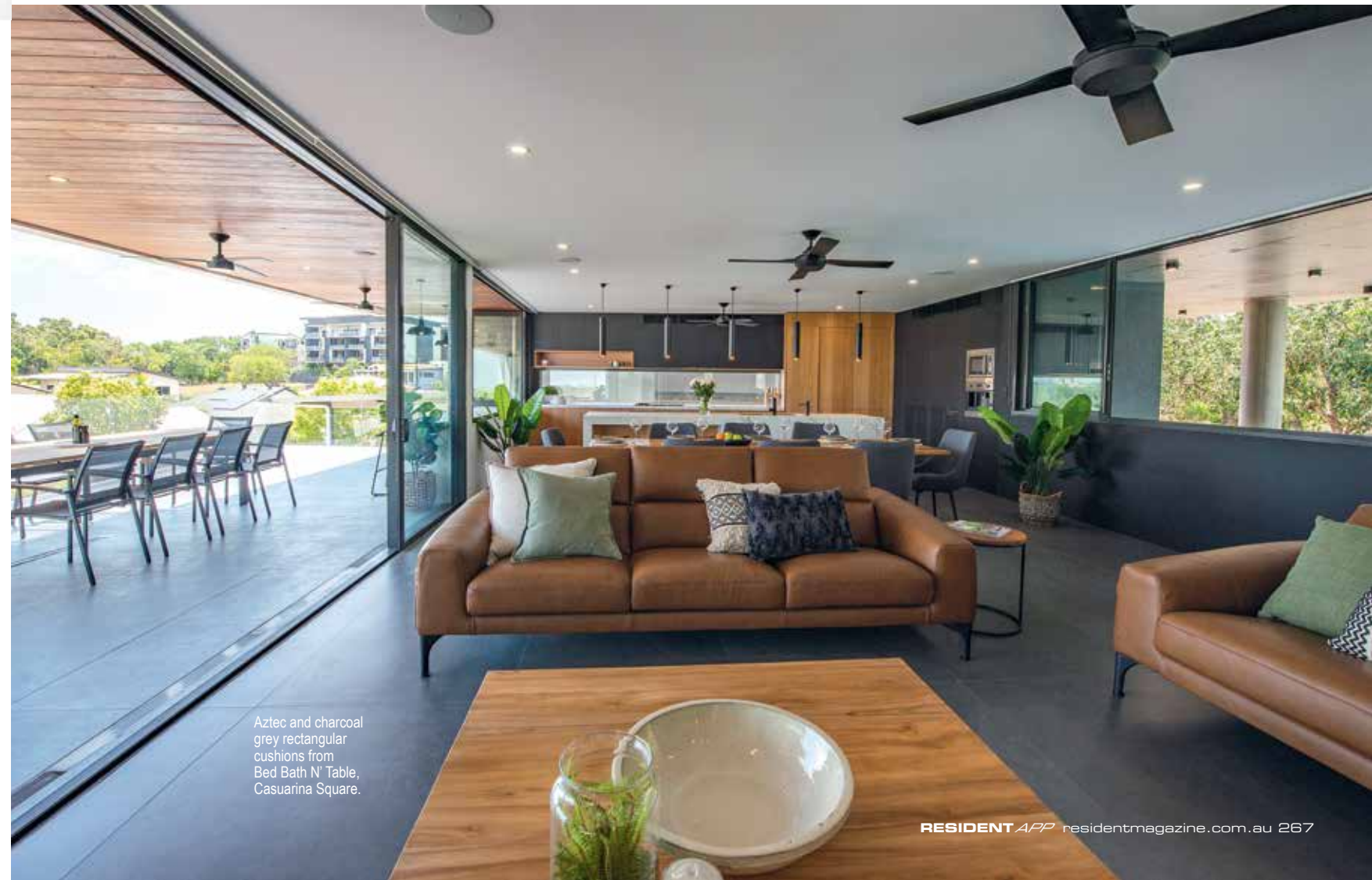




Opposite Page: Shirt, shorts and tank from Country Road, Daniel Wellington watch from Hoskings Jewellers, Casuarina Square. Skirt from Raw Cloth. Men's shoes from Stomp Shoes. Paspaley Monsoon Cicada pendant and chain.



THE KITCHEN WAS DESIGNED WITH NATURAL TIMBER AND DEKTON AURA 15 BENCH TOPS EXCLUSIVE TO 4KITCHENS. DRAMATIC CHARCOAL TONE CUPBOARDS COMPLEMENT THE GREY FLOOR TILES FROM CERBIS CERAMICS.



Aztec and charcoal grey rectangular cushions from Bed Bath N' Table, Casuarina Square.



THE SLEEK LINES OF THE HOME ARE PERFECTLY ALIGNED WITH THE NEW **BMW X4 AND BMW X2.**

Skirt and top from Cue, Casuarina Square. Jewellery and stilettos from Stomp Shoes. Furla sunglasses from Helen Summers Optometrist.

RESIDENT BEAUTIFUL HOMES

THE MAGNIFICENT GEOMETRIC DESIGN OF THE HOME MAKES A GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION.

Polo top and shorts from Country Road, Emporio Armani watch from Hoskings Jewellers, Casuarina Square. Sandals from Stomp Shoes. Ray-ban Sunglasses from Helen Summers Optometrist.





THE HOME SHINES AS THE SUN SETS, OFFERING MULTIPLE ENTERTAINING AREAS FOR GUESTS TO ENJOY. COCKTAILS ON **LEVEL FOUR**, CANAPÉS BY THE POOL ON **LEVEL TWO** OR MAYBE DINNER ON **LEVEL THREE**.



Dress from Cue, Fiddle Fig and basket from Adairs, Casuarina Square. Stilettos from Stomp Shoes. Kailis earrings, Pure ring, Shackles bracelet and necklace from Creative Jewellers.



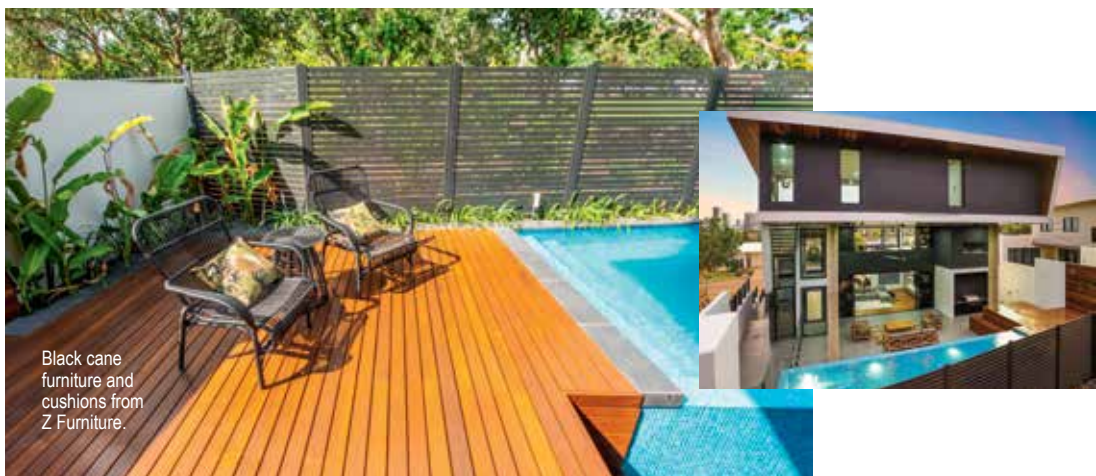
Dress from Sarina Cowcher 'Sirens/ Midnight Oceans' 2018 Collection, The Big Day. Jewellery from Stomp Shoes.



Always the gracious host, Olivia wears Alias Mae wrap block heels \$199.95, earrings and ring from Stomp Shoes. Top and skirt from Raw Cloth. Ostrich skin cuff from Creative Jewellers. Painting by Joshua Bonson from Karen Brown Fine Art.

'During the design period we spent hours considering every element before the build including hiding electrical risers and other services internally,' he continues. 'It all began with a vision board where we both collected images of ideal spaces, styles, design ideas and finishes we wanted. I knew what I wanted design-wise but still compromised on colours, styling and finishes with Olivia, including the recessed ceiling mounted TV in the living area.' Randal and Olivia's home is smart controlled, and Bluetooth activated. The smartphone set-up controls all the air conditioning, lighting, cameras, intercom, internet and the vertical aluminium blinds, window blinds and louvres. The blinds can be lowered or raised at set times, and the aluminium ones can be set to rotate when required. The louvres automatically close if it's too windy or raining. Sonos provides a sound system throughout the home, even the bathrooms. 'We're thrilled with the results,' they both smile. 'It feels like a permanent holiday living here overlooking a metropolis, compared to our viewless apartment. We wanted to create a home that made every day feel like paradise. Now we keep pinching ourselves to know that it's real.'

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Black cane furniture and cushions from Z Furniture.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ANNE OLIVER



T shirt and shorts from Just Jeans, Emporio Armani watch from Hoskings Jewellers, dress from Dotti, cushions from Bed Bath N' Table, Casuarina Square. Jewellery, stilettos and men's shoes from Stomp Shoes.



Guests of Randal and Olivia enjoy the catering from Pony + Sid.