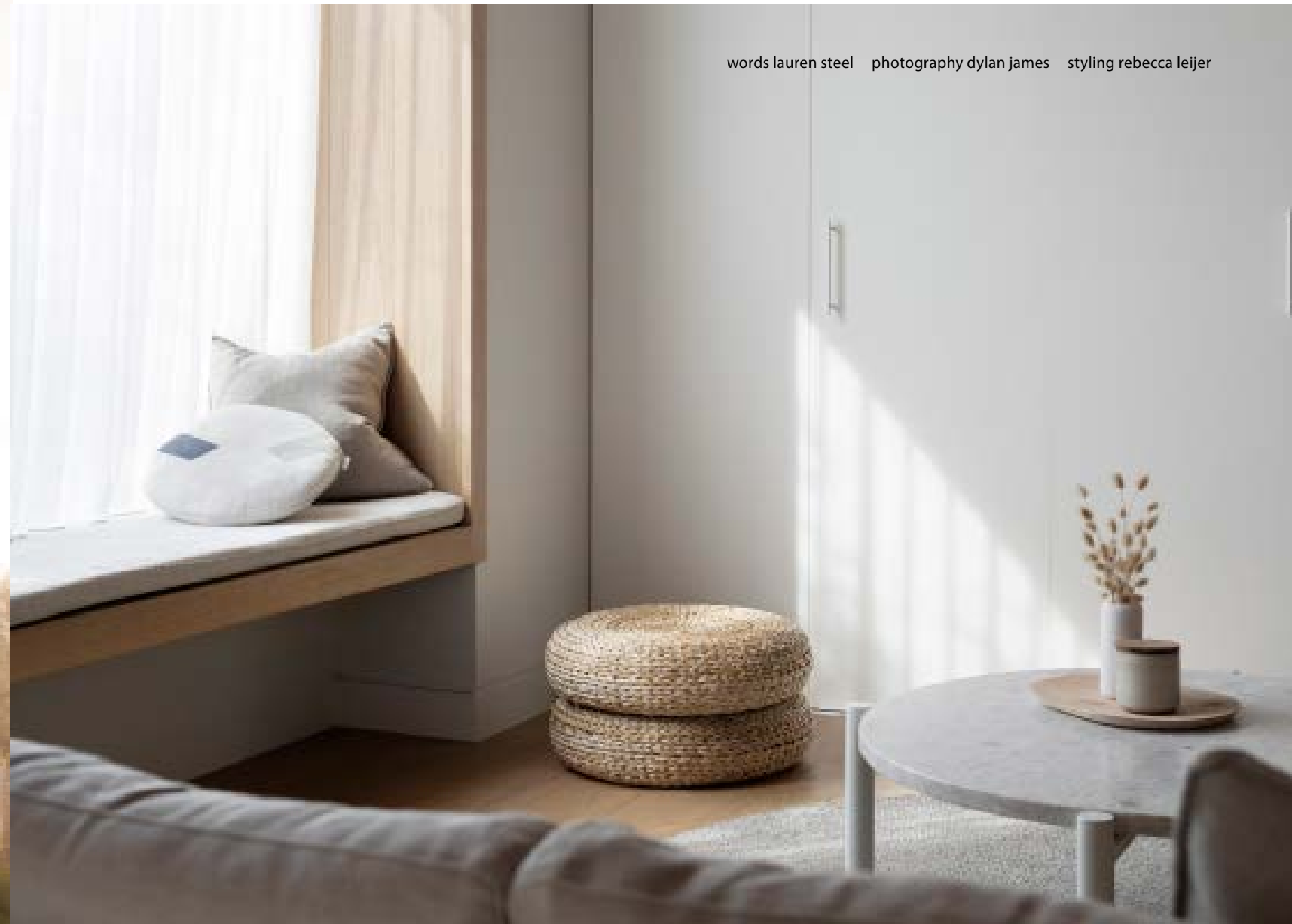


# the simple life

The perfect plot on Victoria's Great Ocean Road inspired a husband-and-wife design duo to create the ultimate family beach home



words lauren steel photography dylan james styling rebecca leijer

Cosy corner "The whole family loves this little nook [in the living area]," says homeowner Rebecca Leijer. There are numerous places to relax, from the bench seat upholstered in Warwick Fabrics 'Haven' linen, to the Ikea floor cushions and Armadillo&Co rug. A marble coffee table by Sarah Ellison Studio is a luxe touch. Global influence The home's architecture takes its cues from Scandinavian design and coastal homes in New Zealand. Eco-friendly engineered pine from Accoya features in the cladding (opposite) and decking, and cleverly conceals the downpipes, while the roof and capping is Colorbond 'Basalt'. Havit 'Tivah' up and down wall lights illuminate the area at night. A



### who lives here?

Interior stylist Rebecca Leijer, her husband Damien, a construction manager, and their two daughters, Millie, 7, and Elle, 4.  
Leyer.com.au | @leyer\_td A

IT TAKES IMAGINATION to envisage an old fibro shack as a Scandi-style beach house. Interior stylist Rebecca Leijer and her construction manager husband Damien, co-owners of design studio Leyer, not only imagined it, they made it a reality. The duo purchased the property in Torquay, a seaside town on Victoria's Great Ocean Road, in July 2015, and immediately began planning the build of a contemporary beach home for them and their two daughters, Millie and Elle.

**LOW-KEY VIBES** Inspired by the simplicity of Scandinavian architecture and minimalist beach houses in New Zealand, the contemporary home has a pitched roof and a collection of understated doors and windows, with the interior equally unassuming. "The palette is based on pale timbers, soft peachy tones and warm whites, referencing the colours of the coastline," Rebecca says. "In my opinion, a muted colour palette is timeless and contributes to an overall feeling of calm."

**INNER PEACE** In each room, a hero piece has been teamed with natural fabrics and textured furnishings for warmth. And while the whole home is a delight to the senses, it's the kitchen – featuring a terracotta-tiled splashback, leather handles and pulls and aged-brass tapware – that really stops people in their tracks. "The splashback is my favourite element in the house," says Rebecca. "It's the main focus of our living area and receives the most compliments from our guests."

**SWEET SURROUNDINGS** It's the neighbourhood's tranquil leafy surrounds and close-knit community that really turn this house into a home. "Living here feels a bit nostalgic," Rebecca says. "It's very neighbourly and many of the properties in our street – including ours – have a front living area. It's where the neighbours often pop past for a drink and a chat in the afternoon, while the kids run between houses on the nature strip." Now that's Australian coastal living at its best. R

Surface paradise Terracotta splashback tiles from Onsite Supply & Design are an eye-catching feature in the open-plan kitchen/dining/living space. The surrounding polyurethane joinery is finished in Haymes Organic 1. Australian oak flooring, a pair of IE Francis leather pendant lights from Barnaby Lane and low-back Sketch Tami bar stools all fit the simple-and-serene brief.



### 3 ways to dial up the warmth in a minimalist home

# 1

Opt for textured materials – think leather, linen, wool, timber and stone. Keep styles simple so as not to detract from the overall design.

# 2

Bring an inviting softness to a minimal interior with warm-toned timber, paint colours, surfaces, tapware and soft furnishings.

# 3

Introduce touches of metal in gold, copper or brass. Tapware, door hardware and accent pieces such as vases, trays or lamps are ideal. A

Handle with care A Stacked door handle from MadeMeasure transforms a simple front door into a show-stopper. Potted succulents are dotted around the house. Fine dining Leather and timber dining chairs from GlobeWest are beautiful and robust enough for family living. The dining table, made from Victorian ash, is a custom piece by Leyer. A trio of Potter Halo pendant lights from Anchor Ceramics functions as jewellery for the room. Hold on Leather pulls and handles from MadeMeasure are a clean and elegant choice in the kitchen (opposite), while the aged-brass mixer tap from Sussex Taps delivers a subtle metallic touch. The island bench is made from Victorian Ash.





Open house The home is surrounded by expanses of lawn for the children to play on. "We regularly sit out the front and socialise with our amazing neighbours," says Rebecca. It's all wood With Damien a carpenter by trade, timber was always going to feature strongly. A

Fit for princesses Castello bunk beds from Plyroom tie in with overall Scandi aesthetic. The wall light is also from Plyroom, while the bedlinen is from Society of Wanderers and the rug is Armadillo&Co. Soak it in The main bathroom is designed for relaxation and rejuvenation, with the Kado 'Lussi' bath the hero. A blush-toned concrete basin from Nood Co matches perfectly with the Victorian ash vanity. Tiles were sourced from Elegance Tiles (floor) and Artedomus (on splashback), with a mirror from Heartly Design Studio echoing the curves of the basin. Front and centre A generous picture window creates an 'outdoors-in' feel (opposite), while a soaring gum stands sentry at its side. A

“It was important for us to create a home that feels relaxed and unpretentious but still interesting, with considered materials and layers of detail”





style tip Add personality to an otherwise neutral interior with a pop of your favourite colour or a fun fabric

Rest easy Plywood furniture from Plyroom is simple and elegant for the master bedroom. The Dr Spinner pendant light is from Dowel Jones and the bedlinen is from In Bed.



shop it! Achieve simple serenity with soft lines and muted tones

SCORE!

still-life styling ann do \*conversion correct at time of print

- 1 Vintage linen throw in Marshmallow, \$189, Aura Home. 2 Leather pendant light in Natural, \$449, Lighting Collective. 3 Roman ivory rug (1.6cm x 2.3m), \$1161, Tribe Home. 4 Ferm Living toilet paper hanger in Brass, \$47\*, End Clothing. 5 Bowl basin in Blush Pink, \$720, Nood Co. 6 Rotsund mirror, \$99, Ikea. 7 Castello bunk bed, \$2450, Plyroom. 8 Ambit pendant light in Green, \$295 for small, Lightly. 9 Buddy bar stool in White Oak, \$749, Blu Dot. 10 Dawn marble coffee table, \$895, Life Interiors. 11 Poke vases, \$58 for 3, Zakkia. 12 Flat leather dining chair, \$550, Fenton&Fenton. 13 Leather strapping dining chair, \$550, Fenton&Fenton. 14 Pebble bowl in Steel, \$147 for large, Mud Australia. 15 City Stik kitchen mixer in Weathered Brass Organic, \$1163, Brodware. 16 Leather 01 handle in Slate, \$22, MadeMeasure. 17 Spanish villa pea cushion in Pink Velvet, \$89, Kip&Co. 18 Ticking stripe quilt cover in Ecru, \$165 for single, Toast.



Colours and finishes  
 FROM LEFT Plantino engineered oak royale flooring, \$81.40 per sq m, Choices Flooring. Saltillo tiles in MT75, \$191.95 per sq m, Tiles of Ezra. Planked urban oak laminate cabinetry in Natural, \$107.86 per sq m, Laminex. Blanco Matt Finger Village tiles, \$90 per sq m, The Tile Mob.