



FACT FILE

THE BRIEF

Build a timeless family home that maximises space and makes the most of natural light and coastal breezes.

THE OWNERS

Jon and Victoria Hayman

THE ARCHITECT

Michael Sandberg,
Sandberg Schöffel
Architects



Something for everyone

Designed to accommodate the needs of each family member, this light-filled dwelling has separate living spaces and two courtyards.

When Jon and Victoria Hayman decided they needed a bigger home for their growing family, they enlisted the help of architect Michael Sandberg. At first they discussed the idea of renovating their Manly cottage. Then they decided that knocking it down and starting again was the best option.

"Our brief to Michael was based more around how we live rather than dictating what we wanted where," Victoria says.

"So we described to him what our lifestyle is like. At the time, we only had three children but a fourth was on the horizon. Also, we entertain a lot – it's not uncommon to have four families plus us here for a barbecue or brunch."

The Haymans have eight-year-old twins William and Claudia, as well as Lachlan, 3, and Timothy, 1, so creating a functional floorplan that gave everyone enough space but allowed Jon and Victoria to keep an eye on the children was important.

"I'm a very logical, practical person and I think the house works well," Victoria says.

"Having the laundry off the kitchen with the drying courtyard, means I can be making school lunches and putting the washing on, with all the children still around. As a working mother, it's bliss to be able to multi-task so the way the spaces interact with each other is terrific."

Northern benefits

The two-storey house has four bedrooms upstairs, as well as a sitting room that can be converted into a fifth bedroom down the track. Downstairs are the living area and kitchen and two central courtyards. One courtyard can be accessed through the garage, where the children can wash off when they come back from the beach.

"We knew the block had potential when we bought it, because the rear faces north," Victoria says.

"Michael's done an awesome job of bringing natural light in. One of the other features we were interested in exploring was to make it as environmentally friendly as we could, so we weren't very keen to put

anything in it. We've lived here for two summers now and everything just opens up so we can get cross-breezes."

The home has a simple colour palette of white and grey, timber floors and ceilings and splashes of brightly coloured tiles used in the bathrooms, kitchen and courtyard.

"I didn't want a feel that was going to go out of fashion and I think Michael's done a great job of choosing colours," Victoria says.

"He's stretched me a lot more than I would have with some colours in the bathroom. But I think it's fantastic. It's a nice feature, while it maintains a fairly timeless appeal."

Another injection of colour and a focal point in the lounge room is the collection of brightly coloured glass pieces by Benjamin Edols and Kathy Elliot, glass artists and friends of the Haymans.

"I loved the idea of not having art on the wall but having some sculptural elements in the house so Michael effectively designed that piece in the corner specifically for their artwork," Victoria says.

"We laugh, because I guess we've got this

art to them and they come over all the time but it's really wonderful to have that attachment to a piece of work."

Michael Sandberg, from Sandberg Schöffel Architects, says he kept the form of the house quite simple to allow elements such as the glass pieces to stand out.

"I like to make the house more of a sculptural background, to allow the owners to put their own character into it with the furnishings and bits and pieces," he says.

Separate spaces

Maximising space and minimising circulation areas such as corridors was an important part of the design. Michael created usable living spaces that flow on to one another.

"In any family home, I like to have two separate living spaces so you can have two things happening in the house at once," he says.

"The idea was to have the major living space at the rear facing north so we could have the kitchen and main living spaces accessible to the backyard."



A Owners Jon and Victoria Hayman **B** The dining and kitchen area **C** Overhang from the timber cladding on the top floor shades the living areas **D** A glass-walled courtyard brings light into the inside of the house **E** Feature tiles in the kitchen add interest **F** Architect Michael Sandberg **G** The front of the house **H** Overhead lane throughout the house **I** Glass sculpture artwork **J** Bathroom tiles add an injection of colour

first floor



second floor



The glass-walled courtyard helps bring light into the middle of the house.

In summer, shade is provided by the timber cladding of the top floor, which is extended to create overhang.

"It's got a long rectangular tube with grey timber cladding all around and that's extended to both the north and south end so it becomes quite a strong element in the streetscape but it also provides shade and weather protection," Michael says.

Victoria says the building process, which took 13 months, went smoothly.

"Jon and I were very keen to make sure we didn't have any major issues once building had started," she says.

"Jon has a great eye for detail. I really appreciate that because I'm not perfect," Alice Wainly.

MORE INFORMATION
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VICTORIA'S ADVICE

• If you're going to go down the architectural route, work closely beforehand with your architect so you're really comfortable with the plans. There were some rooms that we actually peeped out with ropes and Michael did furniture lay-outs and that kind of thing.

• Think about your practical needs. The drying courtyard, the shoe room and laundry chute are the things we thought through.

• We had bookcases built when the joinery was being done rather than afterwards, which would cost a lot more.



• Find the right architect and the right builder. We were fortunate to find Michael. I just searched for local architects on the internet. I saw his work and thought, 'There is synergy there.'



Photos: Josh Petersen