



The appeal of a blank canvas to build their family home was too good for property developers Brea Watts and Mark Godek to pass up. After keeping a keen eye on the Mornington Peninsula market, a vacant block of land had caught their eye. “We are always keeping an eye on real estate and adore the region,” says Brea. “Mount Martha, in particular, has a special coastal-country feel about it. The beaches are stunning, and it has a small village of shops with everything you need. You always have that holiday feeling here. So, when this block came to our attention, it ticked all our boxes: walk to the beach and shops, as well as privacy when we’re home. We knew it was a winner!”

Situated in an idyllic location where rugged bushland meets glistening coastline, the vacant site was actually an extension of a neighbour’s garden before it came on the market. For their new build by Rod Hannah Design, Brea and Mark had one particular goal: to connect every room with the garden. To achieve this, both interior design firm Kate Walker Design (KWD) and landscape architect Colin Hyett Design worked together to ensure every aspect of the interior offered sightlines to the exterior. “The challenge was to ensure the space created as much accommodation as possible, while maintaining the focus on the landscape, which is so important for a Palm Springs aesthetic. Colin Hyett perfectly married the exterior with the interior,” says Kate Walker.

One undeniable feature of the garden is the 2.5-metre palm tree, craned into place and kept steady by the ‘avocado’ – a hole in the roof. “The idea came to life during the design process; we knew it fitted with the Palm Springs theme, but wanted a modern twist. Which is when we thought, why not bring it through the roof?,” explains Brea. “It was a huge day on site with the large trucks and towering cranes. This effort from Magnus Constructions definitely took a village, but wow, she’s spectacular and a highlight for the property. And the Kimpton Palm Tree, as we call it, is now a landmark in Mount Martha!”

At the heart of the home’s interior is the entertainer’s kitchen, complete with a 2.8-metre island bench that almost glides into



LIVING AREA (above) The ceiling height is 3.8 metres and the wall colour is a lighter version of the exterior white. Ligne Roset ‘Ploum’ high-back settee and De Sede DS-266 leather recliner chair, both Domo. CJ Anderson ‘Big Friendly Single’ armchair, Dowel Jones. Pebble coffee table, Made Studio. Cloud and Hex side tables, Criteria Collection. Khotan rug, Cadrys. Artwork on wall by Thierry B. Sculptural objects from House Of Orange, The Front Room Gallery, Tantri Mustika Ceramics, Pépite and Veronica George Gallery.

ENTRY FOYER (opposite) Looking straight through the house to the all-important pool and social hub. Internally, the skirting and flooring is Ghosted terrazzo, through KWD & Co. The side table to the left of the grass is by Dowel Jones. Niki dishd timber pull on front door, Designer Doorware.

