

# BLUE CRUSH

INSPIRED BY A BEACH HOUSE IN A MOVIE, THIS GREG NATALE-DESIGNED FAMILY HOME BRINGS THE SPIRIT OF CAPE COD STYLE TO AUSTRALIA

Story JANE PARBURY Styling GREG NATALE Photography ANSON SMART



**TAKE TWO** After spotting interior designer Greg Natale's work in a magazine, the family who holiday at this NSW Central Coast abode tasked him with a new design. The scene is set from the entry (above), with 'Corsica' cement floor tiles by Greg Natale for Teranova. The French doors in Porter's Paints Lyre Bird are lit by a Roger Pradier 'Citadelle' pendant from Special Lights. In the lobby (opposite), 'Oval Ring Torch' chandeliers from Circa Lighting (now Visual Comfort & Co) illuminate a custom plaid rug from Designer Rugs, which warms the Eco Outdoor 'Chalford' stone pavers. Alfresco Emporium vessels and a brass beverage holder from Restoration Hardware (now RH Gallery) decorate the Elm Cross table from The Country Trader. >



ARTWORK 'DEEP' BY SCOTT PETRIE





ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



It's fair to say that the house in the Nancy Meyers film *Something's Gotta Give* has inspired the interiors of many homes, but possibly none quite as beautifully interpreted or as stylish as this stunning family getaway on the NSW Central Coast. With interiors created by Greg Natale Design, it is a clever blend of coast and country, ideal for its location in bushland, yet not too far from the beach. "The clients came with a really clear idea and concept," recalls Greg. "They wanted the house from *Something's Gotta Give*, they wanted that Cape Cod-style home, and that style is traditional with a coastal layer on it."

The two-storey new build boasts five bedrooms and generous living spaces that can accommodate the family of four with ease, including a magnificent living and dining room with soaring, open ceilings and wide barn doors that lead through to the gorgeous blue and white kitchen. "The panelling, the barn doors, the big beams – that's where that country style comes in," says Greg. "And then the blue and the plaid, and that really bright cobalt – that's the coastal element."

There are design surprises around every corner in this beautifully considered home, such as the billiards room with its deep grey panelling and sophisticated, clubby feel. Or the custom rugs that bring cosiness and glowing colour to the floors; the dramatic, sculptural light fixtures that highlight

the tall ceilings; and the fascinating mix of vintage and modern furniture. Dazzling wallpapers feature on both walls and ceilings. "This whole home is very layered, and it was just adding another layer," explains Greg of this striking feature. "I always like doing interesting things on ceilings."

The clients' wish list featured dark timber floorboards, which ground the rich patterns and colours splashed throughout the interiors, including the vivid blue Shaker-style cabinetry in the kitchen that is offset by patterned wall tiles, for a space full of personality. "We wanted to do something a bit cool and different," says Greg of the kitchen. Banquette seating delivers a casual dining zone, separated from the adjoining kitchen island by a reeded glass upstand that serves as part splashback, part room divider. "We wanted to put a banquette seat into the kitchen, and that's all the space we really had, so the space dictated that," he explains of the clever and stylish solution. "That's one of the areas that the clients use the most – more than the dining room!"

The whole house feels lived in: a family's holiday home rather than a film set; a place with legacy and longevity rather than a new build. It is full of interest and character, and the clients are delighted with their coastal sanctuary. "They really love it," shares Greg. "They spend a lot of time there. In fact, they loved it so much they got me to do their city home!"

**MAIN BEDROOM** The window seat in the main bedroom suite (above) is a haven of soothing ocean blues, topped with a blind by Design Curtains in Chivasso 'Pacific Cruiser' from Unique Fabrics. The cushions are covered in Schumacher 'Lange' and 'Campagne', with trimmings from Unique Fabrics and South Pacific Fabrics. **STAIRS** A cane Hollywood Regency bench seat from 1st Dibs, stocked with cushions in fabrics from Lee Jofa and Jane Churchill, stands at the foot of the grand staircase (opposite). The Hickory Chair 'Serena' side table in Benjamin Moore Blue picks up the tones of the custom plaid stair runner from Designer Rugs. The Christopher Guy 'Coubertin' mirror on the staircase wall is from Laura Kincade, while the umbrella stand was an Amara find. >





“THAT PATTERN  
*on pattern* IS REALLY  
MY DNA” GREG

**KITCHEN** Made by Ginardi, the kitchen (opposite) features crown-cut white American oak joinery with a lacquer finish in Porter's Paints Dark Denim. The Academy Tiles splashback adds a playful punch, as does the custom rangehood. Sun Valley Bronze cabinet pulls are a sleek touch. **SUNROOM** In one of the homeowner's favourite spaces (above, top left), a 'Modern Metropolis' sofa and 'Cape Lodge' wicker chairs, both Ralph Lauren Home, form the perfect place to curl up with a cup of tea. The 19th-century steamer trunk coffee table was a Restoration Hardware find. **CASUAL DINING** Crafted from Edelman Leather, the banquette (right) is separated from the kitchen by an upstand from Glo Rite Glass. 'Fouquet' Maison Louis Drucker bistro chairs surround the antique dining table from Restoration Hardware. >







**LIVING/DINING AREA** The open-plan living and dining zone (below & opposite) is a light-filled space thanks to the tall, open ceilings and walls painted in Dulux Lexicon Quarter. Full of coastal charm, rattan features here too, in the form of Ralph Lauren Home 'Hudson River Valley' wicker lounge chairs, and 'Jamaica' dining chairs set around a 17th-century French-style refectory table from The Country Trader. Oversized Ralph Lauren Home 'Roark' oak chandeliers (try The Montauk Lighting Co) highlight the soaring ceilings, which are further accented by beautiful metalwork on the beams. The bookshelves are illuminated by symmetrical clusters of the 'Gallery Picture Light Sconce' from Restoration Hardware. >

“THAT’S HOW I DEFINE CAPE  
COD – *traditional* STYLE WITH  
*A coastal layer* OVER IT” GREG



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**LIVING/DINING AREA** The centrepiece in the magnificent open-plan living and dining area is a Simplicity by Real Flame fire, which was given a surround in dramatic dark stone from RMS Marble. Two 'Belgian Classic' slope arm sofas from Restoration Hardware feature practical slipcovers, which tone with the Schumacher 'Dita Windowpane Sheers' supplied by Design Curtains. The panelled walls and ceiling strike a fresh coastal note, while the sliding barn door harmonises with a subtle country-style tune. Drenched in sunlight and with picture-perfect views of the alfresco space beyond, it's no surprise this vast room is one of Greg's favourite spaces. >







**MAIN BEDROOM** In the main suite (top left & opposite), Select Grade American Oak floorboards in 'Matt Black' from Danias Timber are softened by a muted 'Arte' rug in Grey Ocean from Restoration Hardware. Pattern features strongly in this space, with walls in 'Seaward Weave' wallpaper in Atlantic by Ralph Lauren Home and, interestingly, Folie 'Parterre' wallpaper by Cole & Son on the ceiling. Above the Cote D'Azur bed and side tables, all Ralph Lauren Home, hangs *Trust*, a Scott Petrie triptych, the tones of which are picked up beautifully in the Schumacher fabric cushions from Orient House. Twin Italian leather X-Base stools in Molasses, with a striking Clay Bead Empire chandelier featured above, are all from Restoration Hardware. The couple's delicate vintage settee was brought into the colour scheme with new upholstery in Schumacher 'Campagne' fabric from Orient House. Above it are works by Designer Boys Art - *Thatcher Fern I, II, III and IV* in Small - all from Boyd Blue, while the artwork opposite, *Fallen Feathers 1*, is from Natural Curiosities. **BEDROOM** More blues mix in the second bedroom (top right), with 'Morgan Stripe' in Sky paper by Ralph Lauren Home on the walls and a regal Wallace bed in vintage velvet from Restoration Hardware. In the walk-in robe, the artwork is *Capitalis Blueprints 2*, from Natural Curiosities. **HALLWAY** A custom Designer Rugs plaid runner (right) guides people past Designer Boys Art from Boyd Blue: *Minnamurra*, which hangs opposite *Ginger Jar Indigo IV, V and VI*, followed by *Coral Splendour VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII*. Natural Curiosities' *Rumana Seahorse Saudi Blue* works hang at the end of the hall. >







## WE LOVE... *stylish laundries*

This bright, hardworking and user-friendly laundry houses a washer and dryer, double butler's sink, plenty of storage in the form of open shelving and cupboards, and a drying rack – but it does it in superb style, making this space the perfect blend of form and function. Carrara Hexagon floor tiles from Teranova and Amano wall tiles from Academy Tiles combine to deliver a light, practical finish.



**BATHROOM** Greg mixed up the colour palettes and finishes throughout the home's bathrooms, using different wall tiles, such as these deep blue subways (top left). "We try to do that with our bathrooms, so everything doesn't look so repetitive," he says. **LAUNDRY** Shaker-style cabinet fronts in the laundry (top right & opposite) reflect the home's Cape Cod aesthetic, with bold handles from Sun Valley Bronze. An Olde English Signature tap from Astra Walker feeds the Acquello double fireclay sink. Drying space is provided by a Crucis bronze rail from Astor Metal Finishes, while baskets from Ralph Lauren Home introduce soft texture. **ENSUITE** The fully tiled ensuite (bottom right) is grounded with 'Verona' cement floor tiles by Greg Natale for Teranova, with Amano wall tiles from Academy Tiles. The 'Maison' Tall Bath Cabinet and matching double vanity were found at Restoration Hardware and teamed with Astra Walker's traditional-style Olde English basin tapware. Above the vanity, 19th-century French layered glass mirrors bring character and interest to the space, as do the striking 'Chatham' large pendants in Bronze from Ralph Lauren Home (try The Montauk Lighting Co).





Source book

**Interior design:** Greg Natale Design, (02) 8399 2103, gregnatale.com.  
**Architect:** Brad Inwood Architects, (02) 9590 4592, biarchitects.com.au.  
**Builder:** Ginardi, (02) 8188 2250, ginardi.com.au.

**POOL** The alfresco area, grounded by Gosford Buff sandstone pavers sourced from Gosford Quarries, sweeps down from the house to the inviting pool, which is surrounded by comfortable outdoor pieces from Janus et Cie, including the ‘Relais’ chaise lounges, sofa and armchairs, and the ‘Janus’ aluminium-frame umbrellas.



INSIDE STORY

Who lives here?

A Sydney-based couple and their two adult sons use this as a holiday retreat.

What was the brief for this home?

Greg: “The clients wanted something traditional, but because it’s not far from the beach, it also had to have a coastal vibe.”

What are the owners’ favourite spaces?

“Her favourite is the little sunroom off the kitchen; his is the study [not shown]. And the banquette seat in the kitchen, that’s another area that they love.”

Which space are you most proud of?

“I like the main big room, with that big plaid rug and all the Ralph Lauren Home and vintage furniture. I really love the kitchen as well. I think it’s fun, it’s really interesting. Maybe the kitchen is my favourite!”

ARTWORKS (TOP LEFT) ‘PORTO ERCOLE’ BY SLIM AARONS  
(ABOVE) ‘FALLEN FEATHERS I’ FROM NATURAL CURIOSITIES  
(BOTTOM RIGHT) ‘CENTRAL STATION’ FROM REGENCY DISTRIBUTION

1. A Foo Dog medium table lamp from Ralph Lauren Home joins a ‘Shutter 30” nightstand from Restoration Hardware.
2. Greg Natale in the living/dining area.
3. The walls and ceiling, painted in Dulux Western Myall Wash&Wear Low Sheen, cocoon the Hainsworth billiards table.
4. In the couple’s room, a Ralph Lauren Home ‘Mayfair Tufted’ chair awaits.
5. An Eichholtz ‘Drum Thai’ side table from Regency Distribution joins wicker pieces and ‘Corsica’ floor tiles by Greg Natale for Teranova in the sunroom.
6. A marble Restoration Hardware vanity.
7. A Verellen ‘Duke’ sofa from Cavit & Co, upholstered in Ralph Lauren Home ‘Duck Walk Plaid’ in Ink in the billiards room.

