

DREAM IT. DESIGN IT. DO IT.

straight to the

Penthouse living might not be synonymous with everyday life, but this family couldn't be happier with their tailor-made home WORDS CLARE PATIENCE

STYLING MARSHA GOLEMAC PHOTOGRAPHY BROOKE HOLM

KITCHEN A beautiful interplay between the G-Lux 'Elba' marble island and splashback is enhanced by the warmth of the burnished powder-coated finish on the rangehood. "We use induction cooking, which I believe is much better and safer than gas - and brings great peace-of-mind when our toddler is weaving in and out of the kitchen," says owner Ken, pictured with wife Beverley and son Robert.

top



Who lives here: Ken Adams, builder at BuildArk Group; his wife, Beverley Beattie, who works in sales and marketing at BuildArk Group; their daughter, Natasha, 13; and sons Josh, 16 and Robert, 3.

Style of home: A streamlined New-York-loft-inspired penthouse apartment with four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a powder room and a wrap-around deck.

 The build for the apartment took 11 months and the entire complex was complete in 14 months.

 "Our budget was more than \$1.5 million. After doing so many projects, I knew budgets blow out very easily so I felt this was realistic and it turned out it was," says Ken.



OPEN-PLAN LIVING Hints of colour come through in the living area, tempering the handsome tones of the adjoining cooking zone. The stools are from Grazia & Co. The storage cabinets (left) are used to store wine glasses.



UP IN THE AIR

If you were planning your dream penthouse apartment, what's the first thing you'd do when you secured the piece of land you've always wanted to build on? Well, for Ken Adams it was to check out the view... using a drone. "I borrowed a friend's remote-controlled drone and flew the camera up to confirm my suspicion there would be a good outlook onto Port Phillip Bay," he says. An unconventional method, to be sure, but the high-tech gadget was absolutely a key part of the process to help Ken and his wife Beverley nail their design for the penthouse that would sit atop an apartment building the pair were developing for sale. "We didn't just want a house," says Ken. "We wanted to build a sanctuary - a safe and secure place for our toddler to grow up, and somewhere our teenagers could have their own spaces."

DREAM IT.

Moving from a house into an apartment with three kids wasn't going to be an easy fit. But Ken and Beverley had done their research and knew that lifestyle would dictate the layout and feel of their home. For family apartment living to work, the design had to consider all the family members and offer functional zones so they could come together easily, and also retreat into private spaces.

KEN & BEVERLEY'S WISHLIST

- + **low-maintenance living** My wife and I both work long hours, and the last thing I want to do on the weekend is mow lawns or water the garden
- + **easy entertaining** Our family and friends love coming over. Everyone knows guests always hang around the kitchen, so we have to make sure that there is a seamless flow into the living area and balcony
- + **New York appeal** We want a really elegant 'walk-in, walk-out' feel to the place

window dressing

Curains in 'Aesop' sheer fabric from Warwick Fabrics filter light. The curtains also serve as a soft backdrop to the Meizai sofa and Poltrona Frau coffee table and chair, both from Cult.



- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Entry | 9. Study/dining area |
| 2. Bathroom | 10. Living area |
| 3. Bedroom | 11. Kitchen |
| 4. Bedroom | 12. Laundry |
| 5. Bedroom | 13. Powder room |
| 6. Master bedroom | |
| 7. Walk-in robe | |
| 8. Ensuite | |



DINING AREA/STUDY A sliding screen conceals the study nook when not in use. The angular 'Mantis' ceiling lamp from Luke Furniture draws the eye into the room and adds definition to the smart V-Joint MDF cladding. The dining setting from Meizai sets the scene for family gatherings and dinner parties. **ENSUITE (opposite, left)** Echoing the finishes in the kitchen, the marble double vanity is elevated by burnished Astra Walker tapware.

PHOTOGRAPHY (MOODBOARD KITCHEN): ANSON SMART; SWYLING (MOODBOARD KITCHEN); CLAIRE DELMAR; SCULPTURE, MEIZAI, MEIZAI.COM.AU
CASSINA CENTREPIECE, CULT, CULTDESIGN.COM.AU; I REMEMBER VASE, JIITA; A BOX (OPPOSITE, LEFT) AND YA PAS LE FEU; LAC MIRROR (OPPOSITE, RIGHT); ALL TOPS BY DESIGN, TOP3.COM.AU; HAND TOWEL, KATE & KATE, KATEANDKATE.COM.AU

DESIGN IT.

With a drone's-eye-view of the coastline and an honest appraisal of their lifestyle needs, Beverley and Ken began to imagine the home of their dreams. "It's so much cheaper to do the big thinking at the planning stage, rather than changing your mind halfway through," says Ken. "And no-one wants to live with regrets from a poor design decision."

As a builder, Ken's experience was an invaluable tool in carving out the right design. His greatest lesson throughout his years of building? Don't underestimate the impact of your day-to-day living habits. "You have to ask yourself: how old are the kids? How does the family interact at night and is it any different on the weekends? All these questions go into shaping the right design," says Ken.

The challenge for the couple was finding the right fit with an interior designer who understood their exacting needs and wants. They were recommended We Are Huntly for interior design and, after one meeting, Beverley and Ken were confident their home was in good hands.

As sticklers for detail, the couple insisted the plans for the interiors were finalised three months out from the build. They agreed on a brief that offered up coastal elegance with a muted and refined palette. "They helped bridge the gap between architecture and visual arts and delivered a beautiful design we are so proud of," says Ken.

For interior designer Kylie Dorotic of We Are Huntly, the main message was to opt for a scheme that eschewed trends and delivered first-class style. "We created a layout with fixtures and finishes that are timeless," she says. "We lined the entry walls with white timber boards to balance the luxe burnished brass detailing throughout. We then repeated this texture to link various spaces in the apartment."

the woodboard



bathroom shelf

A simple floating shelf above the tub is great for bathtime essentials. The shapely Kado 'Lure' freestanding bath from Reece is an everyday luxury.



lessons learnt

“Always surround yourself with professionals who will meet your high standards” KEN ADAMS, OWNER



storage wall The gridded wall in the master bedroom hides custom-built wardrobe space for Ken and Beverley. The pull-out storage solution was designed by Kylie Dorotic of We Are Huntly.



MASTER BEDROOM The modern grey-and-white scheme continues in this room where sleek-profile joinery keeps clutter at bay. The tallboy (right) features Auhaus handles and a jewellery drawer.



DO IT.

With a 17-apartment block build to oversee with his dream family home perched on the top, Ken had a strategic game plan for the project. Meticulous preparation is Ken's professional mantra, keeping a step ahead of the process throughout to stave off errors and hold-ups.

"All the special tricks and lessons I've learned throughout my career came together perfectly in this build and I couldn't be happier," says Ken. His best rabbit-out-of-a-hat move was to pull together an A-team of architects, interior designers and tradies to smoothly sail through a process most people find exhausting and tiring. "The important thing is to make sure you keep in constant contact with your builder, architect and interior designer, so everyone shares the vision and is on the same page," says Ken.

The family stayed in their townhouse during the renovation but visited the site daily, watching their tower in the sky begin to emerge from the plans. "I couldn't wait to give up the hassle of mowing the lawn on the weekend," says Ken.

The final layer to the build was completing the specifications for the burnished copper-look rangehood, bar doors and details throughout the home. "We fitted the aluminium sheets into place, then removed them and sent them to a specialist powder-coater and then reinstalled them," says Ken. The process may have been labour intensive but the warmth of the finish adds an extra dimension to the palette of pale white, dark grey and marble.

Now happily ensconced in their home, the family have a new-found freedom and a view that stretches out to infinity. **10**

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the best bits

- + the sky-high floorplan** "The layout is spacious but intimate and we love the experience of our sky home," says Ken.
- + having a keen entertainer's home** "It's so easy having friends and family here. Entertaining is a big part of our lives and this home accommodates it all."
- + a connection with the outdoors** "I love that our living areas and all the bedrooms open out to the deck area."