

# design anthology

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# Creative Evolution



Splitting their time between Southern California and Auckland, the owners of this house — New Zealand natives who are parents of five and grandparents to a growing brood — decided it was time to re-imagine their home, which was originally designed by Cheshire Architects almost 20 years ago. The objective? A space that welcomes all generations, that can accommodate their growing family and friendship circle, and where they can display their extensive collection of Maori artefacts and contemporary New Zealand art.

‘The original house was a lantern-like tower on a clifftop escarpment overlooking the sea below,’ says architect Pip Cheshire, whose firm was called on again to update its original design. ‘New additions take advantage of land purchases to increase the living area and stretch it out towards the northern sun, and incorporate a new garden and folly at the northern boundary.’

An upper storey, a new 150-square-metre dining and living space, a 100-square-metre master bedroom suite, a spacious guest suite, and a service workshop and storage space helped to transform the entire structure. ‘The entrance is now located at the link between old and new buildings, and opens into a double-height space, with the water and island beyond visible through a large pohutukawa tree,’ explains Cheshire.

Seattle-based Lucas Design Associates was tasked with the interior design. ‘The most interesting element of the addition is how it changes the way the house functions,’ says David Lucas, creative director of the studio he

founded with his sisters Suzie and Rachel. ‘The original vertical orientation broke the program up between different levels, while the new addition allows the owners to live mainly on one level with access to the beautiful park-like garden outside, so they have increased flexibility between indoor and outdoor living.’

Key to the project was incorporating materials that create harmony and visual interest. ‘Some of our colour choices were driven by the existing materials in the original part of the home,’ explains David. ‘The light stone walls, wood and concrete floors, oak cabinetry, and zinc- and nickel-plated detailing were all influences. But rather than creating a replica of the original, we allowed ourselves to push the materials further.’ The spaces are also adorned with leather, Venetian plaster, flame-sprayed steel panelling and honed Calacatta Vagli marble, all of which combine in a refined way.

‘The colour palette of the furnishings was inspired by the surrounding nature,’ Suzie Lucas adds. ‘We wanted the textures and colours to feel as though they could blend right into the landscape. The silver-green of the underside of a pohutukawa leaf was an important thread that we wove through the palette in various forms, be it the walls, the accents in rugs or a basis from which to select complementary colours.’

With these sensitive additions to the late 20th-century architectural influence, the sculptural home has become an artwork in itself and clearly engages with the site, highlighting an evolving narrative with the ocean and cliff side.

#### Text

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A monolithic exterior gives way to voluminous spaces and ocean views in this clifftop New Zealand home, updated by its original architects almost two decades later. A shelf has been built into the stone-clad facade, and a sculpture by New Zealander Lionel Grant hints at the collection of artwork and artefacts housed within.

#### This page

Located at a link between old and new structures, the entrance opens into a double-height space, with water and island views through the branches of a pohutukawa tree. These exaggerated proportions are emphasised by the four-metre-long sculpture by local artist Peter Robinson hanging overhead.





The curation of furniture was inspired by the surrounding nature. In the new living room, expansive views of the ocean backdrop a variety of pieces, from a custom wool and silk rug and angular sofas to the curved ottoman bench and console table from Bremich Cabinetmakers



**Top left**  
 The home is filled with countless design-art objects, like Tucker Robbin's Peace stool (right) and the small woven stool by Colombian textile studio Hechizoo that sits below the console

**Bottom left**  
 A glass vase by Ann Robinson sits on the triangular console. In front is a custom metal sculpture and display plinth from Mayer Designs

**Right**  
 This inviting nook is defined by large sections of flame-sprayed nickel panelling on the walls and ceiling. Custom seating by BC Custom Upholstery surrounds a coffee table designed by Lucas Design Associates and produced by Bremich Cabinetmakers



Left  
Natural materials predominate in this area of the living room. A wood-framed Carte lounge chair by Mattaliano sits next to a cast bronze table by Stefan Bishop and Triple Burnt teak coffee table by Andrianna Shamaris. Kauri wood was used for the ledge below the mirrored television



Right  
The honed titanium gold granite bar and island countertop, together with the black glass backsplash, lend a dramatic air to the bar. Leather-covered custom stools and hanging lanterns soften the effect



**This page**  
In the dining room, fumed oak walls and suede wall panels form a striking backdrop to Maori artefacts. The palette was inspired by a silk rug the homeowners bought in Turkey. Its coral hues are repeated in the niche to contrast with the dark wood walls

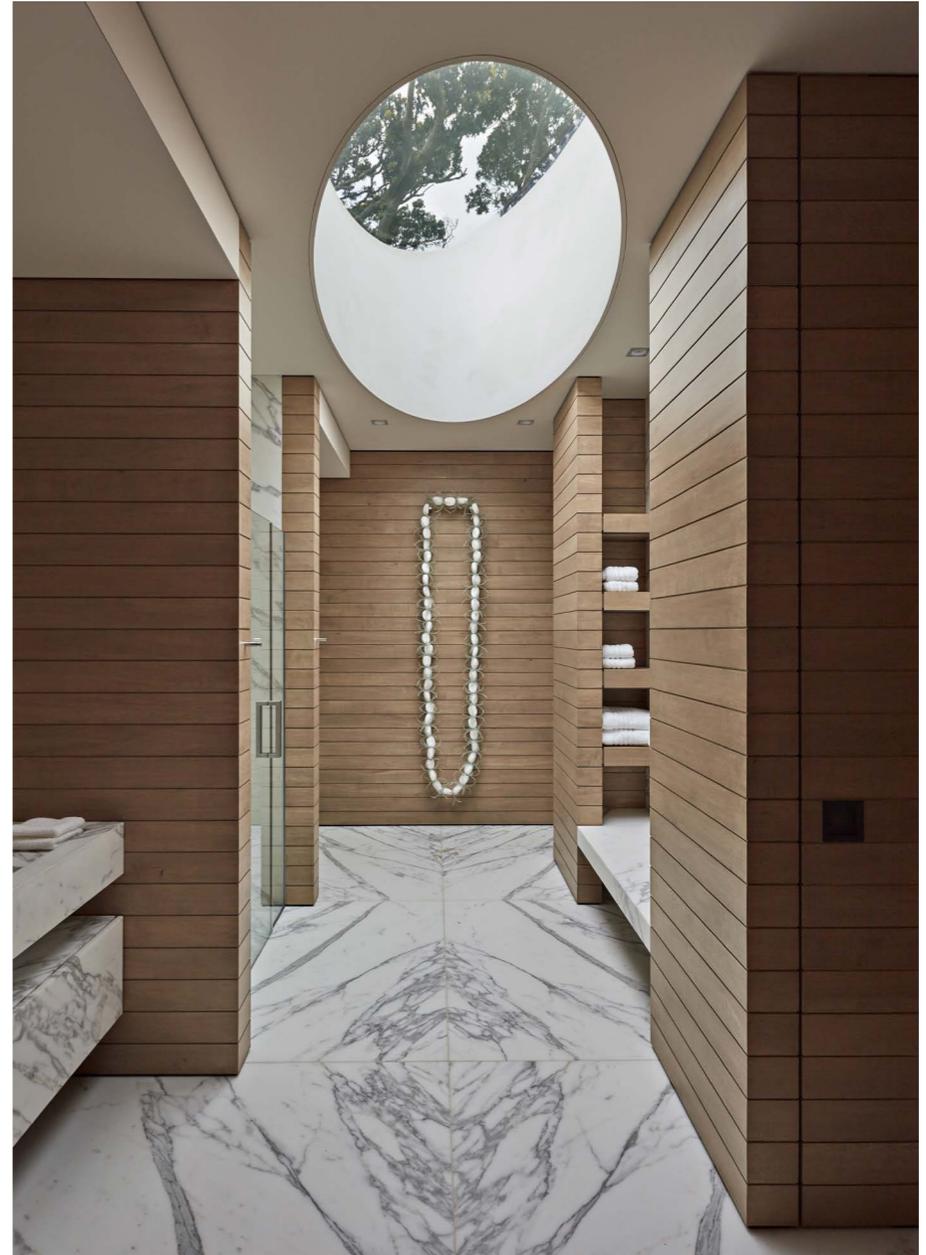
**Next page**  
The rich material palette continues in the bedroom, with neutral-hued leather wall panelling and a wool and silk rug from Tai Ping complementing the views. As in the rest of the home, Maori artefacts are on display





Top  
The wall-to-wall linen headboard and earth-toned custom bed covers are organic touches. Custom tables by Bremich Cabinetmakers with bronze pulls from Flying Anvil Studio flank the master bed, each topped with glass bedside lamps from Porta Romana

Bottom  
In the master study, a honed Calacatta Vagli-clad fireplace commands attention, its verticality emphasised by the slatted wall panels and doors. Next to a chaise longue, another table by Andrianna Shamaris adds a sculptural touch



An oversized necklace by artist Chris Charteris, who originally trained in Maori design and carving, hangs in the master bathroom. Its material qualities and rounded form are repeated in the honed Calacatta Vagli flooring and surfaces