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HERE COMES THE SUN

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Drenched in sunlight and with views over the treetops to Sydney Harbour, this home had obvious charms – and the owners wanted to enhance them. They turned to collaborative duo Alexandra Mason of Studio AEM and Warren Au of Studio Gestalt to strengthen the link between the dining/living area and the terrace. Conjuring what Alexandra describes as a “relaxed, breezy resort style”, the challenge was to connect the spaces while giving each an individual look and identity. Taking cues from the existing sandstone fireplace and teak-lined ceiling, they opted for a calming, neutral palette combined with smart, space-defining furniture. The result? A look that is “timeless and contemporary yet opulent and refined”, says Alexandra.

ROOM NOTES Porro ‘Materic’ dining table and ‘Frank’ dining chairs, Giorgetti ‘Aspara’ daybeds, B&B Italia ‘Frank Outdoor’ ottomans and ‘Fat-Fat’ nesting tables, all Space. Apparatus ‘Cloud 37’ pendant light, Criteria, and outdoor pendant, existing. Vida ‘Sonoma’ dhurrie rug, The Rug Establishment. Artwork by Kerrie Oliver, Curatorial+Co. Walls painted Dulux White Duck Half.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson (31) & Jackie Brygel (32); Styling by Claire Delmar (31) & Jess Kneebone (32).
Photography by Anson Smart (31), Shannon McGarr (32) & Emma Phillips (Anna Dutton Lourie).

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THE BIG PICTURE

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An inspired world of surprises unfolds beyond the front door of this futureproofed timber-clad house, designed to ‘drape’ over the landscape, on the southern tip of Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula. Silvertop ash-lined walls and a ceiling stained in cocooning Palm Beach Black by Porter’s Paints lure guests inside. But it’s the window to the owners’ tranquil world – the floor-to-ceiling garden view unveiled immediately upon entering – that is the unexpected masterstroke. “The design creates mystery from the street,” says Anna Dutton Lourie, co-director of Bower Architecture & Interiors. “The experience of entering, and the indoor-outdoor connection, is a gift offered to the loved ones invited into the home. The entry is a journey through architecture and landscape.” ▶

ROOM NOTES Silvertop ash battens stained Porter’s Paints Palm Beach Black. Niki pull handle, Designer Doorware. Artwork by P. Morris. Existing rug. Polished-concrete floor.