



INSIDER

Loosely based around the principles of feng shui, water is a significant component of the design.

A shoji-style gate serves as the home's informal entrance, with a timber bridge leading across a pond linked to the pool and several fountains. Inside, a garden with a towering palm creates a tropical resort-like feel.

Outside, the house features an interesting mix of textures, including cement rendered walls, New Guinea Rosewood feature panels, galvanised steel sailing posts, marble tiles on all three decks and volcanic lava stacked stones around the pool.

With walls of glass stacking doors along the home's western side, another integral element is external sun automated blinds, which descend when the sun reaches a certain point on the horizon.

"It is incredible how much difference the blinds make to the temperature," Brian explains. "As they are transparent, you can still see the view when they are down." "Louvres are also one of my favourite features," adds Dotty. "They are just magic. We

rarely need to have the airconditioning on."

The property is in stark contrast to the pair's previous home, a 32nd floor 1000sq m apartment in the heart of Hong Kong. They love the spacious rooms and the open-plan layout, which seamlessly merges indoor and outdoor areas.

Combining sleek lines and warmth, the top floor features spotted gum timber floors, curved glass balustrades, a bridge between the dining and lounge areas and porcelain bluestone tiles around the fireplace. "Initially we were going to have a flue for the fireplace, but the first time Chris visited the site and saw the outlook, he said we had to capture it, so instead we put in a big picture box window and went for a lowset ecoSmart fireplace," Brian says.

Decorated with mementos from Asia, shelves are adorned with pieces from Vietnam, Thailand and China, including Brian's favourite piece, a 14th century bronze warrior he discovered in a government collectibles shop in the backstreets of Hong Kong. A three-tiered shell chandelier from

Bali was bought specifically for the entrance while artwork for the media room and pendant lights in the kitchen were also found on holidays.

Chris also custom-designed shoji-style doors, which feature on kitchen cabinets, gates, wardrobes and oversized sliding doors in the media room. They help to create a contemporary Asian feel, as do the abundant angles and straight lines used to draw the line to every corner of the house.

Landscaped with a tropical mix of spider lilies, heliconias and palms near the pool and natives along the western side of the house, the garden also pays homage to the couple's love of both Asia and Australia. "The house really has exceeded our expectations," Dotty says.

Foregoing a honeymoon to savour the delights of their new home, the couple obviously feel no need to get away. "We love eating on Gympie Terrace, riding around Noosa Woods and walking in the national park. There is just so much to do here; we are enjoying exploring it all," Brian says.

Favourite spot

Dotty: At night we like eating on the deck looking at the lights among the trees. During the day we are in and out of the pool.

Best feature

Brian: The view. It takes in lots of the waterways and mountains. We didn't intend to have so much glass in the house but with such a good view it was really worthwhile.

Recipe for success

Brian: A good designer and builder. Mick Devlin and his Braeden Constructions team were wonderful and kept us well informed.

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