

**WE LOVE** THE CURVED  
TIMBER SCREEN THAT  
ENCASES THE HOME

# SHAPESHIFTER

A CLEVER APPROACH WITH AN ALL-NATURAL TWIST



WORDS // ANNABELLE CLOROS PHOTOGRAPHY // MARIAN RIABIC

**T**hey say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but for a single-storey brick bungalow on Sydney's Northern Beaches, the saying couldn't be further from the truth. Nipped and tucked to a T, this North Manly family home was given the full treatment and transformed into a shell of its former self — literally.

Working with Utz-Sanby Architects, the clients were after a much larger home than the one the firm designed for them more than 10 years ago. The residence is located on a corner block adjoining a public reserve with views to a picturesque lagoon. Lashings of natural light, a relaxed, informal atmosphere and plenty of space for their four kids and new puppy formed the brief for the project.

Utz-Sanby decided to utilise the existing bungalow and generated a concept that integrated the house with new additions. "The house was a hotchpotch of badly designed additions to the original 1950s brick bungalow — there wasn't a lot of architectural merit in the existing home," says architect Kristin Utz.

"By retaining the existing house, we were able to take advantage of the position of the house on the site, in particular the proximity to the water and existing setbacks, which made alterations and additions the only option."

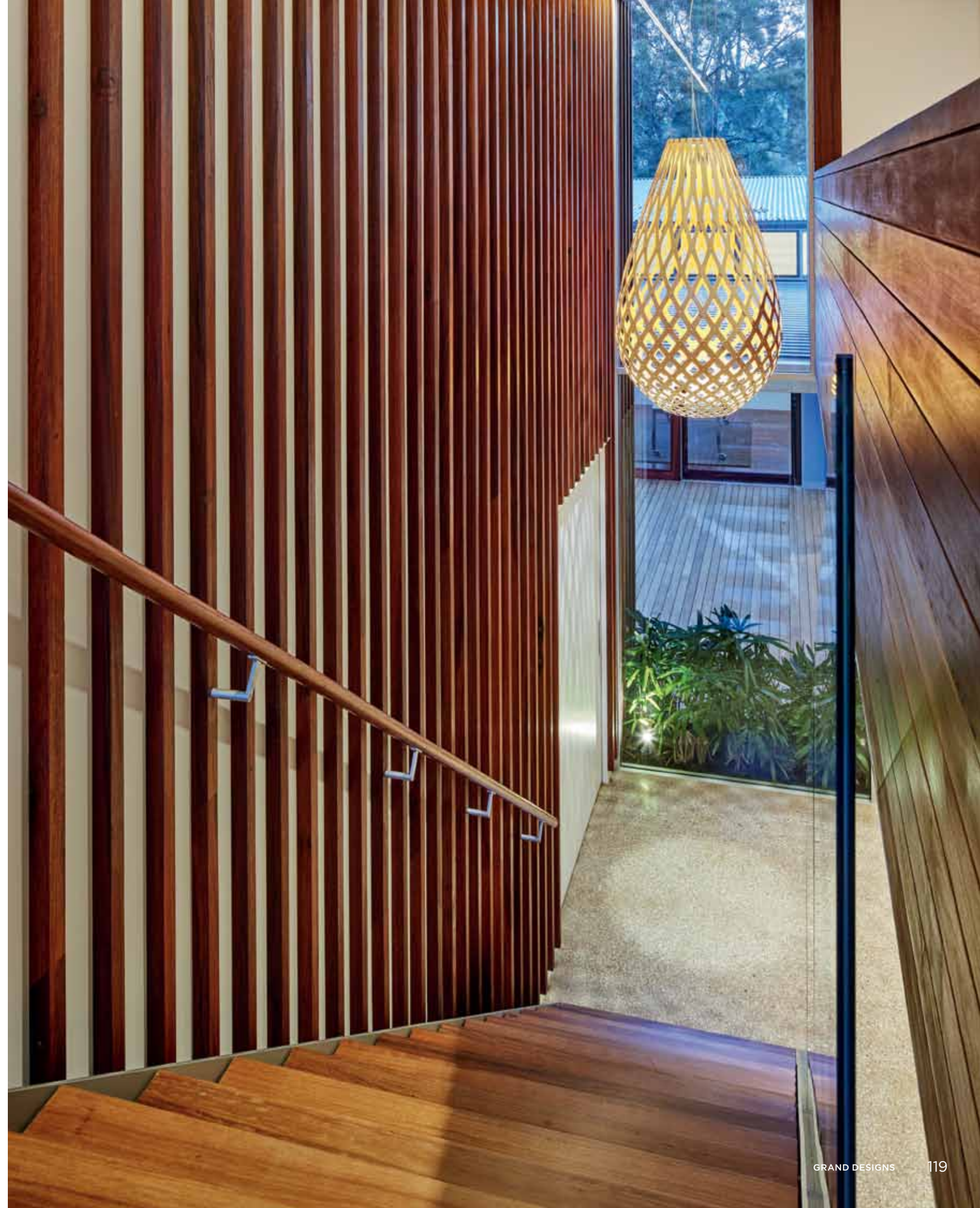
Comprising five bedrooms, three bathrooms, a master retreat, kitchen, living/dining area, rumpus room, home office, laundry, powder room and an outdoor space with pool, the humble residence certainly received a major upgrade. A curved timber batten screen made from recycled ironbark was selected for its warmth and aesthetic appeal, redefining the edges of the existing home and establishing a seamless look between old and new. "Existing brick walls were rendered and the screen — which is largely self-supporting — formed a new façade to the building, following the angles and curves of the site boundaries," says Kristin. "The curved screen redefines the form of the house, providing shading and privacy."

Along with a palette of natural timber and concrete — with a hint of freshness courtesy of the beachside suburb — the timber screen

**ABOVE** The architectural façade conceals a modern interior

**OPPOSITE** A David Trubridge pendant is in keeping with the home's aesthetic

**DETAILS**  
**HOUSE** NORTH MANLY HOUSE  
**LOCATION** NORTH MANLY, SYDNEY



“THE END RESULT IS A BEAUTIFUL MODERN FAMILY HOME THAT OFFERS FLEXIBILITY, FUNCTIONALITY, RELAXATION AND ENJOYMENT IN EVERY ASPECT OF LIVING” - KRISTIN UTZ





**ABOVE** An outdoor seating area is perfect for warm days **BELOW** Generous windows let the natural light in



**ABOVE** A fireplace warms up the lounge room **BELOW** Sliding doors let the outdoors in

informed the selection of timber found in the home's interior. "The clients wanted a relaxed, low-maintenance interior," says Kristin. "Limed plywood was chosen for the joinery to contrast with the darker ironbark features and to provide a lighter, more neutral colour to match the off-white walls."

A highlight of the project is the master retreat, which is a true oasis separated from the main house. It boasts enviable views that can be enjoyed from the deck and includes a spacious bedroom, ensuite and lounge area. "The ensuite is spacious and luxurious and can be fully opened to the outside deck, but remains private because of the timber screen," says Kristin.

Sustainability played a starring role in the design of this residence, with recycled timber utilised in the screen, sliding doors, living room floor and timber benchtops. "First and foremost, the project has reused a large part of the existing house," says Kristin. "There is a 20,000-litre water storage tank under the deck and a solar-heated hot water system. There is also an abundance of natural light, external sun shading, cross-ventilation assisted

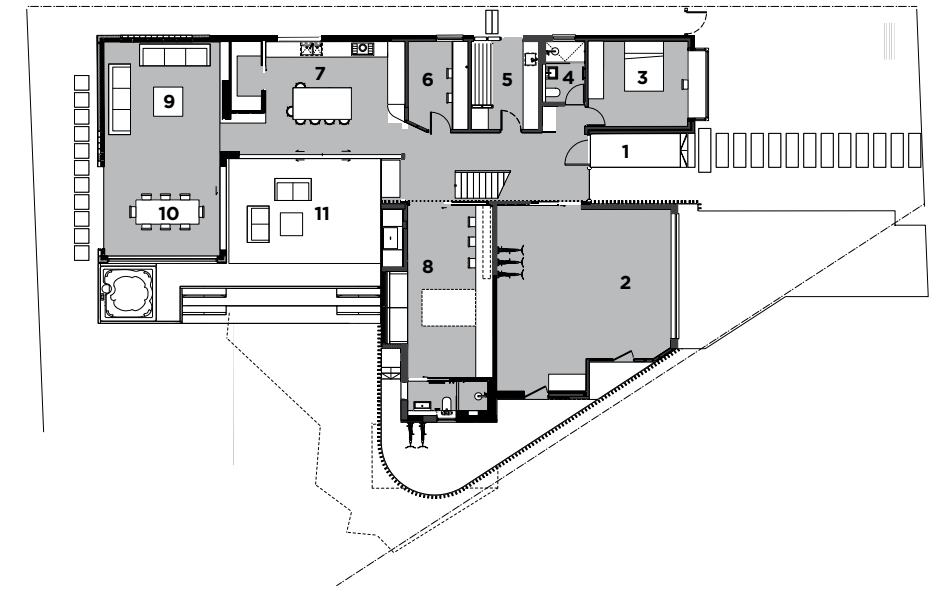




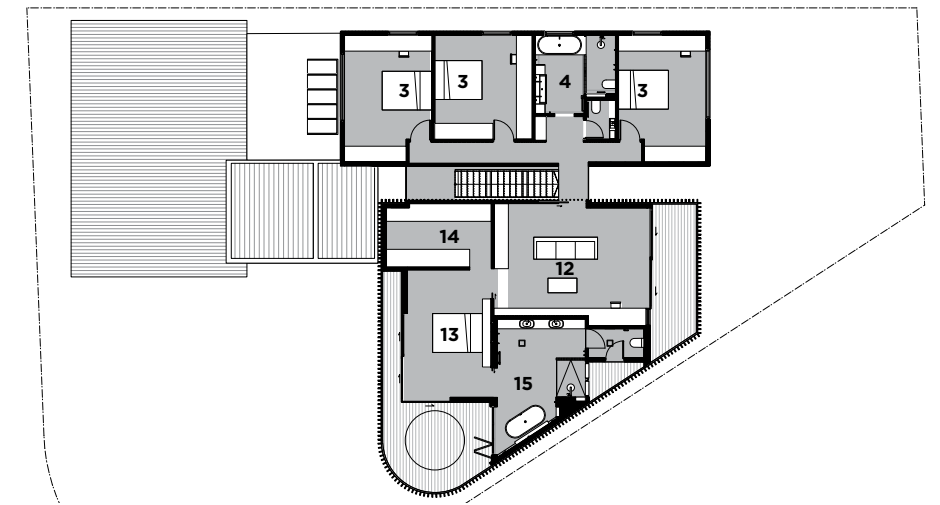
**PROJECT TEAM**  
**Architect and interior design**  
 Utz-Sanby Architects  
 (utzsanby.com)  
**Builder** Scott Hindmarsh, Builtform  
 (builtform.net.au)  
**Structural team** SDA Structures  
 (sdastructures.com.au)

**LEFT** The master suite boasts its own private outdoor area  
**BELOW** A freestanding bath looks out to the landscape

- LEGEND**
- 1 ENTRY
  - 2 GARAGE
  - 3 BEDROOM
  - 4 BATHROOM
  - 5 LAUNDRY
  - 6 STUDY
  - 7 KITCHEN
  - 8 RUMPUS ROOM
  - 9 LOUNGE ROOM
  - 10 DINING ROOM
  - 11 OUTDOOR LIVING
  - 12 MASTER RETREAT
  - 13 MASTER BEDROOM
  - 14 WALK-IN ROBE
  - 15 ENSUITE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



**FIXTURES & FITTINGS**

- Bathroom** Roger Seller (rogerseller.com.au)
- Kitchen** Winning Appliances (winningappliances.com.au)
- Lighting** Gamma Illumination (gammillumination.com)
- Timber doors** Nicco Joinery (niccojoinery.com.au)
- Aluminium windows and door frames** Aluminium and Glass Constructions (aluminiumandglassconstructions.com.au)
- Cladding and decking** Woodform (woodformarch.com)
- Recycled timber battens and flooring** Australian Architectural Hardwoods (aahardwoods.com.au)
- Blinds** Ozshade (ozshade.com.au)
- Joinery** Gigsaw Joinery (gigsawjoinery@hotmail.com)

**FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS**

- Furniture selection** Amazema Interiors (amazema.com)
- Outdoor furniture** Cosh Living (coshliving.com.au); Bo Butik (bobutik.com.au)
- Sofas** Jordan (jordan.com.au)

**SERVICES**

- Landscape design** Space Designs (spacedesigns.com.au)
- Air conditioning** Total Climate Control (totalclimatecontrol.com.au)
- Home automation** Infrared (infrared.com.au)



*Colour Palette*

Nature is such an obvious inspiration here. The landscape is reflected through the abundance of timber and pops of green in the furnishings. The blue of the pool is reflected through decoration, as is the sun



**ED'S FAVE** THE MASTER RETREAT, WHICH OFFERS A COCOON OF STYLE AND SOPHISTICATION

by ceiling fans and low-voltage lighting throughout." Along with its eco-friendly good looks, the home is also a smart one, with all lights, blinds, fans, louvres and music controlled remotely using a smartphone or smart device.

Council requirements, clients holidaying in France and the usual pitfalls that come with a challenging site were all overcome to

produce this North Manly home, a product of collaboration that met all the criteria required by a growing family. "The new home is tailored to the needs of a busy family and takes advantage of all this unique site has to offer," says Kristin. "The end result is a beautiful modern family home that offers flexibility, functionality, relaxation and enjoyment in every aspect of living." 🏡