

FROM WHERE YOU'D RATHER BE

Water views, curved lines and absolute serenity — what more could you want?

Words Annabelle Cloros Photography Sue Murray

They say living by the water is good for your soul, providing a wash of inspiration or perhaps relief from the dilemmas life tends to throw our way. But with the privilege of utilising serenity on tap comes the responsibility of creating a home that is on par with such fluidity and peace.

Principal of Manolev Associates, Kiril Manolev, designed the concept of the Gladesville, Sydney home, which was previously a double-brick two-storey property. Comprising 714sqm, the parallelogram-shaped house terminates at the waterfront and boasts a private jetty, pontoon, timber ramp and boat shed.

For a couple in their 50s living with two 20-something sons, it was time to upgrade the family home to a space that caters for the duo's near future as empty nesters. "They had been living in the old house



The curved design of the home reflects the changing environment it's located within



A fluid pathway leads directly into the foyer that reveals water views



“The atmosphere of *serenity and tranquillity* was achieved by deliberately *using a minimalist approach* to colour in the interiors”
— Kiril Manolev

A curved staircase brings softness to the interior



for more than a decade before deciding to build the new house,” says Kiril. “The two adult sons had their rooms and a living room for their use at the lower level, while the parents had their bedroom and a study at the upper street-facing level along with the living area and kitchen.”

Mostly taking over the ground level, the couple’s two sons were essentially living out of home in their own family house — almost. Occupying separate areas of the property worked for the family, so the same concept was applied to the new home, with the two sons living in their own space and the parents in the other. The only exception was the addition of a study/guest room with ensuite on the ground floor to cater for visitors.

Now spanning a generous three storeys, the entrance of the home is grand in scale. “Just like entering the lobby of a tropical resort suspended over the sea, one enters the house after 14 metres of curved pathway,” explains Kiril. Spanning two storeys, the foyer extends into a living, dining and kitchen area that leads to a deck — the perfect spot to enjoy the views of Parramatta River. Glass features heavily in this space, ensuring the pristine

scenery can be observed and physically enjoyed throughout the seasons by sliding across the folding doors that stack away neatly to provide unobstructed views. “The same level contains a powder room/guest toilet, study/guest room with ensuite and access to the front yard and double garage,” says Kiril.

Curved lines play a key role in this home, ensuring there are no hard corners. Spiral staircases connect the levels, and the utilisation of a neutral colour palette contributes to the home’s subtle style that prioritises its surrounding environment. “The atmosphere of serenity and tranquillity was achieved by deliberately using a minimalist approach to colour in the interiors,” continues Kiril. “The polished concrete floor provides a subtle textured base to off-white painted walls and the black tones of the veneer and walls are repeated in the kitchen.”

Heading up the stairs, a galleria overlooks the foyer and leads to the main bedroom with ensuite, separate dressing room as well as an additional bedroom and bathroom. Downstairs is the man cave, with two bedrooms separated by a family room, bathroom, laundry and external deck that



we love
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genius trick

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A monochrome scheme in the kitchen doesn't take away from the picturesque view

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leads to the split-level pool deck and infinity pool.

With waterfront living commonplace in Sydney, there's a certain responsibility that goes with the privilege the lucky few are afforded. “The public domain that contains waterfront properties tends to be neglected as the emphasis is given to the rear water-facing parts,” says Kiril. “The approach of this design is to change all that. The design has an obligation to enhance the public domain and enrich the visual experience of the built environment.” **HD**
manolev-associates.com.au



A private jetty is just one of the luxuries this home is afforded



in short The waterfront property is located in Sydney's Gladesville. The owners wanted separate areas of the house for them and their two adult sons. Curved staircases on the middle level lead to the upper and lower storeys. The property is of the unusual parallelogram shape.