

# *bajo* *EL SOL*

Interior designer Kelle Howard walks us through her dream home she designed and built on the Gold Coast.

PHOTOGRAPHY BROCK BEAZLEY / WORDS NICHOLA DAVIES / INTERIOR DESIGN KELLE HOWARD







**TIMBER DETAIL**  
 The end panel for the kitchen island bench is made up of half round 40mm timber dowels in a Whitewashed American Oak finish.



Kelle Howard had the vision for her dream home, Bajo el Sol, for more than a year before she purchased the block where she built it. Originally, Kelle planned to renovate an existing home, but when she couldn't find one that fit her vision, she chose one to tear down and started from scratch instead.

"I describe my aesthetic as an interior designer as 'raw, coastal, luxe', so designing a home completely from my own imagination was wildly appealing; it meant I could showcase my style," says Kelle.

Kelle was heavily involved throughout the build, and having all of the fittings and fixtures planned well in advance gave the builder a good understanding of what she wanted to achieve.

The finished product is a stunning raw, minimal and sculptural home that is also super luxe—lending itself perfectly for a photoshoot location to brands including the likes of Michael Hill, Sabo Skirt, Pillow Talk and Dissh.

To achieve this look, Kelle used lots of tactile materials such as architectural concrete, Moroccan tiles, aged brass, render and Venetian plaster throughout.

"I wanted the architecture to be a mix of these materials

to allow the home to speak for itself," says Kelle.

"I wanted to focus on hero pieces such as the built-in daybeds, the floating bed frame and the artwork to compliment the textures rather than to compete with them. So I kept the palette relatively neutral with pops of peach and tan throughout."

When asked what her aspects of her dream home are, Kelle says while it was important to make each room memorable, she loves the home for its overall feel; all of its elements working together.

"Everyone that visits, from brands to friends and family, comments on how amazing the energy is," says Kelle.

That said, she concedes that her master suite is really special.

"You enter through timber double doors that I designed and had custom made that lead to my master bedroom, walk-in-robe and ensuite, and then also down a long hallway to my study," says Kelle.

"The master ensuite bath sits in front of a huge window overlooking a balcony garden, which was inspired by the outdoor bathrooms that feature in Bali villas." >



**KITCHEN** Stools from Inartisan; mixer from Sussex Taps; handles from Lo & Co Interiors; benchtop from Concrete Nation; arch door by Urban X Steel and glazed by WaterArt.

**FRONT FACADE** Kelle hired a dream team including PJH Constructions (builder), BCG Building Design and landscapers JSW Landscapes & Design to bring her vision to life. "I selected a team that felt like family so that I could rely on them to ensure the build stayed on track," says Kelle.

Front gate painted in ????



THIS PHOTO BY KRISTIAN VAN DER BEEK





THIS PHOTO BY SALTYVISUAL

*"I describe my aesthetic as an interior designer as 'raw, coastal, luxe', so designing a home completely from my own imagination was wildly appealing."*

< Spanning the entire length of the house, the master suite is flooded with natural light coming in from both sides.

"I wanted my bedroom to be super minimal with no furniture so I designed built-in rendered bedside tables and the floating bed frame," says Kelle.

"There's no artwork in there, just a huge freestanding mirror that I had custom made, which reflects the light from the balcony and makes the room seem bigger than it is."

In a space like this, it's no surprise Kelle says she wakes up every day feeling grateful for the life she has created. The solo mama of two says she believes mindset is everything.

"I'm now focusing on new builds and full-scale renos, all in my signature raw, coastal, luxe style!" says Kelle.

@kellehoward.co @bajoelsol.beachhouse



**OUTDOOR OASIS** Kelle combined her love of Spanish architecture with influences from Greece, Mexico and Palm Springs in the design of her home. The result is a white oasis that feels like a tropical villa. Timber beams in Accoya add warmth to the patio. Outdoor sofas from Zanui; fan from Beacon Lighting; timber pots from Papaya Homewares.





**CINEMA ROOM** "The cinema room is very unique – my building designer created a huge curved daybed which is perfect for watching family movies," says Kelle. Cushions, rug and niche decor from Marr-Kett; woven pouffes from Yak and Yeti Trader; faux leather ottoman from Onyx & Smoke; original artwork by Bonnie Gray.



**DREAMY BEDROOM** Curtains from DIY Blinds; bedding from Adairs; rug from Marr-Kett; pot from Arc & Family; custom made mirror from Glass & Mirror Co.





Style  
TO STEAL  
?????



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