



CHARLES SAVAGE KNEW exactly what he wanted. And when a professional builder designs his own holiday home, you know the outcome is going to be intelligently planned, meticulously finished, and perfectly practical.

"It was all in my head. I always knew I wanted a modern house; something made of solid brick and structural steel, and it had to be very open plan. It reminds me of my grandma's beach house in a way, but on a larger scale," he says.

Fronting onto the river at Wellington, the two-storey house commands sweeping 180-degree views of the water. The four-bedroom, three-bathroom house has a practical rumpus room downstairs with games and bunk beds to give younger holidaymakers their own space.

Modern edge

"I like the way the exposed galvanised steel matches the window frames," Charles says. "It has a more slimline effect than rendered pillars, and it won't date so quickly."

The angular edges of the exterior are echoed in the clean lines of the open-plan living space. Designed for uncomplicated riverside living, the upper storey is one large communal space at the front, flowing from living room to kitchen, to dining, to deck. The internal floors, outdoor deck and boat dock are all in rich brown spotted gum, easing the flow between areas inside and outside the

house. To prevent the crisp white interior from becoming stark, the design has been softened with a feature wall of warm Basket Range sandstone.

The kitchen is the hub of any home, and here a large central marble bench is built for family living and easy entertaining. "We wanted a space with a really open feel; it's perfect for entertaining."

Enormous glass doors glide noiselessly aside to create a 4.5-metre opening from the living area out onto the deck. The doors are mirrored downstairs for easy access from the rumpus room to



the river. A double garage on either side of the rumpus room offers plenty of space for cars and ski boats.

The house faces directly east, enjoying the sunrise while also avoiding the worst of the afternoon heat. The house is double-glazed throughout, but special green glass in the west-facing windows at the back further helps to mitigate the heat. Floors and ceilings are insulated for noise reduction – important for open-plan living – as well as temperature control. All this keeps the house cool in summer and warm in winter, and the space is quickly made cosy by a wall-set gas fire.

“I go up there as much as possible all year, but we do use it a lot in summer. I fell in love with this block straight away; it’s just a great spot. The view is actually better than I ever imagined it would be, because I built a two-storey house. It’s just water as far as the eye can see.”

Above: This riverfront home has it all: two levels to maximise water views, a boat launch and a weeping willow with its toes in the water. **Below:** A wall of Basket Range sandstone and an open fireplace add warmth to the all-white interior (left). A row of windows positioned at ceiling height allow the sunlight and fresh air to circulate (right). **Opening pages:** A dining room with an amazing view.



