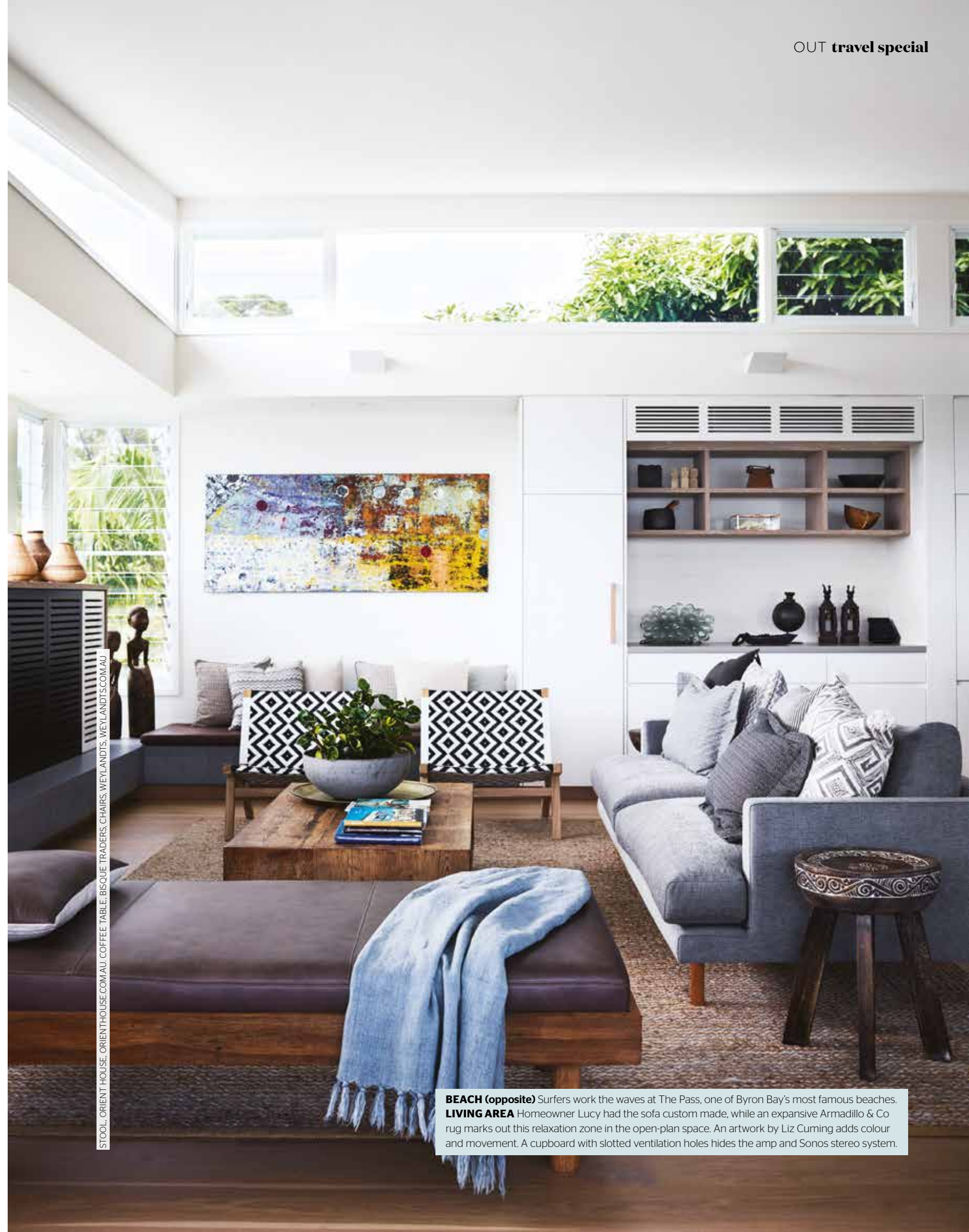




Summer getaways to Byron Bay

Combine some of the best views on the NSW coast with a bustling beach town and luxe holiday house, and you have the makings of the perfect break

WORDS CARRIE HUTCHINSON PHOTOGRAPHY ANSON SMART



STOOL, ORIENT HOUSE, ORIENTHOUSE.COM.AU | COFFEE TABLE, BISOUE, TRADERS CHAIRS, WEYLANDT'S, WEYLANDT'S.COM.AU

BEACH (opposite) Surfers work the waves at The Pass, one of Byron Bay's most famous beaches.
LIVING AREA Homeowner Lucy had the sofa custom made, while an expansive Armadillo & Co rug marks out this relaxation zone in the open-plan space. An artwork by Liz Cuming adds colour and movement. A cupboard with slotted ventilation holes hides the amp and Sonos stereo system.

“The house is beautiful, but nothing is too precious. You can sit just about anywhere (except the sofa) in a wet cossie and it doesn't matter.”

LUCY PURCHAS CORBEN, HOMEOWNER



beach-house tips with architect Philip Corben and interior stylist Lucy Purchas Corben, who have created their perfect seaside escape

Dream a little dream “This is a block we bought in 2008 and subdivided,” says Philip. “It had an old fisherman’s cottage on the top section, and we built a house below called Ayana. We kept that for five years then sold it, pulled down the cottage and built this house, Ayindi, during 2016.”

“We used to risk our lives and climb onto the roof of the old house with cocktails to imagine what it would be like,” says Lucy. “Now we’re here and that’s my dream.”

Take a different approach “The house works on a split-level configuration, but it splits across the site rather than up the site because of the terrain,” says Philip. “The living rooms are on the upper level to maximise the views. The house faces west and looks directly over the bay. We get a 200-degree view – you look around to the hinterland and all the way across to the lighthouse.”

Meet the locals “Contrary to the myth that Byron’s full of surfing layabouts, there are a lot of talented people who are here for the lifestyle,” says Philip. “There’s a really strong working association between the people here – they work together harmoniously and seem to enjoy what they’re doing, probably because they’re doing it in such a nice environment. Local builder Todd Knaus has been involved with all four of our builds here and has won a number of Master Builders Awards for them.”

Plan ahead “While we were building the house – from February 2016 to March 2017 – I was having furniture and cushions made, and doing a lot of the shopping,” says Lucy. “By the time we were ready to move in, I had everything coordinated.”

Put it in neutral “Ayindi proved not to need too much colour,” says Lucy. “I wanted the feeling to be harmonious and easy on the eye – a bit wabi-sabi – and for the house to be filled with interesting pieces and objects. Nothing is precious or shiny, and there’s plenty of comfort in the form of beds, sofas, cotton and linen. I used mattress ticking on some cushions, and the rest are made using fabric from Walter G, Marimekko and No Chintz.”

The number-one priority “The main thing about having a beach house is it has to be close to the beach,” says Philip. “This one is just a three-minute walk away. I also had to have a great outdoor shower and a lot of surfboard racks.”

“When you come back from a surf, you can drop your board on the rack, have a warm shower, then dive into the pool,” adds Lucy.

A place like home “There are lots of places to plonk and lie down here,” says Lucy. “Plenty of holiday houses don’t have that and it’s one of the reasons we started buying and renting out places. We were so sick of staying in houses that were stripped bare, with only four forks and four knives, and really uncomfortable.”

Hang it out “Everyone says you should re-use your towels to save the environment, but no-one gives you anywhere to hang them. Apart from having plenty of towel rails in the bathrooms, I had a local make the towel racks in all the bedrooms out of old casks.”

See more of Philip’s work at corben.com.au, Lucy’s at lucypurchas.com and get in touch with the builder at toddknaus.com.au.

RUG: ARMADILLO & CO. ARMADILLO-CO.COM; COFFEE TABLE: COSH LIVING, COSHLIVING.COM.AU; LOZ! MORTAR SIDE TABLE: ORIENT HOUSE, ORIENTHOUSE.COM.AU; GLASSWARE, CHEF’S WAREHOUSE, (02) 9211 4655



KITCHEN (opposite) A Sarrita King artwork sets a refined tone. The Caesarstone benchtop in Raw Concrete is a hardy surface in this busy zone, while the Zip HydroTap eliminates the need for bought sparkling water. The Rubn Lighting ‘Long John’ pendant light from Fred International echoes the shape of the island bench. A Mark Tuckey table and Gohome ‘Hollywood’ chairs are perfect for entertaining. **STAIRS (above)** Open-tread stairs allow natural light to filter into the house. Moroccan limestone treads are supported by a matt stainless-steel frame. **DECK (below)** “Everyone gravitates to the deck,” says Philip. “You relax out there, eat, have cocktails – it’s just a lovely place to be.”





“A holiday is really important. Most people only get four weeks a year, so you have to give them everything they could possibly need”

LUCY PURCHAS CORBEN, HOMEOWNER



Lucy's favourite local design stores

Nikau "This botanical and clay emporium is run by two lovely women, Nicole and Nikki. They stock beautiful clay and ceramic objects and pots made by local artisans, amid an array of stunning greenery and plants." *2/30 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. nikaustore.com.*

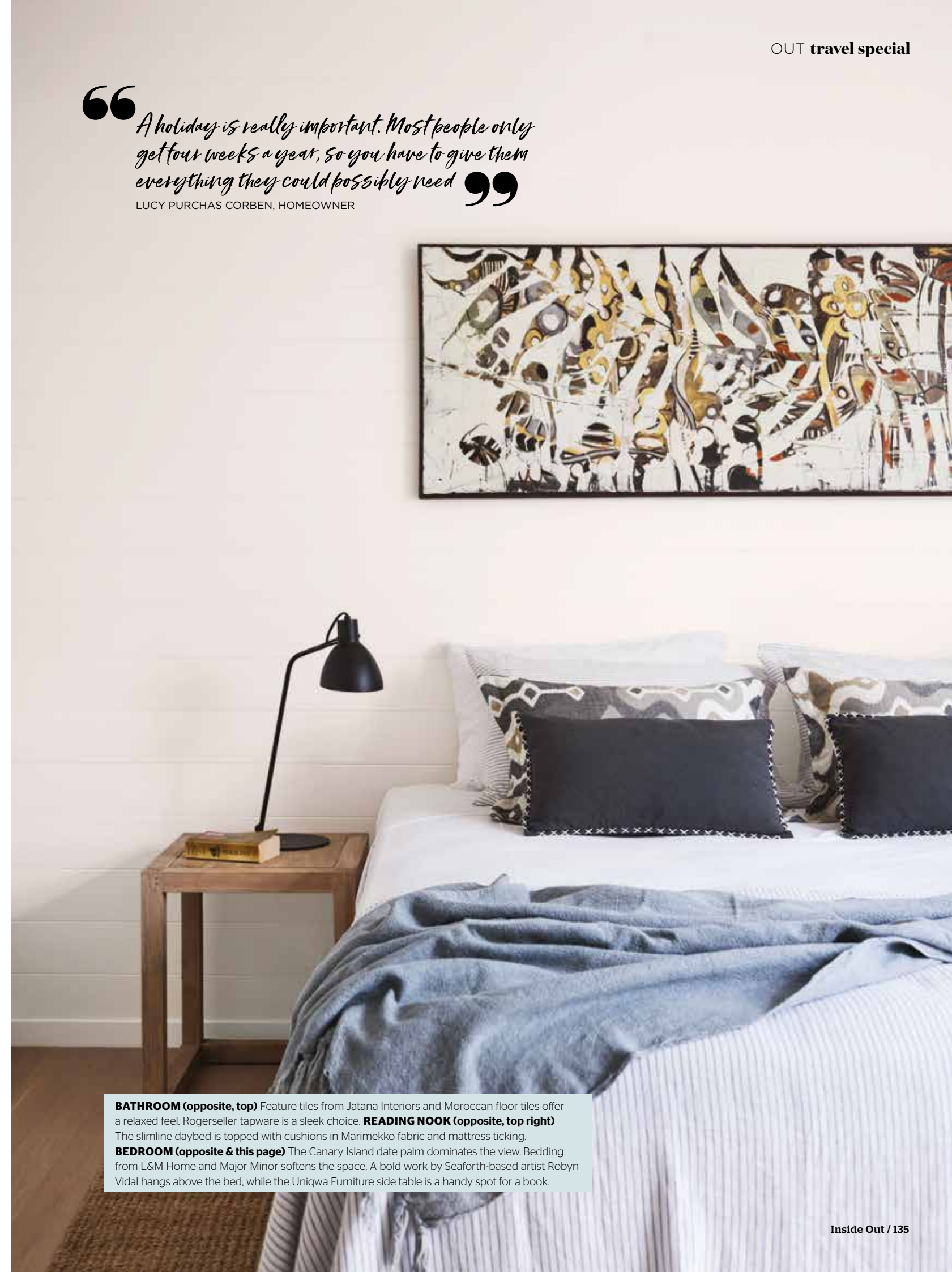
Our Corner Store "This gorgeous store has a well-curated collection of a little bit of everything, from fashion to homewares." *1/36 Byron St, Bangalow. ourcornerstore.com.au.*

Tigmi Trading "If you're looking for vintage and unique Moroccan rugs and homewares, this is the place. Owner Danielle McEwan travels overseas and selects every piece she sells." *19 Old Pacific Hwy, Newrybar. tigmitrading.com.*

Pop & Scott "Poppy Lane and Scott Gibson create a really interesting range of handmade pots and homewares. All their furniture is made from sustainably sourced timber." *4/57 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay. popandscott.com.*

Bisque Traders "You can find homewares, furniture and lighting from all over the world at this beautiful shed in Bangalow." *Rear, 12 Station St, Bangalow. bisquetraders.com.au.*

SIDE TABLE (IN NOOK): BISQUE INTERIORS; BISQUE INTERIORS.COM.AU; PENDANT LIGHT: LES INTERIEURS; LESINTERIEURS.COM.AU



BATHROOM (opposite, top) Feature tiles from Jatana Interiors and Moroccan floor tiles offer a relaxed feel. Rogerseller tapware is a sleek choice. **READING NOOK (opposite, top right)** The slimline daybed is topped with cushions in Marimekko fabric and mattress ticking. **BEDROOM (opposite & this page)** The Canary Island date palm dominates the view. Bedding from L&M Home and Major Minor softens the space. A bold work by Seaforth-based artist Robyn Vidal hangs above the bed, while the Uniqwa Furniture side table is a handy spot for a book.

local heroes

Part-time Byron resident Sibella Court, owner of The Society Inc, shares her insider secrets

EAT & DRINK

Fleet "Sitting at the kitchen counter of this intimate restaurant, you can watch the clever husband-and-wife team of Josh Lewis and Astrid McCormack work their magic with local ingredients and a stellar wine list." *2/16 The Terrace, Brunswick Heads. fleet-restaurant.com.au.*

Woods "This sister cafe to Byron's Folk is a lovely spot to sit among artists' studios and gardens of veggies and flowers. For any Bangalow adventures, start here with a fresh bite and a coffee." *10 Station St, Bangalow.*

Doma Cafe "One of the most scenic of drives in the area is to Federal, a single-street town with a post office, general store and the unexpected Doma Cafe, serving the most delicious and authentic Japanese food." *3-6 Albert St, Federal. (02) 6688 4711.*

Cape Byron Distillery "With the launch of Brookie's Gin, the distillery has opened so guests can experience the regeneration of the rainforest. Indigenous sub-tropical botanicals are harvested and used in the distilling process to give this gin a unique local flavour." *80 St Helena Rd, McLeods Shoot. capebyrondistillery.com.*

ENJOY

Cape Byron Lighthouse "Standing proud over Byron Bay is the majestic lighthouse, built on the most easterly point on Australian mainland. To clear the cobwebs and start the day, an early morning lighthouse walk awakens all the senses." *Lighthouse Rd, Byron Bay.*

Whites Beach "Shhhh. Whites Beach is a local secret, with unpopulated waves and hidden caves. It's worth the trek over a rocky track lined with pandanus palms, but be prepared to stay the day - it's hard to leave." *Broken Head Nature Reserve.*

Brunswick Picture House "This retro 1950s theatre has been re-imagined and now showcases films, live music and theatre in a fun setting. This is a super-cool addition to a great-looking town, and it's worth a drive there to check out the architecture and goings-on." *30 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads. brunswickpicturehouse.com.*

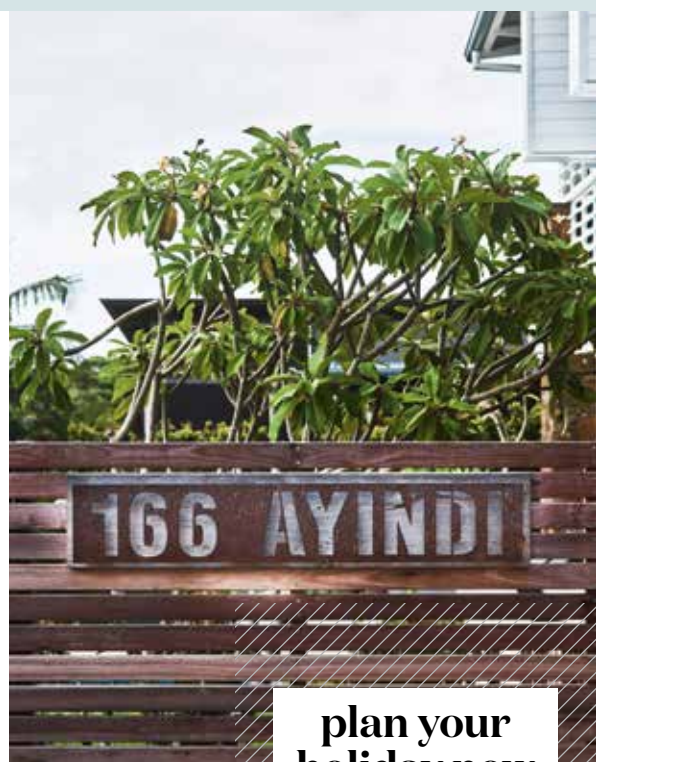
1. Book ahead for lunch or dinner to enjoy Fleet's local, seasonal produce crafted into high-end dishes.
2. Grab a coffee or order from Woods' organic, ethical and plant-based menu.
3. Sample the award-winning gins at Cape Byron Distillery.



PHOTOGRAPHY: (WOODS) MAGGIE DYLAN, (CAPE BYRON DISTILLERY) DEMETRE MINCHEV



POOL AREA (top left) Teak outdoor benches from Jati complement the local basalt stone cladding. The folding-arm awning from Blindmaster provides shelter on sunny days. **SHUTTERS (top right)** "The shutters add to the beachy feel of the house and address the weather," says Lucy. **LIVING AREA (below left)** This downstairs space overlooks the pool and features a handy kitchenette and second dining area, ideal for a teen retreat when the house is full.



plan your holiday now

Ayindi Byron Bay is a four-bedroom home suitable for groups of up to eight people. For more information and bookings, go to ayindi.com.

