

bump it up

Ground level gets a boost at this outdoor-friendly home.

Words Sandra Killen

There's something of a holiday air about this Brighton home on the shores of Bramble Bay, 17km north of Brisbane. The front balcony is where the owners eat breakfast, lunch and barbecue their meat for dinner most days and nights, watching the ships ▶



Take the tour ...
(clockwise from left)
The ground-floor living area, kitchen and front balcony; the rear view; and (opening page) front elevation.



in Moreton Bay. "That's the *Pacific Mariner* from Port Moresby," says one, consulting the shipping news in *The Courier-Mail*.

The retired couple – who relocated in July from acreage at Brendale, a suburb 4km further north, where they'd lived for 25 years and raised three children – wanted living areas, kitchen, bedroom and ensuite on the ground level with just a guest bedroom, bathroom and sitting area upstairs. "We only need room for ourselves and an extra bedroom, so we didn't want a big house."

Having the balcony ever-so-slightly elevated means they've become friendly with passers-by and their pooches but retain their privacy. "We walk to the shops, ride bicycles to [nearby] Woody Point and walk our two dogs on the mudflats out the front at low tide. Everyone says hello."

Shawn Godwin of BASE Architecture designed the two-storey beach-style home on 405sqm, with a driveway down one side and a double garage at the rear. "The community here is quite amazing," Godwin says. "Everyone seems to know everyone and it really feels like you could be sitting out the front of your campsite in a very large camping ground." ■

Photography Christopher Frederick-Jones