

## OCEAN REACH ON ODERN – A BUILDING PROJECT BY HUMPHREY HOMES

As the build approaches lockup my overriding feeling is that of calm confidence. Observing the mechanics of how the team at HH works to address the challenges and changes on the build, I feel so fortunate in the choice of Humphrey Homes. This sense of confidence has grown since my initial chats with Dean and Helen as I contemplated buying a block of land that people had told me was “unbuildable”.

Dean Humphrey is excited about what he does. At our initial meeting he impressed me with his knowledge about cutting edge processes and approaches to building. He didn't blink an eye when I said I didn't want to build a brick/render house. He simply told me about some wonderful construction innovations he had learned about on recent trips to Europe and the USA, including modern timber framing systems. Dean has assembled a team who I have found to be exceptionally talented. When you select HH as your architect and builder you are getting a total integrated package. It has been my experience that the team is tight, they talk constantly and work collaboratively to solve problems. They also seem to like each other, and you can feel that positive energy when you visit the office.

Working with architect Helen Marchesani and her magic black pen was, honestly, breathtaking. Helen has such a positive approach and creative eye. “There is always a way” is her mantra. Watching what were once just black marks on white paper turn into my home, I am in awe of Helen's vision and talent. I also appreciate that she listened to my dreams and hopes for how this house would be lived in and would meet the needs of my family over the coming years. I can feel how well she did this as I walk through the spaces as they take physical shape. As the project develops she is constantly involved, tweaking finer details to ensure the overall result is just as perfect as can be.

Is there any conflict between having an in-house Interior Designer and achieving a home reflecting individual tastes and aesthetic? No. Any such little doubts I may have had have been replaced by grateful appreciation for Joie's eye for detail and her open approach, coupled with amazing knowledge and tenacious skills in seeking fixtures and designing spaces. Making the selections has been lots of fun - like shopping with a girlfriend who has fabulous taste and knows all the best shops. I can't wait to see all the elements come together.

Going on site throughout the build I always feel welcome. The skilled guys with the hammers and saws are friendly and keen to share stories of the build with some healthy complaints about tricky elements dreamed up by architects. The build supervisor - Millimetre Dave - has always been available to answer questions and keep me up to date with progress. And I know things will be millimetre perfect.

I initially contacted HH after a friend recommended Helen as a wonderful architect. At that point I wasn't aware of the integrated nature of the business model. But it is a brilliant approach and I wouldn't build any other way. From the first I have felt that every staff member at HH is almost as excited about the building of my house as I am. From a site that presented lots of challenges due to its location and size I can hardly believe how gorgeous the house is going to be. I pinch myself every time I climb onto the champagne terrace and gaze across at the view.

Tracie Cielak, Swanbourne

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