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Smart design and modern classics  
transform a 1950s beach shack  
into a tropical sanctuary



Scrymgour. **Right:** tallowwood slats in the bathroom can be pulled up for easy cleaning. The console doubles as a step out to a sun-deck.

**Below:** compact tallowwood stairs lead upstairs. Rondo chair is by Gordon Andrews. **Below right:** the System 1.2.3. leather chaise epitomises mid-century cool. It was designed by Vernor Pantone for manufacturer Fritz Hansen.



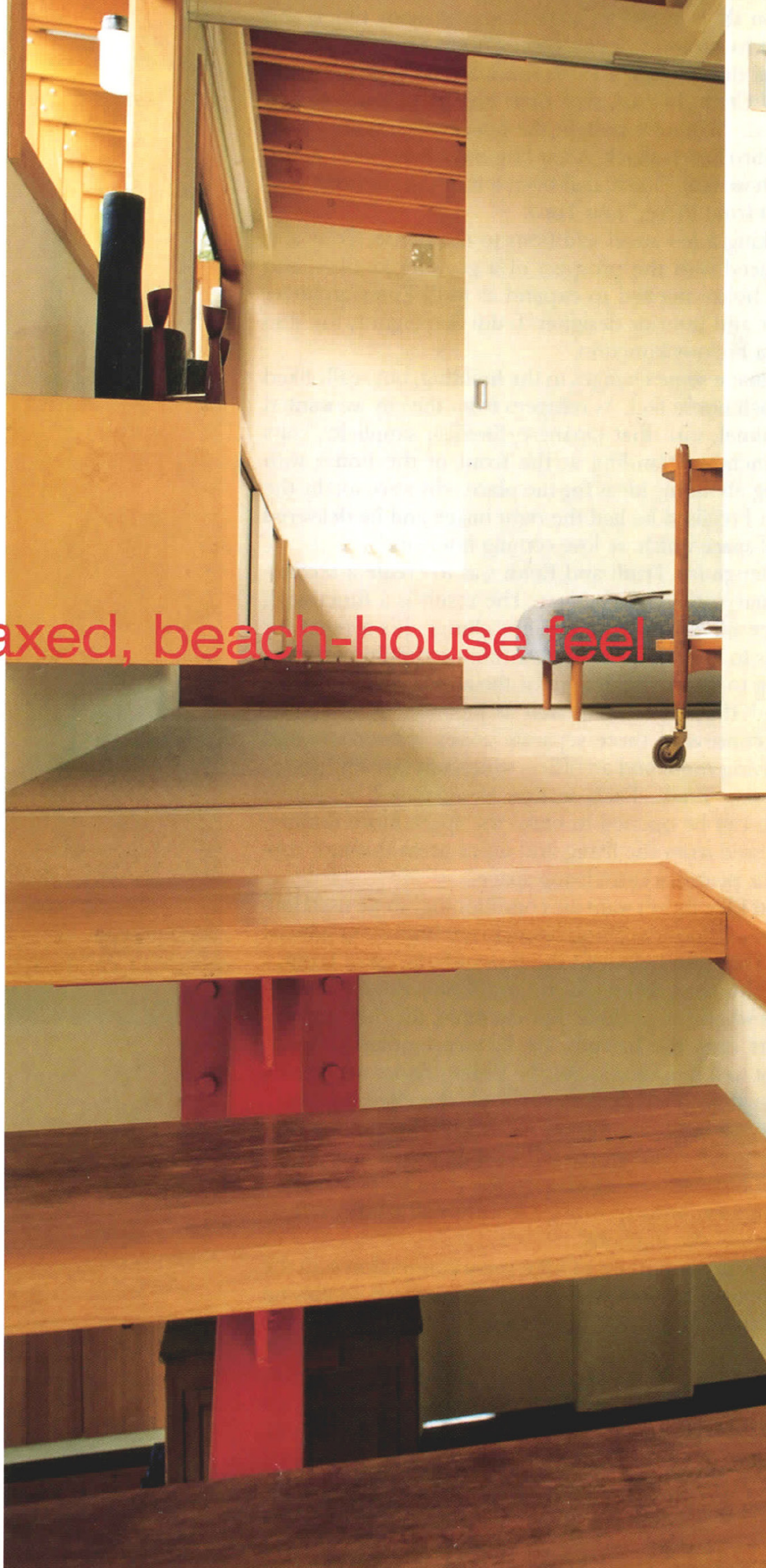
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**Above:** louvres, a typical 1950s style of window, line one bedroom wall, providing light and ventilation. The trolley, like much of the furniture, is from Form Follows Function, Darlinghurst, NSW. **Right:** sliding doors, timber finishes and flexible spaces create an open Japanese feel in the top-storey addition.

keep the relaxed, beach-house feel



realised the house needed to expand as well! Enter architect Keith Glover and interior designer Trudi Scrymgour, the duo behind Form Follows Function.

"We had made some changes to the building, but really liked its open, beach-house feel. As refugees from the city we wanted it to be minimal, with that Japanese/Swedish simplicity," says Tony. "I remember standing at the front of the house with Keith, talking about my ideas for the place. His were totally the opposite, but I realised he had the right image and he delivered this beautiful space which we love coming home to."

The challenge for Trudi and Keith was to create a second-storey sanctuary on a tight budget. The result is a functional, flexible space filled with comfort, not clutter. It's a relief for the rest of us to know it is possible, without scrimping on style.

According to Keith, the design for the addition was inspired by 1950s and 1960s houses, as well as Japanese architecture. "The space consists of three separate zones: a bedroom and bathroom, living room and an office, which was initially used as a nursery," says Trudi. Each section is separated by sliding doors, which can be opened to make the space more flowing. A deck, accessed from the living and office areas through concertina doors, provides extra living space.

"Tony and Ellie didn't want air-conditioning, so we used louvre windows and floor-to-ceiling doors to aid important natural ventilation. They also help with the flow of light," says Trudi.

To keep the costs down, Kevin and Trudi used standardized fittings wherever possible. For example, the Stegbar concertina doors onto the balcony are factory-standard. Joinery, too, was kept to a minimum, and the sliding doors were made out of standard-sized old doors, seamlessly dowelled together.

Trudi chose a light, neutral colour scheme for the interior. "There is a great deal of colour outside – it's like being perched in a tree house – so we kept the interior colours to a tranquil minimum, with an orange feature wall adding a flash of warm colour," she explains.

"I feel it's really important to have some connection with the outdoors. We have attempted to do this throughout, to play up the sense of space and light," says Trudi. □

You can contact Keith Glover and Trudi Scrymgour at Form Follows Function, Darlinghurst, NSW, phone (02) 9331 6227. Building work by Brett and Russell Way of BSW Constructions, phone (02) 4385 6902 or 015 485 988.



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