

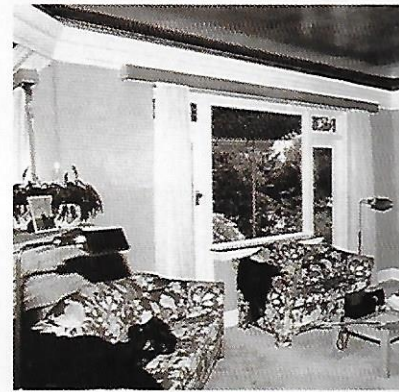
new wave

COVER UP IN THE SUN

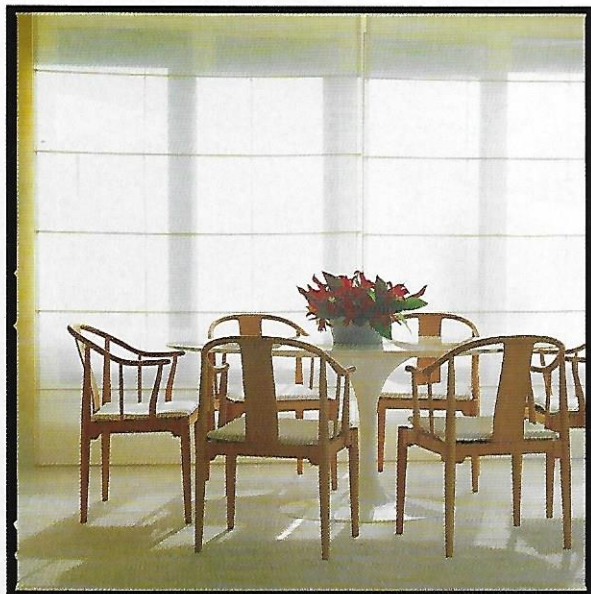
Designer and colour aficionado George Freedman bowed to the wishes of the owners, who wanted "light, white and sandy" for their beachfront apartment and plenty

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of cupboards for a family of boys. His plan brought in a cool, seaside glow and copious streamlined storage ideas. The individual touch: a splash of red in the new basement suite.

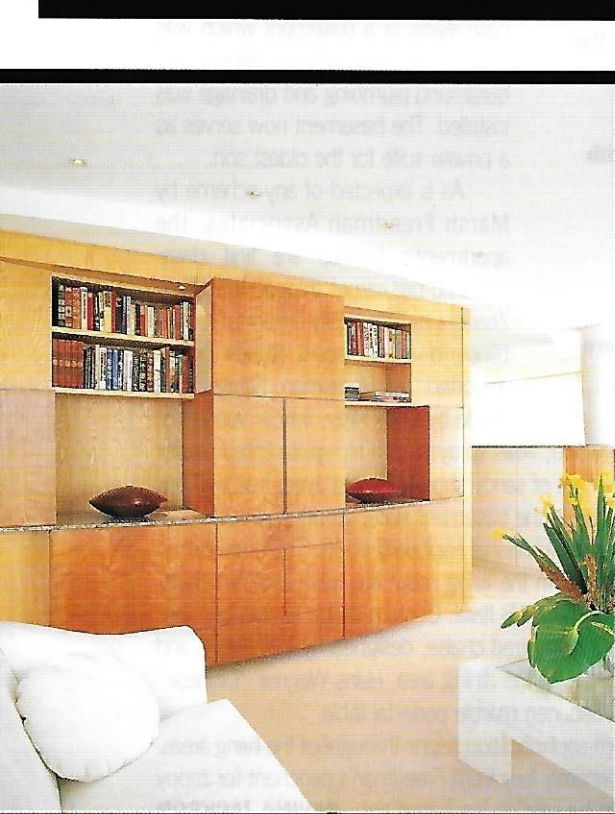


The apartment before renovations.



Light and white elegance beside the beach, **opposite:** in the living area, seating by Italian designer Mario Bellini has loose covers in cotton jacquard; the chaise longue, **below right**, was designed for the bay window — and the view — by Marsh Freedman architect Tim Allison; **below left:** superb detailing was incorporated into the cherrywood and Japanese

sen cocktail cabinet featuring Greg Collins bowls from Bibelot, Paddington, NSW. In the adjoining dining area, Hans Wegner 'Chinese' chairs, **left**, surround an Eero Saarinen marble dining table. The north-western sun is tempered by roman blinds in a Rubelli cotton gauze. Flowers by Alison Coates Flowers, Paddington, NSW.

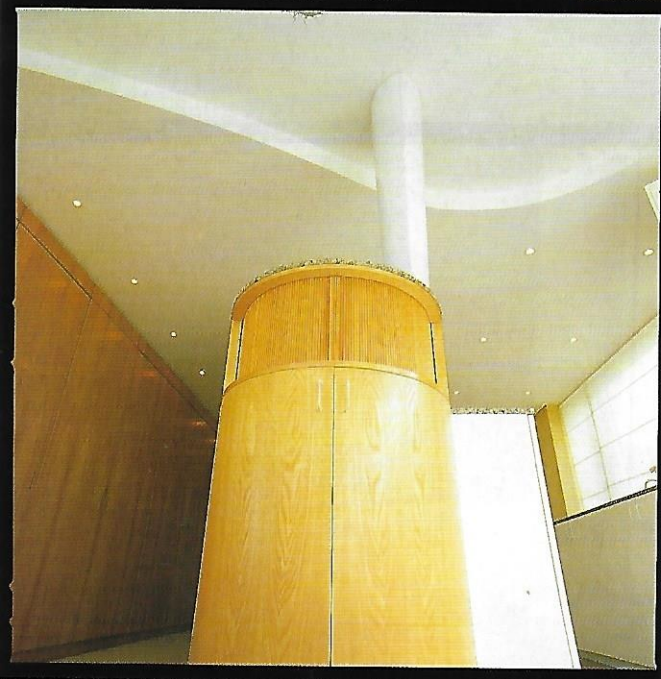




A "speedy" staircase, above, lined with timber panels in a ziggurat configuration, leads to the basement which has become the private domain of the family's oldest son.



Loads of storage space was one of the criteria in the renovations, so demarcation between the hall and the kitchen, above and left, was efficiently achieved with a curving cabinet in lacquered timber and tinted glass. Granite benchtops and white lacquered cabinets were used in the kitchen.



not often is George Freedman, the notoriously single-minded Sydney designer, dissuaded from using intense colours in his interiors. He found his match, however, in a client who refused to accept his typically rich palette of paint-tones for the renovation of a sunny apartment by the water. "This is beside the beach, George, and I want everything light, white and sandy," said the matriarch of a family sharing a two-storey apartment. "My boys are hopelessly untidy, so I want simple furnishings and lots of cupboards."

Confronted with such incontestable logic, Freedman junked his presentation drawings in favour of a scheme of white and cream and pale timbers. With associate Tim Allison and staff designers Ralph Rembel and Rob Pufflett, he designed an elegant and uncomplicated environment to support the family's energetic lives.

The original plan was rearranged on both levels. Now, a long entry hall, with walls veneered in timber and ceiling lit by a thread of halogen downlights, tapers towards the living/dining room and an arresting view of the harbour. To the left is a lacquered kitchen. Concealed behind the hall-panelling are two bedrooms, bathrooms and a laundry. Beside a built-in cabinet in the living area, a mirrored wall slides open to reveal a book-lined study for the master of the house. Freedman is especially enthusiastic about this device, which he copied from window shutters in Apsley House, the London home of the Duke of Wellington.

A short, "speedy", carpeted staircase leads to a basement which was prone to flooding before extensive underground plumbing and drainage was installed. The basement now serves as a private suite for the oldest son.

As is expected of any scheme by Marsh Freedman Associates, the apartment's finishes are first class: white rib-pile carpet shipped from New Zealand by Whitecliffe Imports; roman blinds in a translucent Rubelli cotton imported by Redelman Fabrics and made by Erica Riley; timber veneers in

Japanese sen and cherrywood; walls sprayed with Holyplate tinted plaster in mottled colours reminiscent of sandy shores. Almost every free wall has been converted for storage. In the basement suite, an unusual system of tambour shutters replaces conventional cupboard doors. There are only a few loose pieces of furniture. In the living room are two white armchairs and a matching sofa made by B&B Italia. Custom-made for the bay window alcove is an Eileen Gray-inspired chaise, designed by Tim Allison and made in Sydney by DeDeCe. In the dining area, Hans Wegner "Chinese" chairs surround an Eero Saarinen marble pedestal table.

A sense of cool, calm sophistication reigns throughout the living areas. Yet the apartment is not entirely free from Freedman's penchant for zappy colour: flashes of red can be seen in the basement. **DAVINA JACKSON**

Beside a built-in cabinet in the living area, a mirrored wall slides open to reveal a study. Freedman is especially enthusiastic about this device, which he copied from window shutters in Apsley House, the London home of the Duke of Wellington.

A bright note in the basement comes in red fabric covers for a Cassina 'Wink' armchair and banquette; the fibreboard bookcase hides a bed in the room beyond.

