



DINING

The dining space has banquette seating and a bar with a Vintec fridge that has capacity for 198 bottles. Built around it is curved custom joinery that ties into the overall design of the apartment. Oak herringbone flooring, Skov.

Alexandra and Nik were looking to buy their first home together at the same time they were planning a wedding; it was hit and miss which would happen first. But when they first viewed a large apartment in Sydney's leafy Bellevue Hill after more than a year of searching, they knew it was worth putting a home *and* renovation at the top of their priority list.

"The apartment was drenched in natural light," says Alexandra. "It was big – 243 square metres – but the light was its biggest appeal. The front and rear balconies open up the space even more, and because it's north-facing, we see beautiful pink skies behind North Bondi in the evening. We fell in love with it."

dream it

The couple love holidaying in Nik's native Greece, and also knew they wanted to get married there. As their wedding plans unfolded, so did their vision for their home; they knew they wanted to turn the already lovely apartment into something that made them feel as though they were in the Mediterranean every time they set foot through the front door. "Greece is our happy place," says Alexandra. "We wanted to bring a bit of that feeling into our home. When we first started dreaming about what we could do, we didn't think we would end up completely gutting

it. But with all the ideas we had, it made a lot of sense to change the configuration a bit and really go for it."

The couple wanted to give a nod to the traditional elements, materials and architectural shapes of Greece, while also giving it a contemporary twist. "We know it's not our forever place, so we wanted it to have a modern element so when we eventually sell it, someone else can come in and put their stamp on it as well."

design it

As Alexandra and Nik had never owned a place – let alone renovated one – they sought the help of Damaris Oprescu from Lucchini Oprescu Interiors to guide them through some ideas. "Damaris helped us envision what it would be like living there, and how everything would flow," says Alexandra. "We ended up extending the laundry, main ensuite and walk-in wardrobe, and minimising the large foyer, which was slightly wasted space. This meant we could have a double sink in the ensuite, add a bench in the shower, and have a really functional walk-in wardrobe."

Design-wise, there were a couple of things the couple were set on: "I really wanted a statement marble on the kitchen island," says Alexandra. "Damaris came up with the great idea of having this in elements throughout the rest of the apartment, too. I also loved the idea of having curved banquette seating for entertaining, which we could turn into a feature."