



**LIVING** "We used big, sculptural pendant lights to fill the void in the living room," says interior designer Ioanna Lennox. "It was quite a cavernous spot and these lights make it feel more intimate." The existing timber floor was sanded and refinished. C-u C-me round pendants in Black, Hermon & Hermon; Cabinet, Regency Distribution. *Lost and Surrounded* 2019 artwork by Amy Wright. Livorno outdoor chairs and Aperto outdoor side table, GlobeWest. Sashe planter, Florabelle Living. **OUTDOOR** Opposite Aperto sunloungers, GlobeWest. ▶

## WORLDLY WONDER

*A seasoned traveller sought to bring that holiday feeling home to his waterfront abode in Sydney's Pittwater – along with all the mod cons, of course.*

STORY *Georgia Madden* | STYLING *Ioanna Lennox Interiors*  
PHOTOGRAPHY *Pablo Veiga*





*A lifelong resident* of Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, Mark never had any intention of moving north. But with just one look at this stunning two-level, six-bedroom waterfront home on the city's Northern Beaches, he embraced the idea of a sea change. Since he spends six months of the year travelling, Mark was keen to bring a luxury-hotel feel to the house, while creating a relaxing retreat he could enjoy with his kids (aged 16 and nine) and their dog, Pepper. He turned to Ioanna Lennox, creative director at Ioanna Lennox Interiors, to make it happen.

"It started out as a relatively small renovation. Mark just wanted the media/family room and a powder room redone," says Ioanna. "But the project grew to the point where we effectively redecorated the whole house. Before we knew it, we weren't just refurbishing the main spaces, but gutting and redoing the entire master suite.

"Everything about this house is on a grand scale; it has double-height ceilings with soaring windows that take in the Pittwater views. And because it faces north-east, it gets the most beautiful light through the day. But the interior was dated and had something of a commercial feel, with aluminium pillars in the lounge and not a lot of architectural detailing such as architraves or skirting boards. A lot of the rooms were tiled as well.

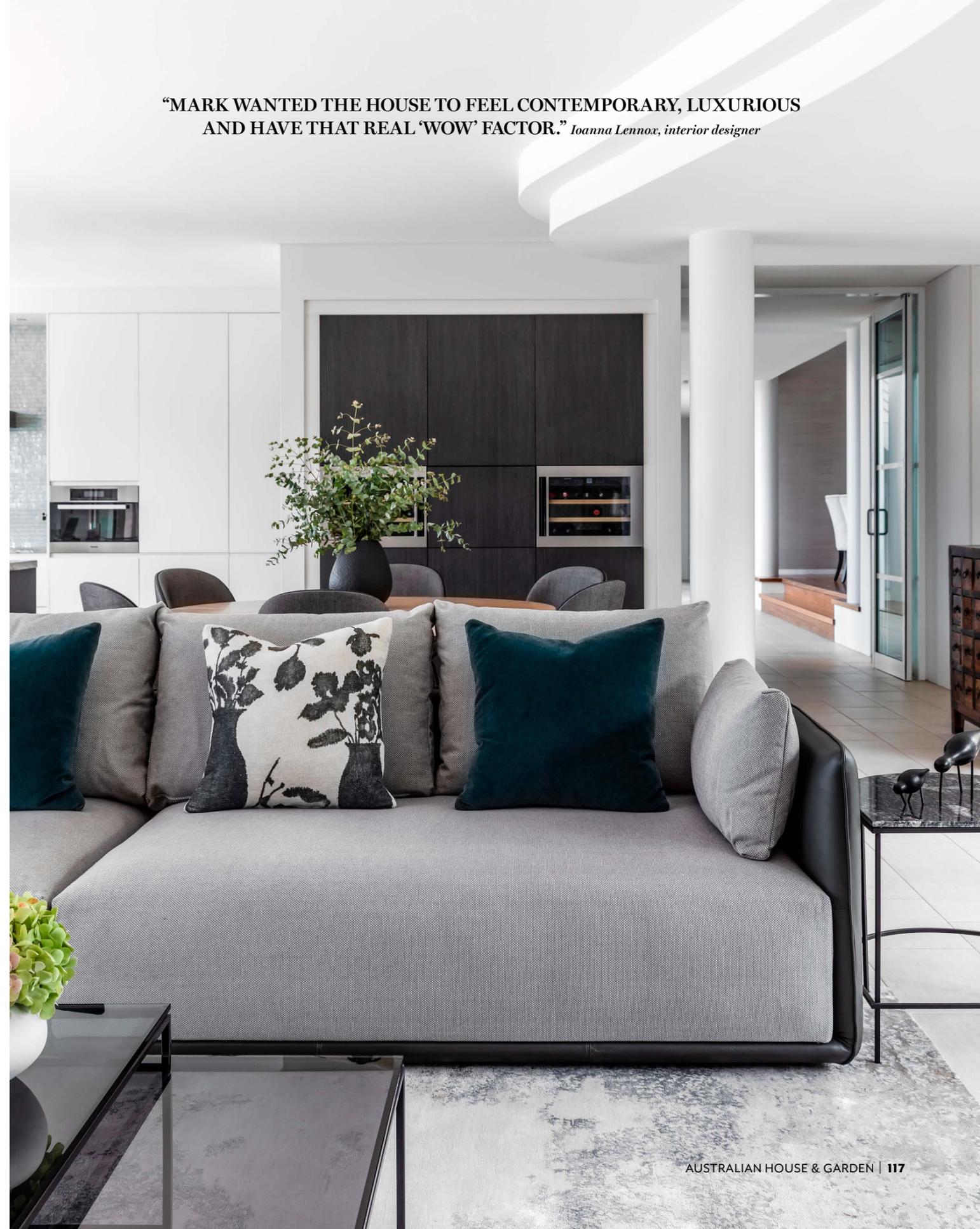
"Mark wanted the house to feel contemporary, luxurious and have that real 'wow' factor," Ioanna adds. And he knew he was in good hands, so he gave Ioanna and her team carte blanche when it came to the design. "He handed over the keys in March 2020 and told us that he'd be back in August and wanted it all finished by then," she says.

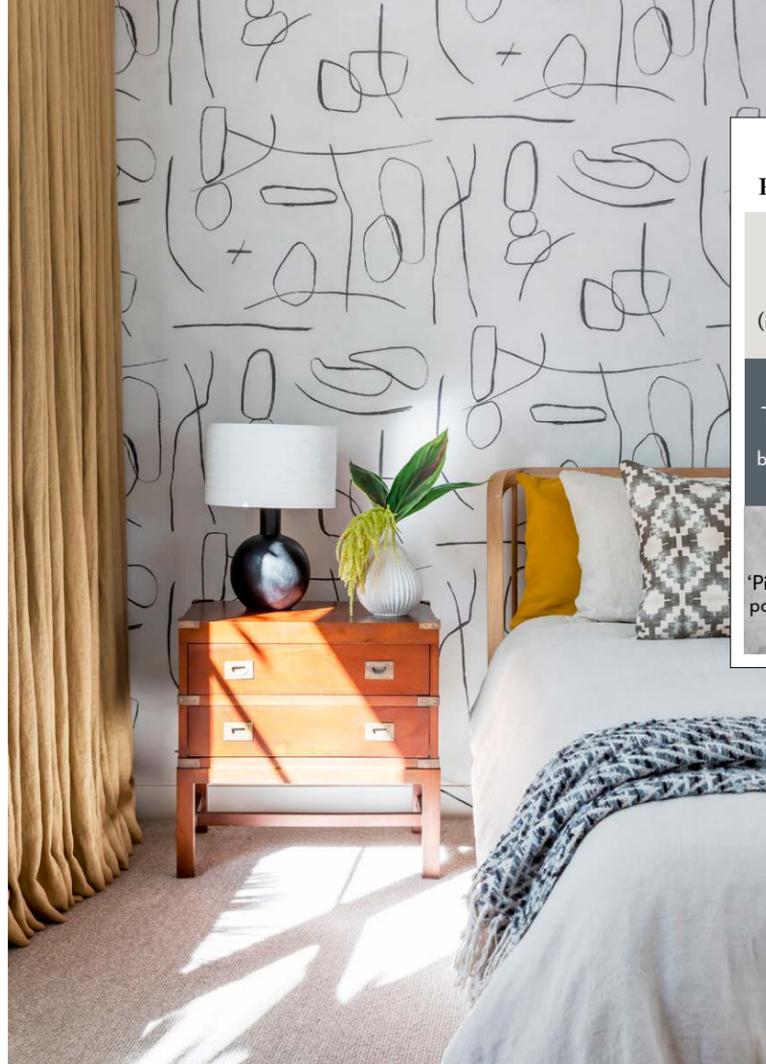
Ioanna started by adding a show-stopping, seven-metre-wide media wall in the family room. "Mark wanted it to have everything: an enormous television, a gas fireplace and space for his audio equipment and speakers," she says. "We lined the wall in grey ▶

**MEDIA ROOM** *Above and opposite*

An Elan sofa from Camerich is positioned in front of a joinery wall in Enviroven timber veneer in Charco from New Age Veneers. The stone on the wall is Neolith limestone in Elegant Grey from CDK Stone, while the decorative metalwork cabinetry doors are Oxford Decorative Grilles in Bronze from The English Tapware Company. DS1650 gas fireplace, Escea. Side table next to sofa, Trit House. Some things within the house couldn't be altered, including the kitchen, which had only recently been installed when Mark bought the property, and the cream floor tiles on the ground floor. "We minimised the tiles by laying luxurious, textured rugs that draw the eye. This is a great styling technique when you're dealing with less-than-perfect floors," says Ioanna.

**"MARK WANTED THE HOUSE TO FEEL CONTEMPORARY, LUXURIOUS AND HAVE THAT REAL 'WOW' FACTOR."** *Ioanna Lennox, interior designer*





**THE PALETTE**

Taubmans Ice Princess Half (interior walls)

Taubmans Jet Grey (main bedroom wall)

Artetech 'Pietra Imperiale' porcelain panels



**MATERIALS & finishes**

**JOINERY** Blackened Legno 144 and Calm White 8522, both in Natural finish, Laminex (kitchen). Enviroven timber veneer in Charco (living area).

**BENCHTOPS** Unknown (existing).

**FLOORING** Maximum Mercury porcelain panels cut to 750 x 190mm and laid in a chevron pattern, Artedomus (ensuite floor). Tiles unknown (existing). Overtones carpet in Greystone, Premier Carpets (main bedroom).

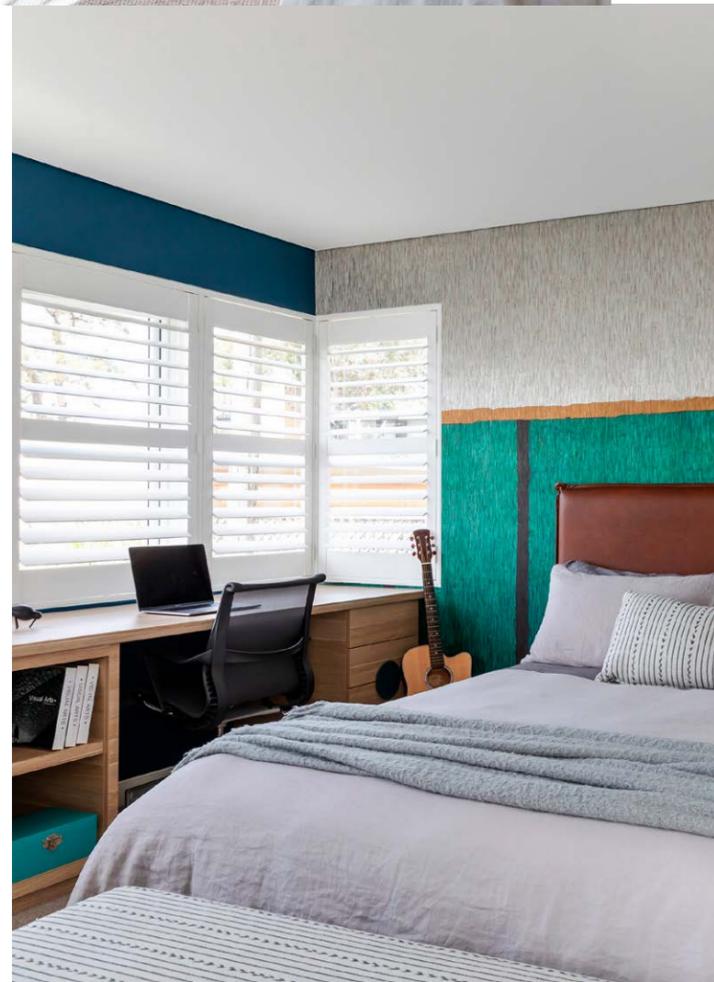
**TILES & SURFACES** Neolith limestone in Elegant Grey, CDK Stone (living area). Artetech 'Pietra Imperiale' 3000 x 1500mm porcelain wall panels (ensuite walls), Artedomus.

**APPLIANCES** All Miele, including the wine cabinet.

**TAPWARE** Brodware 'City Plus' in Aged Iron, Sydney Tap and Bathroomware (ensuite).

**COLOUR SCHEME** Taubmans Ice Princess Half (interior walls). Taubmans Jet Grey (main bedroom wall).

**LIGHTING** Typography 'Cilon Layer' pendants, Rakumba (bedroom). Ross Gardam 'Silhouette' wall lights in Black Glass, Stylecraft (ensuite). C-u C-me round pendants in Black, Hermon & Hermon (living area).



**SON'S BEDROOM** *This page and opposite, bottom* "We chose a thick vinyl mural wallpaper from Élitis that we mapped out digitally to work with the height of the bedhead," says Ioanna. "The rest of the room is painted a marine blue." Bedlinen, L&M Home. Benjamin bedside table, GlobeWest. Bedhead and base made by H+J Furniture and upholstered in Chalet leather in Burnt Waffle from Instyle. **GUEST BEDROOM** *Opposite, top left and top right* "This fun, quirky wallpaper was the starting point for the guest room," says Ioanna. She used Papier wallpaper in Charcoal from These Walls. Curtains are in Mokum 'Manipi' linen in Gold, James Dunlop Textiles. Mahogany bedside table in walnut stain, Xavier Furniture Australia. Ollie armchair from Trit House and pink cushion custom-made for Ioanna Lennox Interiors. ▶



“GETTING THE FLOOR  
RIGHT TO ENSURE  
THE WATER STAYED  
CONTAINED WITHIN  
THE SHOWER AREA WAS  
AN ENGINEERING FEAT.”

*Ioanna Lennox*

IOANNA LENNOX INTERIORS, NSW H&G



**ENSUITE** “I wanted to create the feel of a marbled museum in the ensuite, so we chose floor-to-ceiling marble-look porcelain panels,” says Ioanna. “I didn’t want to use stone because of the upkeep.” Artetech ‘Pietra Imperiale’ porcelain panels, Artedomus. The Claybrook ‘Ellipse’ bath from Rogerseller weighed 250kg and had to be craned in over the pool. Elle ‘Totem’ marble stool, GlobeWest. Brodware ‘City Plus’ shower, shower shelf and floor-mounted bath filler in Aged Iron PVD, Sydney Tap and Bathroomware. The Issy ‘Halo’ vanity from Reece was customised with marble handles to match the half-moon marble handles of the bedside tables in the adjoining bedroom. Bowl basins in Charcoal, Nood Co. Brodware ‘Halo’ wall tap set in Aged Iron PVD, Sydney Tap and Bathroomware. Issy ‘Oval’ mirrors, Reece. Ross Gardam ‘Silhouette’ wall lights in Black Glass, Stylecraft. Ioanna designed the towel rails and they were custom-made for this project by Taylor Building Industries.

limestone that helps the screen recede into the background, and put in an almost-two-metre-long Escea gas fireplace. Mark’s speakers are concealed in cabinets with special grilles so he can operate them with a remote control.

“He loves technology and the idea of being able to do things like turn on the fireplace on his phone on the way home, so we redid the wiring to make it a smart home,” she says. But it was the master suite on the first floor that underwent the biggest transformation. “We wanted this space to be quite masculine and pared back, but to feel indulgent at the same time,” says Ioanna. Working with a colour scheme of rich grey, muted blue and charcoal timber, she added simple, dark-toned furniture, lined the wall behind the bed in a textured grey-silk wallpaper and added a layered window treatment consisting of heavy curtains and billowy sheers that open and close at the touch of a button.

“A television in the bedroom was one of Mark’s must-haves, but I couldn’t see where to put it,” says Ioanna. “In the end, I concealed it in the ceiling so it drops down via remote control when you want to watch it, and then disappears when you’re done.”

The former study was expanded to create a new walk-in robe with a smoked-glass-fronted island at its centre, where Mark can store his cufflinks and watch collection. A wallpapered ceiling adds a jolt of colour and surprise. The original walk-in robe and ensuite were combined to create a new, supersize ensuite with a 2.2-metre walk-through shower that is open on both ends, three-metre-high porcelain-panelled walls, and a chevron-tiled floor. It’s a space so impressive it won Best Bathroom in the International Design & Architecture ▶



**WALK-IN ROBE** *Above and bottom left* “The island has a smoked-mirror front and LED lighting. The kickboard is mirrored, too, so it looks like it’s floating rather than being a big, solid block,” says Ioanna. Navurban timber-veneer joinery in Ashgrove, New Age Veneers. Overtones carpet in Greystone, Premier Carpets. **MAIN BEDROOM** *Left* The wall behind the bed is lined with Amalfi Silk II in Imperial Night from The Textile Company. Contour two-seater armchair, Profile bedside tables and Echo chest of drawers, all Zuster. Typography ‘Cilon Layer’ pendants, Rakumba. Feature wall, Taubmans Jet Grey. Artwork is an heirloom. *For Where to Buy, see page 123.*



Awards in 2020. “Getting the floor right to ensure the water stayed contained within the shower area was something of an engineering feat,” says Ioanna. “The tiler, builder and I worked on it down to the quarter millimetre. It was incredibly nerve-racking, but Mark was absolutely blown away,” she adds. “As he walked through each room, he was incredulous and just kept repeating, ‘This is not my house!’”

**DESCRIBE THE BRIEF AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE RENOVATION.** The brief was to deliver interiors in line with the imposing external facade and iconic waterfront location. The owner stays in exclusive hotels and wished to create a comparable space of his own.

**WHAT WAS YOUR DESIGN SOLUTION?** We focused on bringing drama, continuity and luxury to the home. We created a minimalist media room with a 7.5-metre wide media wall in smoky-grey limestone, an expansive master suite upstairs, and added texture, colour and a sense of intimacy throughout. In keeping with the architecture, we mixed classical and contemporary styles with masculine, bold and sophisticated elements.

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST HAPPY WITH?** This renovation transformed the house over a concentrated period of just six or seven months. We are proud to have defined the design direction and project-managed the revitalisation of this spectacular waterfront residence. My favourite feature is the master suite: from that incredible ensuite to the sheers in the bedroom that open up to reveal the water view, it’s pure luxury. It demonstrates what you can achieve when the homeowner trusts and really listens to you. **H&G**

*Design and building team* Interior designer Ioanna Lennox Interiors; ioannalennox.com. Builder Taylor Building Industries; taylorbuild.com.au.