



# Coasting along

From a high rise apartment in Hong Kong to a light-filled Auckland villa, Nicola and Alex Webster are enjoying their new lifestyle where the indoors and the outside merge

Text by Nicole Curin-Birch. Photography by Matthew Williams.

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**Opposite and this photo**  
After pulling up the carpet in the hall and dining room, Nicola and Alex discovered bora had been munching away on the floorboards for years. To disguise the patchiness of the wood they stained the floor black, which Nicola loves the look of but says she has to work hard to keep clean – especially with three young boys in the house.



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**This photo** With the help of designer Emma Kate Bamford, the couple repositioned the kitchen to face the sun and also opened the space up to create better flow. **Inset** Producing comfy outdoor furniture is Nicola and Alex Webster's speciality. The Coast sofa and bean bag (which Gus is lounging on) are Blagfish they get used whenever, too.

**A**s soon as you step out onto their deck it's easy to see why guests have a hard time leaving Nicola and Alex Webster's Herne Bay villa. Laying in wait, like giant marshmallows, is a vast array of oversized beanbags ready for plonking into. Once in, it's difficult to find a reason to get out. "We do spend a lot of time out here," says Nicola. "It has become like a second living room and in summer we do all our eating at the table, which means a lot less mess when you have kids. We all just relax on the beanbags and sofa and chat and read. Sometimes we don't move for hours."

It's Nicola's and Alex's job to know all about comfort. As the owners of Coast New Zealand they have perfected the art of resort living through their range of marine beanbags, outdoor furniture and luggage. And it's this feeling of a smartly casual lifestyle that they have injected into their family home.

Behind the gorgeous 100-year-old façade of their villa it's not unusual to find the couple's three young boys, twins Toby and Gus, three,

Great outdoors

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