BEST CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY HOUSES

EDITED BY GARY TAKLE

think Publishing

BEST CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY HOUSES

Edited by Gary Takle

With Text by:
Jade de Souza
Corey Thomas

think Publishing

Max Pritchard Architect
Photography by Sam Noonan

BEST CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY HOUSES

Front cover photography:
Wright+Feldhusen. Photography by Patrick Bingham-Hall

Back cover photography:
From left to right:
Morris Partnership. Photography by John Gollings
Norman Richards building design + interiors. Photography by Christopher Frederick Jones
Architecture:m Chartered Architects. Photography by Andrew Haslam
Nicolas Tye Architects Ltd

Edited By:
Gary Takle

Staff Writers:
Corey Thomas
Jade de Souza

Best Contemporary Country Houses is published by Think Publishing

ABN 97 131 984 128

Level One, 28/545 McDonalds Road South Morang Victoria 3752 Australia.
Telephone: +61 3 9404 5579 Fax: +61 3 9404 5582
info@thinkpublishing.com.au
www.thinkpublishing.com.au

Copyright © Think Publishing 2011

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by means of electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher.

Graphic Design:
Tristan Wilson
Jonathan Takle

Best Contemporary Country Houses
ISBN: 978-0-9808314-3-6

think Publishing

Nicolas Tye Architects Ltd - Cedarwood
Photography provided by Nicolas Tye Architects Ltd

CONTENTS

Private Retreat 8
Architecture:m Chartered Architects

Rural Oasis 13
Domoney Architecture

Pure and Simple 16
Nicolas Tye Architects Ltd

The Long Barn 21
Nicolas Tye Architects Ltd

Rural Redefined 25
Balance Associates Architects

A Home for All Seasons 29
Balance Associates Architects

The Country's Cutting Edge 33
Graham Jones Design

Sweet Escape 36
Graham Jones Design

California Dreaming 40
Carver + Schicketanz Architects

Over and Above 45
JJC Design

Aloft 48
Wright+Feldhusen

Full of Character 52
McCarthy Homes

Mountainous Wonder 57
Leslie Elkins Architecture

Rural Retreat 60
Sanctum Design Consultants Pty Ltd

Waterfront Retreat 64
Demetriou Architects

Valley Splendour 68
TT Architecture

Heightened Sense of Living 72
Martin Holub Architects

Informal Australian 77
Holman Home Design Pty Ltd

Resourceful Design 80
Matthew Grace Architecture

Balinese Beauty 84
Soul Space Building Design

Redgate Beach House 89
Craig Steere Architects

Inside Out House 93
Norman Richards building design + interiors

The Peak of Perfection 96
Impeckable Constructions

Environmental Empathy 100
Clever Design

Accented Architecture 105
Wood Marsh Architecture

Modern Australia 109
Daniel Ash Architects

Resort Style 113
Peter Jackson Design

Room With a View 117
Peter Jackson Design

Rule, Britannia 120
Peter Jackson Design

Traditional Extension 124
Peter Jackson Design

Contemporary Masterpiece 128
Vibe Design Group

Smart Design 133
Solar Solutions Design

Lake View 136
Solar Solutions Design

Sensitive Design 141
Solar Solutions Design

Everlasting Flexibility 145
Bark Design Architects

Timber Terrific 149
Bark Design Architects

Rural Innovation 152
Form and Function

Farm Shed 156
Kerstin Thompson Architects

Illusive and Provoking 160
Morris Partnership Architecture and Planning

Tree House 165
Morris Partnership Architecture and Planning

Scottish Country Living 168
MRH Architectural Design and Planning

Pitch Perfect 172
Sunpower Design

Non-Traditional 177
Duc Associates

Sun Soaked 181
Duc Associates

Contemporary Combination 184
James Jones

Designer Camping 188
Casey Brown Architects

Indian Inspiration 192
Willard C. Dixon Architect, AIA

Like Nowhere On Earth 197
Architects Designhaus

Rural Elegance 200
Max Pritchard Architect

Wooden Wonder 205
Jackson Clements Burrows Pty Ltd Architects

Eco-Refit 209
Ande Bunbury Architects

French Country by the Sea 212
Canny

Byron Beauty 216
Archimages Architecture

Hinterland Holiday 221
Charles Wright Architects

Sensitive Renovation 224
Noxon Giffen

Reductive Modern 228
Cooper Joseph Studio

Vineyard Views 233
Cooper Joseph Studio

Bark Design Architects - Maleny
Photography by Christopher Frederick Jones

Floor Plan

Plans remain © Copyright of Architecture:m chartered architects

Private Retreat

A design inspired by the aesthetic and functionality of 1950's Californian Pacific Modern style houses, this country home has evolved in a contemporary manor, adapting to the realities of the British climate and the client's requirements.

The brief for this contemporary home was both simple and flexible. The clients wanted a home with plenty of communal spaces that would cater for day-to-day family life, joined easily to private spaces for each family member to retreat to.

The shape and orientation of the site saw Architecture:m Chartered Architects implement a home structured to facilitate the kind of living environment that the clients desired. A living wing joins perpendicular to a sleeping, which together create a semi-enclosed courtyard; the courtyard facilitates a secluded feel with well-established trees surrounding the property adding to the tranquil country sensibility.

Contrasting colours and textures with interesting window placement creates a fascinating but refrained façade that acts as a barrier between the public domain and the private arena. With the house turning away from the outside world in this way, the relationship between the internal spaces and the enclosed courtyard is accentuated through generous sized patio doors, balconies and the continuity of materials.

A stone feature wall that runs from the entry through the house acts as a spine from which all other elements emanate. External finishes are purposefully restricted to crisp white render and the graphite grey of the window frames. The angular and textured landscaping to the hidden courtyard is the primary feature of the exterior space. The fractured elements of this landscape design take direct reference from the rhythm and proportion of the house and therefore compliment the building.

White walls continue inside and contrast the stone feature wall and the large format light grey floor tiles. Such a simple palette allows the furniture and artwork to pop. The mirroring of the inside and outside materials perpetuates the easy relationship between in and out.

Enclosing the courtyard formed by the two primary wings of the residence, is an indoor pool and gymnasium. A wall of sliding doors opens this luxurious space to the yard, for a seamless connection with the landscape, which successfully addresses the client's desire for interlinked space.

All construction products were specified with sustainability in mind, encompassing expected lifetime of the product, excellent thermal capacity and limited transportation distance.

Architecture:m is a growing, dynamic and creative architectural studio with a philosophy to delight clients by delivering innovative and comprehensive design solutions.

Considered, aspirational design, with a simple aesthetic is the cornerstone of the company's belief – achieved by understanding the client's requirements and continuing this dialogue until the most appropriate solution is reached.

Architecture:m Chartered Architects

First Floor - 12 Tariff Street,
Manchester England M1 2FF
United Kingdom
T: +44 161 237 3324
www.architecturem.co.uk

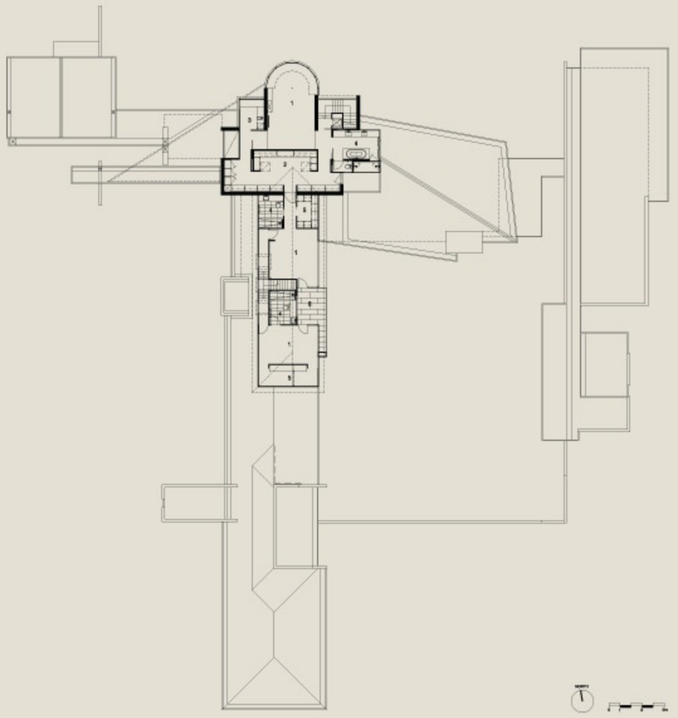
Photography by Andrew Haslam
Words by Jade de Souza

Rural Oasis

A huge site with endless possibilities, a design savvy client and a healthy budget presented architect Steve Domoney with the kind of project designers dream about. What evolved was a relaxed but refined house that realizes everything the client desired with expert precision.

Ground Floor

1. Entry
2. Northern Terrace
3. Guest Pavilion
4. Ensuite
5. Wine Store
6. Library/Sitting Room
7. Southern Terrace
8. Gallery
9. Laundry
10. Prep Kitchen
11. Kitchen
12. Dining
13. Living
14. Games Room
15. Bar
16. Powder Room
17. Store
18. Walk In Robe
19. Cinema
20. Gymnasium
21. Bedroom
22. Children's Playroom
23. Pool
24. Garage



Upper Floor

1. Bedroom
2. Dressing Room
3. Bar
4. Ensuite
5. Walk In Robe
6. Roof Terrace

Plans remain © Copyright of
Domoney Architecture

Few country houses are realized to this level of sophistication where a contemporary sensibility is balanced with comfortable family living across expanses of sheer design perfection.

This enduring and spacious family home spreads its distinctive foot print across a mere fraction of the 1000 acre property it graces. Designed to be robust enough to cope with the rigors of daily life, the house serves also as a chic venue for entertainment on both the small and large scale.

The home is arranged into pavilions that wrap around a central, enclosed and landscaped garden court and pool area. Fragmented into discernable portions, the house provides a selection of spaces that each serve individual functions.

At its core the building contains the principal family living and sleeping areas. Continuity to other parts of the house is achieved with glazed walkways that transverse the pools and water features and serve to separate and surround the different sections. The walkways connect the main living pavilion to a leisure pavilion including games room, bar and theatre, a gym and pool pavilion, guest accommodation pavilion and a garage and workshop.

The 25 metre swimming pool and children's wading pool lovingly embrace the contemporary residence, becoming as much a part of the interior as the exterior as it winds its way around the pavilions, setting the prevailing water garden theme throughout. Expansive outdoor entertaining areas include a number of casual lounges warmed by outdoor fires and a variety of alfresco dining spaces for whatever the occasion. A secure and contained place for children to play and adults to relax is created by the extended terracing and enclosed courtyard, with garden treatments by Paul Bangay helping to nestle the building form into its country setting.

Natural stacked stonework and expressed timber elements contrast against crisp render, concrete and banded glass walling to instill a contemporary but laid-back air to the home's exterior. To the interior, these same elements are warmed by stylish but relaxed furniture and a palette rich in deep colours and textures that creates an unmatched luxury while reinforcing the home's intended comfortable nature.

Each space experiences a different aspect of the property, a view across the pool, a vista to an established tree or a captured outlook of the distant hills. These continuous punctuations by views and vistas to the surrounding countryside underpin a strong sense of place.

Intriguing architecture, elegant designer interiors and thoughtful landscaping speak a refined design vernacular, respectfully challenging the rural setting with a grandeur that is second to none.

Domoney Architecture

130 Kerr Street,
Fitzroy VIC 3065
Australia
T: +61 3 9419 0773
www.domoneyarchitecture.com

Photography by Derek Swalwell
Words by Jade de Souza

Pure and Simple

Casting its gentle shadow over the Manchester countryside is this Scandinavian inspired forest retreat where simple living meets flawless style.

Lovingly embraced by a lush, mature landscape, this environmentally responsive country home by innovative architect Nicolas Tye is a dreamy abode all throughout the year.

The surrounding woodland environment presented an interesting challenge as to where to build, and saw the design evolve into a series of simple structures that reflect the surrounding landscape. Pale pavers and loose pebbles bridge said landscape to the timber and glass house that appears to float across the land. Modern and contemporary with a relaxed refinement, the structures adopt the always chic Scandinavian aesthetic that the design savvy clients desired.

Challenging the notion that simple means boring, the linear building form is a masterpiece in low maintenance, robust materials, making just the right impression without overpowering the real feature – nature.

The home's interior speaks a subtle elegance, with slick, smooth finishes and modern furniture. Spreading across the bottom floor, the main living areas enjoy an easy continuity, with slight definition achieved with the stack stone, double-sided fire place that marks the lounge. Similarly warmed by the fire, the dining area and kitchen express a slightly more striking identity with bright whites contrasting charcoal features.

Partial height walls bring the grandeur of the cathedral ceiling into the first floor spaces. From the master bedroom, the roof form continues out onto a semi enclosed balcony where timber slats and a timber clad roof provide a cozy haven for year round enjoyment.

Semi-frosted glass provides just the right amount of privacy to the chic and modern bathrooms, allowing for the experience of the rural atmosphere within a warm and inviting room that maintains a modern aesthetic.

A serene place to relax and take in the quiet of nature, the garden is made particularly alluring with a linear water feature that runs the length of the house. Sitting to one end is a quaint guesthouse that frames the garden court. Mimicking the main house in materials and design intention, the guesthouse opens widely to the garden and is stylishly furnished creating a cozy little abode for guest stays.

Everything about the home speaks a rural vernacular with a stylish and contemporary accent; from the way glazing integrates the inside with the out to the way timber cladding embraces the gorgeous green outlook. Country sensitive architecture realized to its full potential, this home is a jewel in the crown of architect Nicholas Tye.

Nicolas Tye Architects Ltd

The Long Barn Studio
Limbersey Lane
Maulden, Bedfordshire MK45 2EA
United Kingdom
T: +44 1525 406677
www.nicolastyearchitects.com

Photography provided by
Nicholas Tye Architects Ltd
Words by Jade de Souza

The Long Barn

The Duke of Bedford Model barn has sat with its splendid rolling hill views over Bedfordshire for 170 years. Used for the majority of its life as a grain store, it had in recent times become derelict, awaiting its new lease on life.

Constructed from oak and local bricks, this 40 metre long, six metre wide barn exuding beauty and charming character was converted into a home by the talented team at Nicholas Tye Architects.

The original 275 square metres the barn covered was increased to 387 square metres by the slight excavation of the ground floor, and the addition of a new first floor. Now an impressive two and a half stories high, the barn achieves a graceful balance between interacting levels.

As one approaches the barn from the west, the six by six metre fully glazed gable end makes a stunning statement. This due west glazed elevation receives dramatic views of rolling countryside as well as panoramic evening sunsets.

The property is framed by a metre high solid wall punctuated only by a single circle offering a glimpse to the landscape beyond. Raised garden beds planted with native grasses step down the length of the house alongside a timber deck.

A garage and studio sit at the higher end of the barn on one level, half way between the ground and first floors to the main building. Here, steps lead down to the entrance which has a cortan steel canopy and entrance grid which harps back to the agricultural era. A modernist glazed five metre high entrance sits behind in respect of the original elevation. This allows light to flood into the entrance hall which divides work and living areas.

Once inside, the chic and contemporary interior is breathtaking. The existing roof – a series of elm trusses emanating off a member running the length of the barn – is a spectacular feature. The first floor enjoys the glory of the original roof up close, whilst certain areas of the ground floor open expansively upward to create generous spaces.

The simple and elegant interior strikes a harmonious blend between hard and soft furnishings. Movable pieces compliment the very natural materials used for fixed surfaces, which together reflect the lovely rural setting of the home and add a modern flavour to this historic barn, complimenting the old with the new.

Although open plan, the feeling of the interior is not one of starkness, as the integration of spaces is gently punctuated by elements that give subdivision and indeed intimacy to certain areas. For example, a two metre wide stack stone fireplace is an eye-catching feature that warms both floors, visually and functionally. Similarly, the stepping down of spaces to the ground floor neatly gives a sense of enclosure though the rooms remain open.

A cantilevering cortan steel stair reaches up to the first floor, where four bedrooms and two bathrooms are connected via a floating bridge. Windows in each bedroom throw the eye out to the views of open landscape and the lake.

Set back from the rural road on some six acres, this lovingly restored and renovated barn acts as a beacon atop the hill – especially when lit up at night. The majestic home, sympathetically combining old and new is a cohesive and intriguing design that epitomises rural living.

Nicolas Tye Architects Ltd

The Long Barn Studio
Limbersey Lane
Maulden, Bedfordshire MK45 2EA
United Kingdom
T: +44 1525 406677
www.nicolastyearchitects.com

Photography provided by
Nicholas Tye Architects Ltd
Words by Jade de Souza

Ground Floor

1. Entry
2. Living
3. Dining
4. Hall
5. Mechanical
6. Bedroom
7. Bath
8. Kitchen
9. Patio
10. Rec Room
11. Powder Room
12. Garage

First Floor

1. Hall
2. Closet
3. Master Bath
4. Master Bedroom
5. Utility
6. Study
7. Sitting Area

Plans remain © Copyright of Balance Associate Architects

Rural Redefined

Pitched amongst peaceful, park-like gardens, this unique, contemporary country home sets an unmatched standard of rural design.

The hero of the 'PS House' by Balance Associates Architects from Seattle, is a curved, two-storey high roof that shelters the main living areas. The loft-like space it creates satisfies the client's desire for a home with a converted warehouse feel. Running the length of the roof-form at its peak is a linear skylight that floods the area below with natural light.

A huge, double-height, open living area is created below the feature roof, with intimate spaces formed underneath an office and a reading space that are strung together by catwalks and float just below the ceiling. These practical, open rooms maintain the majestic effect of the space. Framed below the reading area is a sleek and modern kitchen, with pale timber cabinetry and stainless steel appliances. The adjacent living and dining areas are furnished minimally and accented with striking, colourful design pieces such as artworks and lighting.

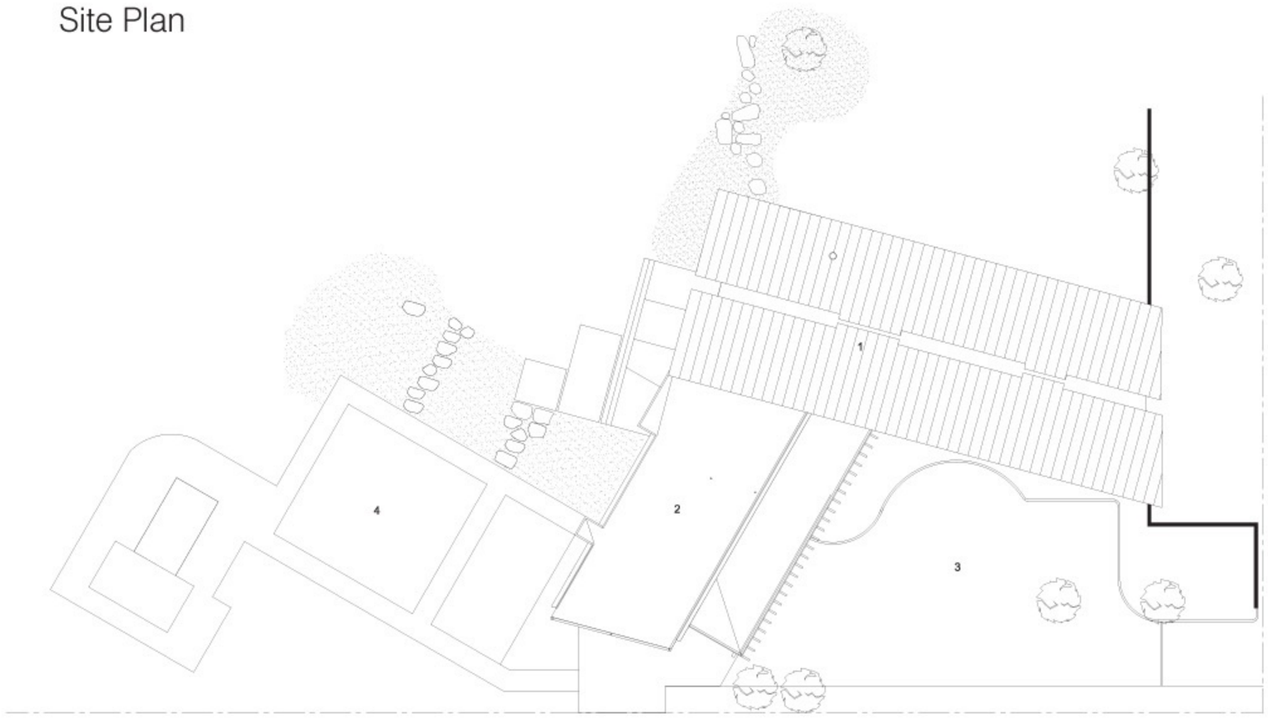
Occupying the home's second story, the master suite is a light and airy retreat, peacefully divided from the busy living area. Sun streams in through the overhead skylight, pouring natural light into the bedroom, bathroom and walk-in robe. Avoidance of floor to ceiling walls increases the open feel, with the designer opting instead for partial-height wooden cabinetry that can close rooms off with sliding partitions. Maintaining the effect of the high ceiling in this area furthers the owner's desire for the home to appear like a loft.

Downstairs, two more bedrooms and the home's utility rooms are also quietly separated from the hub of the house, creating an intimacy often lacking in large houses. The entrance to the home is quaint and unassuming, leaving the property's primary impression to be that of the indoor and outdoor living areas running below the feature roof, revealing themselves upon entry.

Designed as an extension of the living area, a large covered entertaining area forms the impressive connection between the house and its idyllic park-like garden. The timber clad ceiling continues through from inside, visually connecting the interior and exterior spaces and topping the generous alfresco area with its interesting detail. A full kitchen with custom barbecue supply the entertaining area that is warmed by a fireplace for use year-round.

The landscaped gardens that complete the home are the perfect place to run around with the kids or just lay in the grass and read, with the peace and serenity of the wide open spaces producing a relaxed sensibility that contributes to the unique atmosphere of the home.

Site Plan



1. Main Living Area
2. Garage/Rec. Room
3. Driveway
4. Garden

Plans remain © Copyright of
Balance Associates Architects

Balance Associates Architects

80 Vine Street, Suite 201
Seattle WA 98121-1368
United States of America
T: +1 206 322 7737
www.balanceassociates.com

Photography by Steve Keating
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan

Plans remain © Copyright of Balance Associate Architects

A Home for All Seasons

Located near Yellowstone National Park along the Gallatin River in Montana, the magnificent 'Riverbank House' by Balance Associates Architects enjoys gorgeous views through walls of glazing that capture every picturesque outlook from the site.

As well as wanting to capture the prominent vistas, the clients desired a home with a large kitchen and plenty of space for guests so that they could indulge their passion for cooking and entertaining.

One large living area comprising kitchen, dining and living rooms is created below an exposed steel skeleton. Together with concrete floors, the home takes on an industrial feel, that is softened by pale timber cabinetry and walls of glass that are a constant reminder of the gorgeous rural setting. The home is furnished sensitively with modern furniture that finds character in colourful accents.

A steel exoskeleton is also exposed on the home's river side, with beams and columns picking up the large roof overhangs designed to carry heavy winter snow loads. Operable doors open the house up and extend the living area out under these overhangs where an exterior fire place and gathering area can be enjoyed through most of the year.

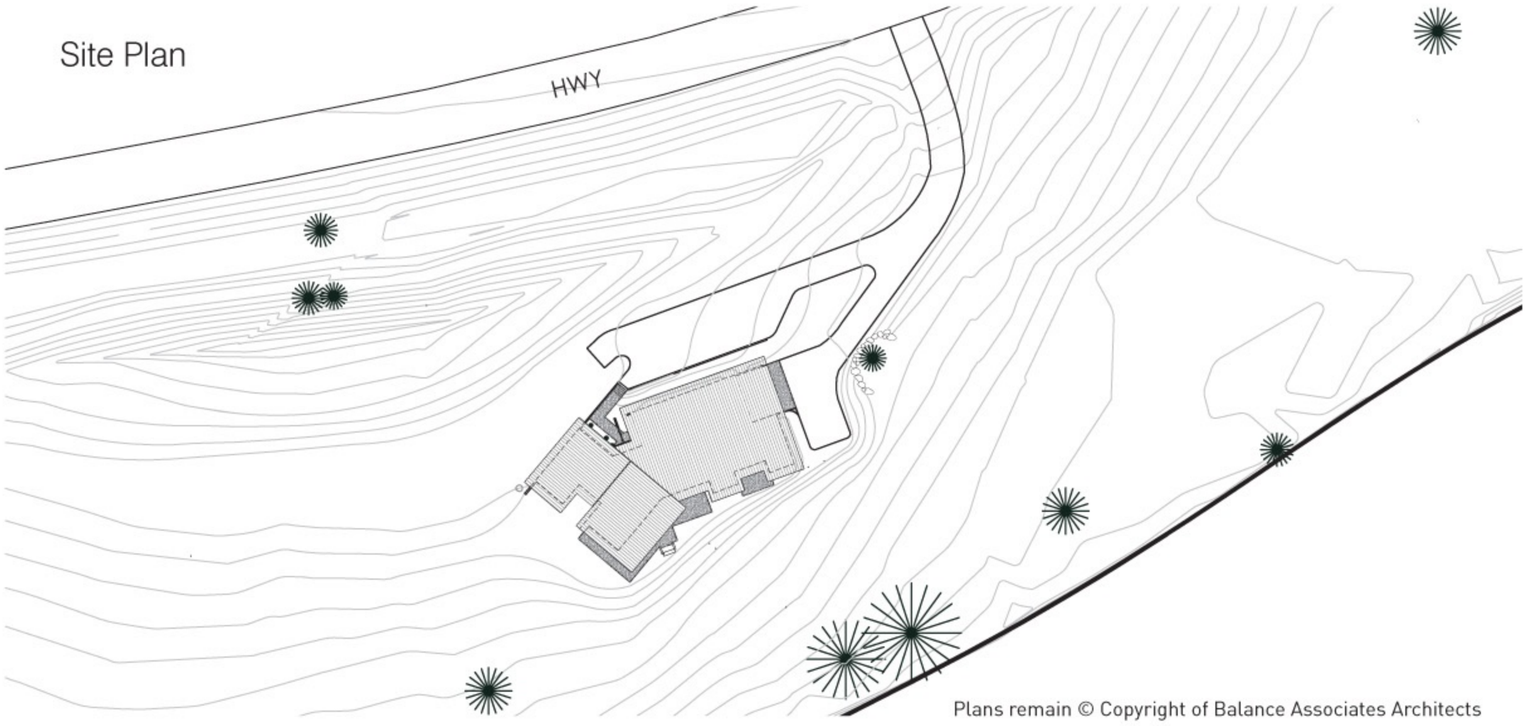
Visual connections between inside and out are created not only by windows but also by the extension of interior materials to the exterior, such as the concrete floor, light fixtures and the steel beam structure.

In response to the home's location near a busy highway, the entry is sunken and built into the hillside to create privacy and buffer the sound. The entry is at the vertex of two wings – designed in a bent shape to maximize views – that come together where a roof water catchment forms a water feature.

The harsh climate to which the house is exposed meant that clever planning was needed in order for the inhabitants to feel comfortable during both snow season and summer. Insulation is therefore maximal, with geothermal heat pumps and in-slab radiant heat used to make the home more energy efficient. The orientation of the home and its roof angles allow the living space to receive solar gains in the winter, when bringing light and heat into the house is imperative. Such gain is blocked in the summer in order to keep the house cool.

A comfortable, cozy and intimate environment together with that coveted peaceful, country ambience pervades both the interior and exterior spaces, which – to the pleasure of the home owners – will have family and friends lining up to visit, stay in the private guest wing and enjoy the hospitality the home's owners so desired to share.

Site Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of Balance Associates Architects

Balance Associates Architects

80 Vine Street, Suite 201
Seattle WA 98121-1368
United States of America
T: +1 206 322 7737
www.balanceassociates.com

Photography by Steve Keating
Words by Jade de Souza

The Country's Cutting Edge

Just minutes from the outskirts of sprawling suburbia is this architectural gem, nestled in a quiet rural valley. What the owners wanted was a contemporary reinterpretation of the country vernacular, active engagement with the landscape, and the creation of unique opportunities for dramatic views. Absolute privacy was paramount, as was the facilitation of tranquility.

In a carefully choreographed entry sequence, site access is granted through a sweeping driveway running towards the house that gently weaves guests through existing sheds, whilst discretely withholding the expansive northerly view across the large dam, farmed fields and wooded hillsides. A local drystone wall creates a north-south axis and leads guests to the entry, where the views are finally revealed in their splendour.

To take advantage of the views, the living areas and master bedroom run lengthwise. In addition, their positioning helps to compose the overall layout of an elongated cranked timber box, which has been angled (both in plan and elevation) to cradle the banks of the dam and set up a dialogue with the slope of the site. A separate private zone and garage anchor each end of the main building form, creating a large outdoor space encompassing an entry court and formal courtyard.

Expression of form is signified by differentiations in materiality. The timber volume is suspended, creating an elevated viewing platform, whilst the cor-ten and raw render volumes anchor the house to the land. The claddings are allowed to weather and are applied in a natural and subtle manner. Expansive glazing allows the landscape to fill the interior.

Timber cladding punctuates the stylish interior spaces, whose simplicity is the perfect complement to the picturesque outlook. Crisp whites, sleek blacks and neutral taupes comprise a simple palette that flows from space to space.

The main kitchen and living area take in the best of the views over the linear swimming pool, which runs parallel to the house and appears to spill over into the dam beyond. Outdoor living is made easy, with expanses of decking turning into a semi-enclosed exterior kitchen, perfect for enjoying Sunday barbecues all year round.

With a low environmental impact thanks to several sustainable features, the house benefits from the passive heating and cooling methods that have been applied. All rainwater is collected and grey water is treated on site to cater for all domestic needs. The windows are double glazed and the timbers used in construction originate from managed plantations.

The aim of the project was to balance comfort with necessity and to fully engage in an exploration of intimate responses to landscape, all the while preserving the site and optimizing the views. A carefully considered material palette and new architectural principals were applied to create a harmonious relationship between a modest family home and a delicate site. Big on ideas but modest in architectural statement, the house not only exceeded the client's expectations but opens up a totally new direction for the designers at Graham Jones Design.

Plans remain © Copyright of Graham Jones Design

The aim of the project was to balance comfort with necessity and to fully engage in an exploration of intimate responses to landscape while preserving the site and optimizing the views.

Graham Jones Design

7 Hammel Court,
Hallam VIC 3803
Australia
T:+61 3 8795 7088
inquiry@grahamjonesdesign.com.au
www.grahamjonesdesign.com.au

Photography by Chris Groenhout and Eve Wilson

Sweet Escape

A luxurious country retreat in a prestigious rural town northwest of Melbourne, Australia, brings the natural environment together with innovative design.

This awe inspiring home by Graham Jones Design expresses individuality, style and sophistication. The clients required a private retreat for friends and family that would also capture the imagination of nearby Daylesford's tourist market. Taking on the challenge with imagination and vigor, Graham Jones Design created a unique hideaway that incorporates everything that is good about a country escape.

The natural undulations of the site were utilized through house placement, affording the building with panoramic woodland views. Sitting beautifully within its natural environment, the home's simplistic and classic approach sees modern embellishments distributed throughout which help to liven the experience for the occupants. These features include the magnificent inverted hip-roof that juts out from the building itself and overhangs the expansive deck area, creating a visual focal point.

Within the home is a simple and practical floor plan that allows plenty of living space for occupants. Timber floors contrast with chic white walls, tied together by contemporary furniture and bold red accents. The home gives off the vibe of a luxury retreat, complete with substantial living areas and luxurious furniture. Large, full-length, glass bi-fold doors open out onto the decking, which is replete with outdoor spa and million dollar views of the surrounding forestry.

Natural finishes inside and out not only allow the home to blend with the surrounding bushland but also enhance the elegant, sculptural form of the building. The understated architectural design, use of natural materials and focus on minimal environmental impact combine to create a house that is elegant, finely crafted and highly energy-efficient. In addition, the deceptively compact exterior cloaks just how spacious the home really is inside.

Graham Jones Design has successfully created a home that is tailor made to the needs and desires of the clients and also entices tourists visiting the neighbouring country town to experience the serene environment and sort after peace and quiet.

Graham Jones Design

7 Hammel Court,
Hallam VIC 3803
Australia
T:+61 3 8795 7088
inquiry@grahamjonesdesign.com.au
www.grahamjonesdesign.com.au

Photography by Photo Asia
Words by Jade de Souza

California Dreaming

Dreams come true on the Californian Coast, where style meets a stunning landscape in a beautifully designed country home.

After holidaying in Big Sur for some 18 years, a retired businessman and his wife made the not so difficult decision to call California's gorgeous Central Coast home. Enamored by the immense natural beauty and innate relaxed lifestyle, they were adamant that their new house – built on a two and a half acre stretch rising out of the Pacific Ocean – be a reflection of these qualities.

Mary Ann Schicketanz of California design practice Carver + Schicketanz, created for the couple a coastal oasis that epitomizes everything that is good about thoughtful architecture and environmental interaction.

The desire for a minimum foot print and maximum yard space saw the implementation of an elegant, yet casual residence to one side of the property, running perpendicular to the ocean views. "Most people orient their homes so that they face the water entirely, however all you see is blue," says Mary Ann. "These homeowners wanted a more varied view and a large area of land for a lawn."

As much a treat as the house itself is the landscape, with expanses of lawn, native grasses and majestic old Oak trees whose swirling limbs shade a series of simple terraces that mimic the contours of the land and connect the house to a myriad of spaces for relaxing and entertaining.

An extensive lawn transitions from the hillside onto the roof of the private guest suite-cum-yoga studio. This rather special place sits practically underground like a bunker, opening out through a wall of glass to a breathtaking coastal view. In front, a jacuzzi is perched atop the cliff.

The impressive home is characterized by its stone base juxtaposed against the light steel and glass form of the second storey. Similarly striking is the wing shaped roof that reflects the undulations of the surrounding hills. Stone is featured throughout the interior for visual integration between inside and out.

A string of elegant spaces to the home's interior have been subtly furnished with Mary Ann's keen eye. To the ground floor, rich earthy tones imbue the living areas that cantilever over the bluff. "It's the first floor, but you feel like you're floating over the water," says Schicketanz.

Furnishings are a perfectly balanced mix of new custom made pieces, with mid-century vintage classics such as Piet Boon leather dining chairs paired with an Ico Parisi dining table. Warm and inviting, the stone kitchen features a blackened steel-lined alcove and twin island benches.

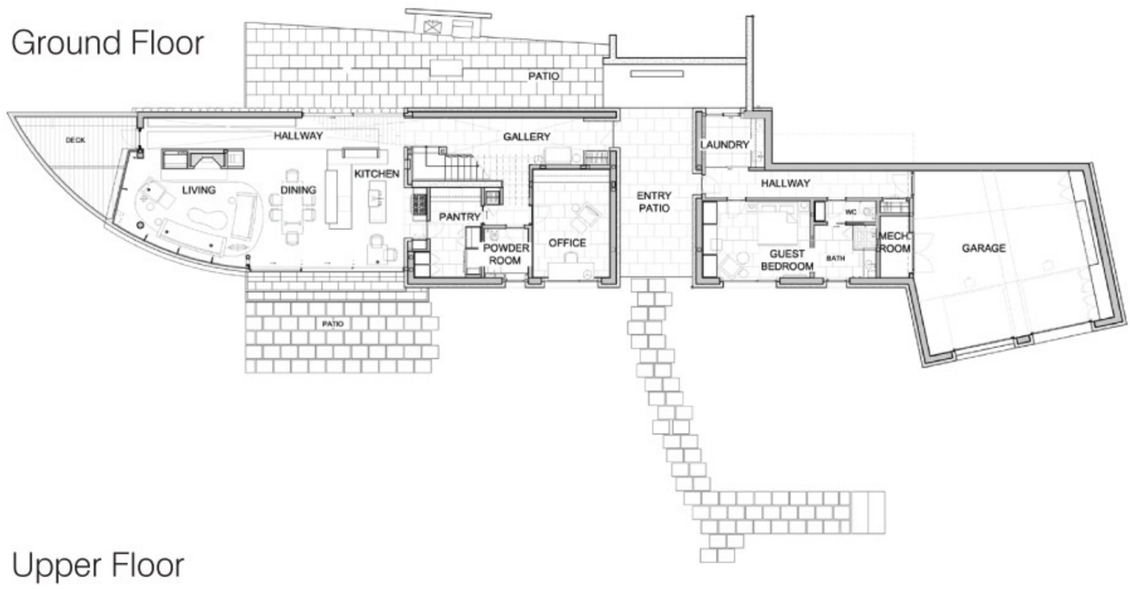
In the living room, a custom silk rug by Tai Ping is topped with a forged steel table from Lyle & Umbach and a redesign of Ted Boerner's Loaf Sofa that follows the curvature of the expansive glazing behind. Though the space is minimal, it has a character and warmth that is the perfect compliment to the views. Indoor/outdoor living is effortless through 16 foot wide sliding doors that open the living spaces to the extensive grounds. A breezy deck cantilevers towards the water.

Structurally and visually light, the home's entire second storey is occupied by the master suite. Filled with morning light and a picturesque outlook over the hills, coast and water, the space is a tranquil retreat. Bedecked with soft pastel colours, the bedroom and lounge areas are topped with a striking Douglas fir timber ceiling. Glass walls retract to integrate the suite with a sun-drenched deck that arches out towards the water. To the master bath, a tub carved from a single piece of limestone sits before the extraordinary view.

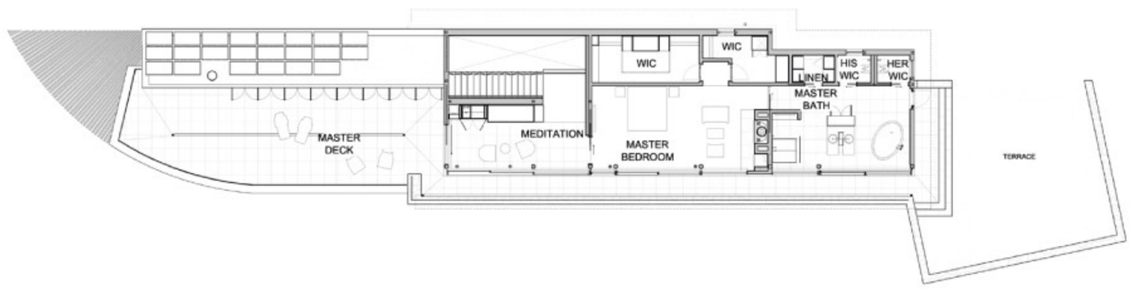
Simplicity and sophistication combine in this luxurious country home and above anything else, integrate day to day living seamlessly with the stunning Big Sur outlook and the area's unique landscape. In bringing these elements together, Carver + Schicketanz have created an oceanside haven for one very lucky couple.

Quotes from Robb Report August, 2010

Ground Floor



Upper Floor



Plans remain © Copyright of
Carver and Schicketanz

Carver + Schicketanz Architects

3659 The Barnyard
Suite D-311
Carmel, CA 93923
United States of America
T: +1 831 624 2304
www.carverschicketanz.com

Photography by Robert Canfield
and Claudio Santini

Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plans

Plans remain © Copyright of
JJC Design

Over and Above

Found within this impressive home in Victoria's Wheelers Hill, is the ultimate retirement paradise where the dream of modern luxury is realised.

A symmetrical façade is realised with German Patina Copper clad walls to either side of the entry. The sharp lines of the house are muted by a Titanium Zinc roof that cascades down over the first floor. Though the landscape is sloping, the house does not step down it as would be expected. Instead, excavation allowed for a formal, street level entry accessed via a remarkable walkway that carries guests over the bluestone driveway that extends below to a casual entrance for the owners at basement level.

Set over three floors, the house includes a basement which houses the four car garage, utility rooms, games room, bar and cellar. The central living space, three main bedrooms and ensuites, study, kitchen, butler's pantry with walk in cool room, as well as the suspended outdoor terrace decks including the 15m cantilevered lap pool, are all to the ground floor. The first floor holds a rumpus and two other bedrooms with ensuites.

Absolute white dominates what can only be described as a seriously opulent living area, which was designed to engage with the outdoor terrace. The variation of ceiling heights in this massive space gives definition to the different sections. Though the kitchen is minimal in design, it certainly is not in space with expansive work areas – including a cantilevering section off the end of the island bench – topping concealed storage space. Down lighting above casts glowing bursts across the imported Italian Travertine floors of the entire area.

In keeping with the munificent nature of the home, two long couches dressed in a warm, textured taupe top a similarly coloured floor rug and make for a comfy place to enjoy warmth from the two gas fireplaces that flank a massive television. Fittings to this area prove that modern design does not necessarily mean a compromise in comfort.

The owners' enjoyment of a tipple is certainly not concealed in this ultimate entertainer's home. A ground floor bar that adjoins a casual living space is bigger than those found in most licenced social establishments, not to mention the nearby 3000 bottle wine cellar. Outdoor entertaining spots are massive and plentiful. The main area houses not only a kitchen bench with barbecue and range hood but also a triple glass door fridge to house the abundance of champagne necessary to toast the beauty of such an outstanding home.

Adjacent is the pool that cantilevers above the landscape below. So that it can be enjoyed year round, a Vergola roof was added as well as a 10 metre sliding door on the western façade. Twelve months of design and construction produced an automated vertical glass screen that lifts up on the three remaining exposed edges to completely enclose the pool. To add more drama, a two metre wide viewing window was added from the games room bar, allowing direct vision into the pool and also providing a constant play of light into the bar.

Many homes claim to be resort style, but how many can boast a backyard like this one designed by The Garden Company? Castlemaine stone walls retain basement level entertainment areas and tie in with the rocks that edge a lake with water fountain. Timber decking floats over its rocky banks and a rusty feature designed and constructed by Damian Vick is illuminated from within as it floats above the water. Adjoining the picturesque lake is a putting green for the avid golfer.

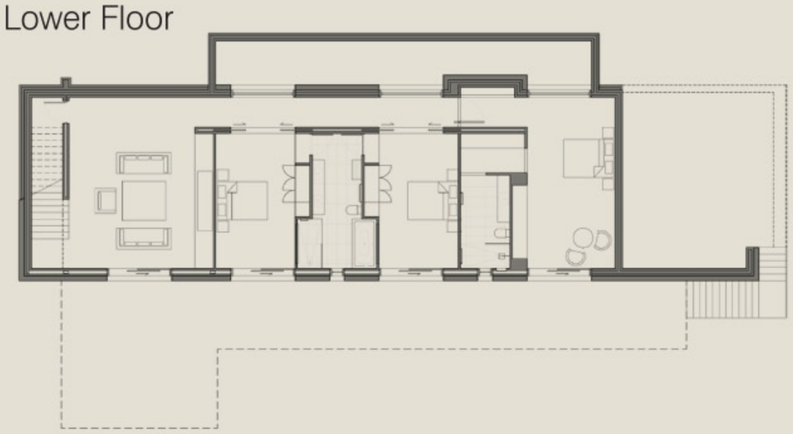
Twelve months of design and construction produced an automated vertical glass screen that lifts up on the three remaining exposed edges to completely enclose the pool.

JJC Design

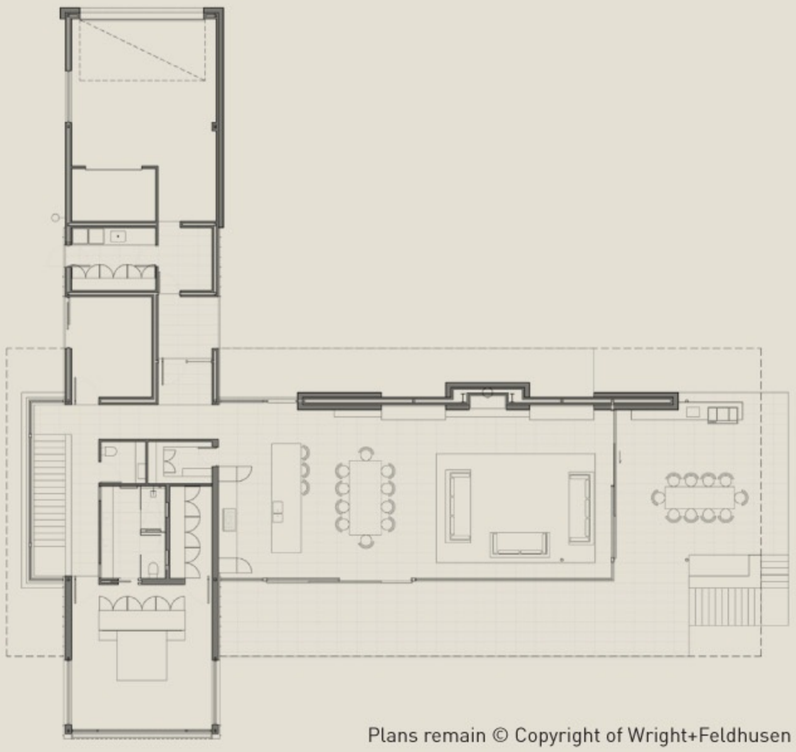
233 Punt Road,
Richmond VIC 3121
Australia
T: +61 3 9429 2329
www.jjcdesign.com.au

Photography by Matthew Mallett
Words by Jade de Souza

Lower Floor



Upper Floor



Plans remain © Copyright of Wright+Feldhusen

Aloft

It is not often that a home feels so at one with the natural landscape it graces, but this particularly sensitive holiday home designed by Wright+Feldhusen does just that.

Floating elegantly over a two-tiered site with spectacular valley views to the east, this house embraces the land gingerly as it shelters its privileged occupants. Effortlessly blending with its surroundings as it hovers across the rolling hills, the home makes a striking architectural statement through form and material choice.

The stone accented walls that adorn the home's exterior carry through to the interior, representing the seamless nature of one's passage in and out of the house. This particular material was chosen for the fact that it will weather well over time and that it provides a charming contrast to the predominately modern architecture.

The home embraces the cantilever as two intersecting linear elements protrude to just the right degree so as to make a majestic statement in sympathy with the landscape. The main bedroom wing pokes through the living pavilion as it extends out from the garage and laundry. This cross section provides a welcoming western courtyard through which guests enter the house.

Completely enclosed by glass, the main living zone thoroughly absorbs the glorious views and sits lightly above the stone clad bedroom suite nestled into the hill below. This gives the bedroom the perfect degree of privacy, as it flows out through timber doors onto the lush blanket of lawn.

Back above, a generous, open kitchen abuts equally open dining and sitting areas, which are warmed by a gas fire and decorated with muted natural colours, bringing to life the bright greens of the trees outside. By passing through a huge timber sliding door one is brought to a wide balcony whose tiled floor continues from inside. The reflective nature of the tiles reflects bursts of brightness from the down lights above, giving the space a unique dimension.

A hefty steel roof structure over the entire light living area and balcony perpetuates the floating aesthetic. It juts out to protect the luxury outdoor living area, with mirroring cantilevered barbecue bench.

The beauty of modern architecture is that homes can be designed to really embrace the outdoors. While providing a comfortable home, designers such as Wright+Feldhusen can use sleek and simple lines and materials to ensure that the natural elements around a home are given as much importance as what is inside – seen here in this impressive rural home.

Homes can be designed to really embrace the outdoors... seen here in this impressive rural home.

Wright+Feldhusen

4/245 Churchill Avenue
Subiaco WA 6008
Australia
T: +61 8 9388 7244
www.wrightfeldhusen.com

Photography by Patrick Bingham-Hall

Full of Character

You can well and truly smell the fresh country air when you arrive at this gorgeous, quirky abode by McCarthy Homes. From first sight, the fresh, white palette of the home allows you to feel calm and relaxed. At the front, an impressive entryway serves as a precede to what you might expect on entering the property.

Through the large double doors, covered by a tall skillion roof that grabs your attention, a beautifully constructed garden is revealed. As you stroll along the floating timber deck and up the stairs toward the house, flashes of soft, green foliage sway in the breeze as they emerge from the many ponds which are teeming with exotic fish and flank both sides of the path. As the sense of tranquillity approaches, you are presented with the home itself.

Slowly unravelling itself as you make your way through the home, an eclectic array of artwork greets you with its own unique story; from African tribal masks, to tall human statues and statuettes, to bright, colourful paintings that line the wall from the entry to the living room with a view.

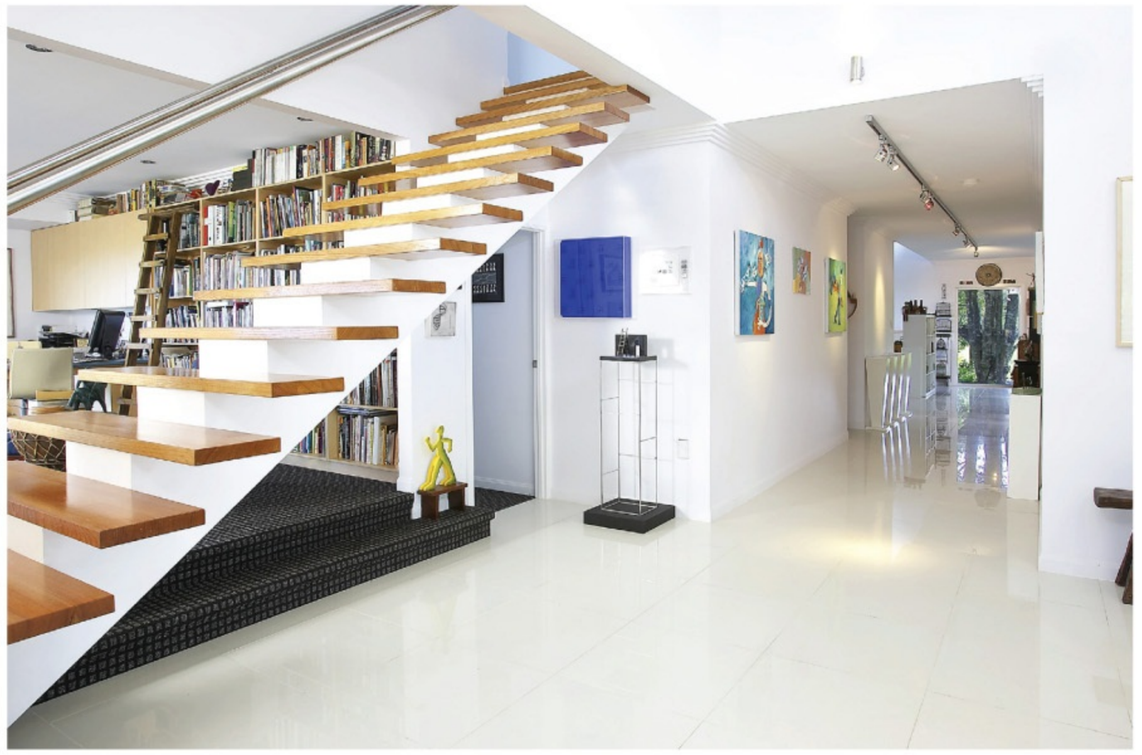
Track lighting along the hallways is suggestive of an art gallery, with a myriad of works to be admired throughout the home in almost every room. Included in its design, the home also features an art studio, study area and mini-library.

With a dazzling sense of character, the home lends itself to something unique. A point of difference in a market dominated by clean lines and clinical styles, this is a breath of fresh air. Living rooms within the home flow continuously, with no visible separation. This, in addition to the amount of glazing, allows for the outdoors to be imposed on the occupants.

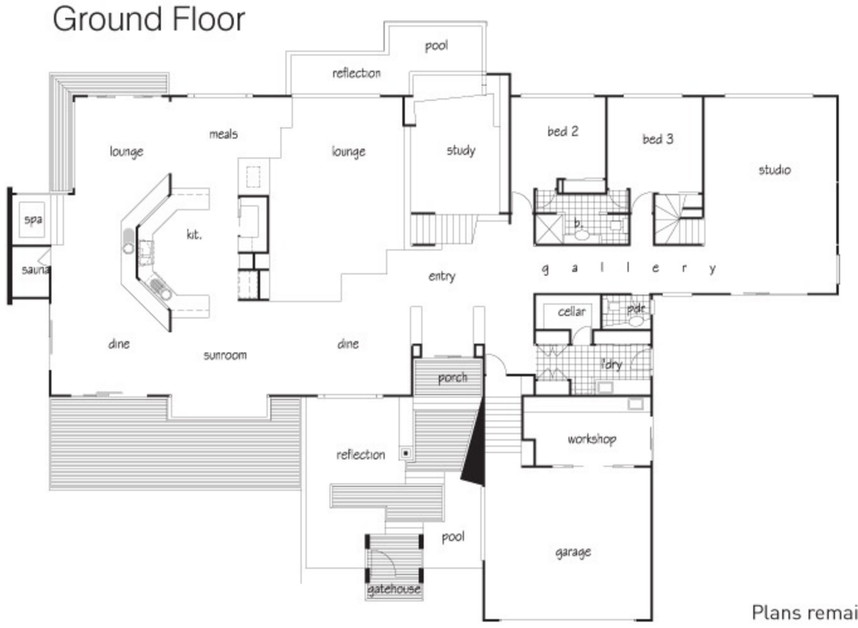
From the dining room, a vista of the undulating countryside graces guests, with its unsurpassed beauty and ruggedness. Floor to ceiling glass windows also feature in certain positions around the home in order to capitalise on views and let in light.

Toward the back of the property, an impressive, low-maintenance garden is attributed to the overall appeal of the home, while a soothing and peaceful deck has been built for a place to unwind and take in the amazing views.

This home has intentionally avoided conforming to the norms of modern home design, and shows success in innovation.



Ground Floor



Upper Floor

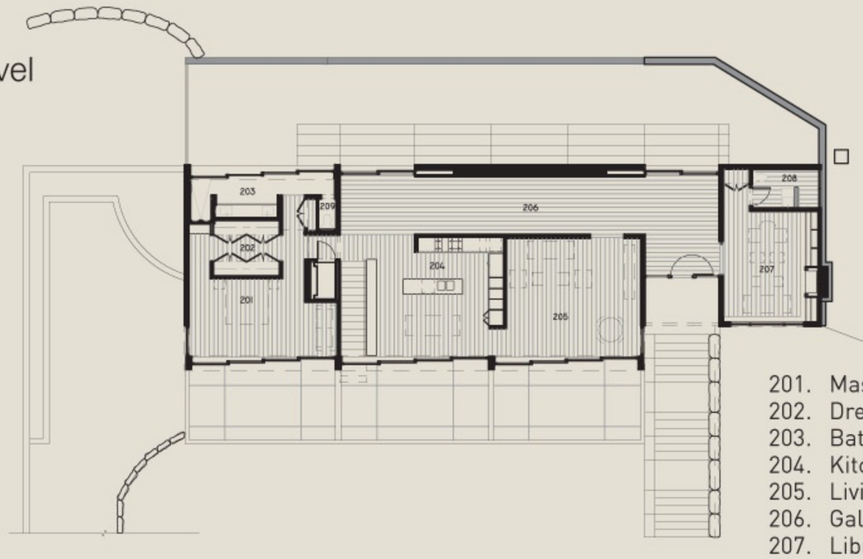
Plans remain © Copyright of McCarthy Homes

McCarthy Homes

344 Bilsen Road,
Geebung QLD 4034
Australia
T: +61 7 3326 6600
www.mccarthyhomes.com.au

Photography by Margot Taylor
Words by Corey Thomas

Main Level



201. Master Bedroom
202. Dressing
203. Bath 1
204. Kitchen
205. Living
206. Gallery
207. Library
208. Powder
209. WC, Master

Guest Level

101. Bedroom 2
102. Bath 2
103. STO./Closet
104. Storage
105. Entertainment
106. Utility & Mud
107. Storage
108. Bath 4
109. Bedroom 3
110. Bath 3
111. Closet

Plans remain © Copyright of Leslie Elkins Architecture

Mountainous Wonder

Breathtaking from the ground up, this exquisite country home is nestled amongst picturesque mountains and fits perfectly in its gorgeous surroundings.

Draped in a blanket of snow, this home designed by Leslie Elkins Architecture may be mistaken for a luxury chalet rather than a private residence. This is largely due to the considerably wide footprint and large expanses of glazing.

Timber cladding is a suitable and attractive choice, complimenting the style of the home flawlessly. The use of feature lighting on exterior walls and stairs leading up to the entrance creates a dramatic effect at dusk, enhancing the wintry outlook of the home and engendering true notions of country living.

Planned as a home with separate guest quarters below, it can easily facilitate accommodation for family and friends. Modern and elegant inside, the top level is just one room deep, allowing for spectacular views of neighbouring Mount Sopris and the valley below on the south-west side, as well as an opening to the more private, linear garden on the north-east end.

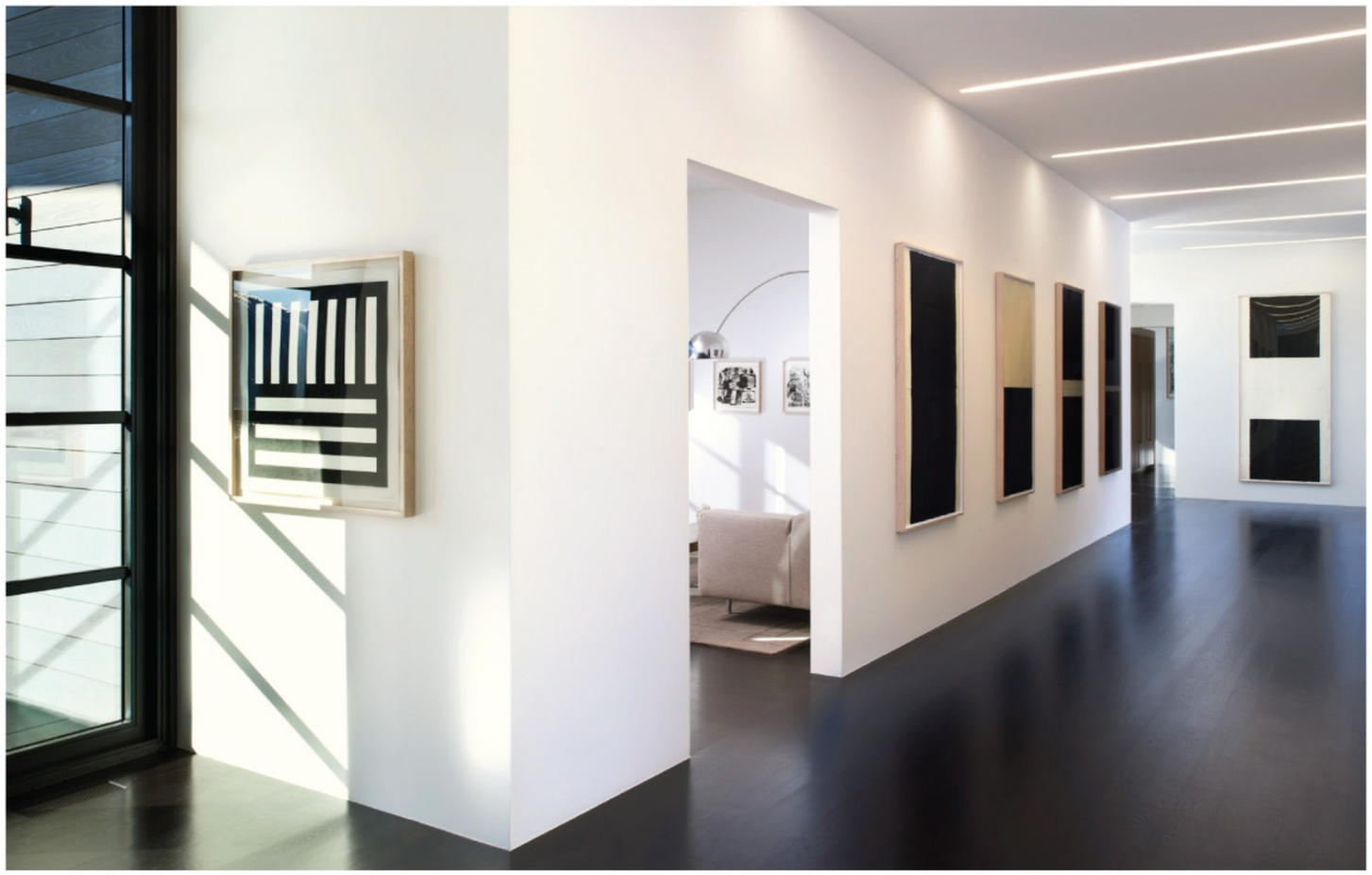
Operating akin to an apartment, the top level is arranged so that each of the spaces are open to one and other as well as the exterior. As such, occupants can maintain a perpetual relationship with the outdoors wherever they choose to spend their time in the home.

Striking hardwood floors in a deep brown hue have been used throughout, with the exception of the guest quarters, which are floored with concrete. The timber contrasts beautifully with the white palette of the walls, which also aids in emphasising the views as a focal point.

Sliver lighting is incorporated into the ceiling in a repetitious patter along the 'gallery', where a row of art adorns the walls, adding character and style.

The kitchen and bathroom both make use of external views, with expansive areas of glazing taking prominence in these spaces. In addition, the master bedroom towards the front of the home features its own private vista. Opening out to the large decking at the front of the property is a pair of sliding doors, which span the entire length of one wall.

The exterior spaces are developed adjacent to the interior, allowing for the floor area of the top level to be almost double in size. This is in addition to two other external spaces – the deck adjoining the master bedroom to the front along the south-west side, and another more narrow area to the south-east of the home – one being more 'public' than the other. The true grandeur of this property makes it a joy to behold.



Breathtaking from the ground up, this home engenders the true notions of country living.

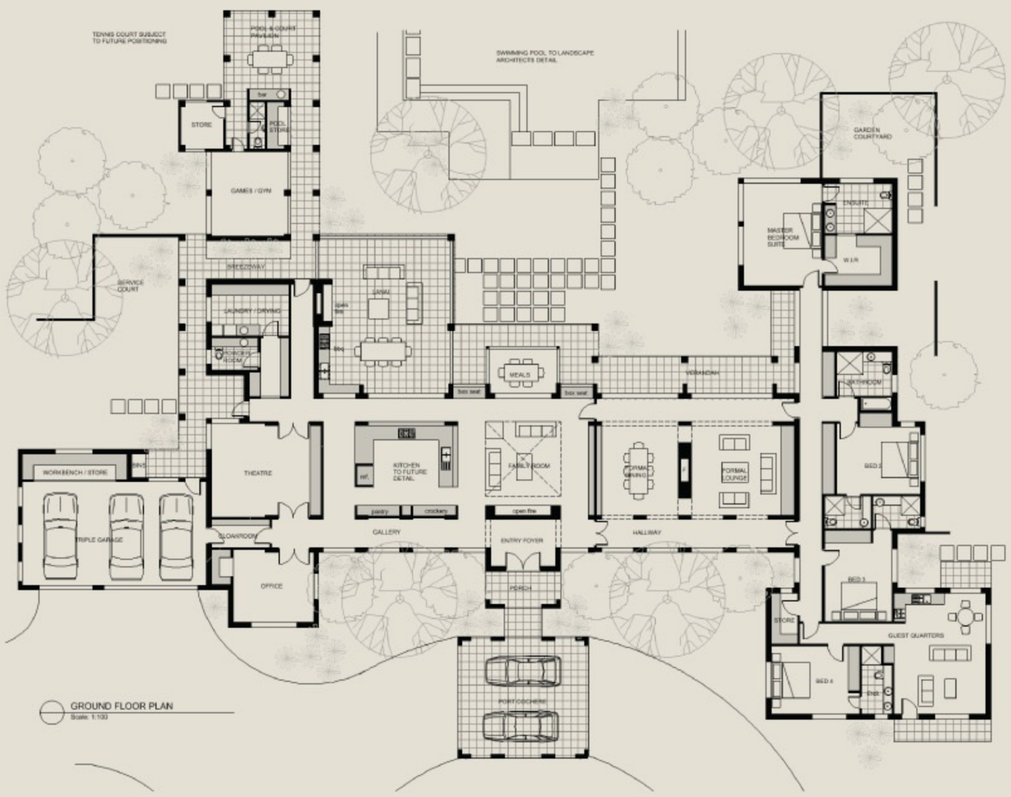
Leslie Elkins Architecture

No. 204 - 2365 Rice Boulevard,
Houston TX 77005
United States of America
T: +1 713 630 0039
www.lelkinsarch.com

Photography by Jason Dewey
Words by Corey Thomas

Rural Retreat

As one approaches the driveway, you wouldn't be blamed for mistaking this as a contemporary boutique hotel. With a sprawling footprint, circular driveway and expansive portico, the experience is impressive from the moment you set your eyes on it.



Plans remain © Copyright of Sanctum Design Consultants Pty Ltd

The home enjoys a great amount of natural illumination with expanses of windows, elaborate skylights and clerestory windows incorporated into raised ceilings.

Diverging from the principles of stereotypical country houses, this home exudes a wealth of luxury and accommodates a bevy of entertainment options. With such generous acreage, an extensive area is able to be dedicated to outdoor living without encroaching on or limiting the tranquility of the rural lifestyle.

Inside, rich parquetry flooring is used throughout with a neutral wall colour palette highlighting the innate elegance of simple interiors. A walkway separated from adjoining rooms with rectangular columns guides guests through the home, past living and dining areas. Tiles flow on from the parquetry flooring, while an impressive bulkhead running the length of the hallway is highlighted with a soft glow of light.

The home enjoys a great amount of natural illumination with expanses of windows, elaborate skylights and clerestory windows incorporated into raised ceilings. Outside, a covered colonnade extends the length of the home. A large grassed area provides the perfect place for the kids to play. Keeping the view unobstructed, a glazed screen surrounds the breathtaking pool. To one end, a raised timber deck takes in the sun's glorious rays of an afternoon.

On one side of the property, a spacious outdoor living area has been incorporated under the roofline. Perfect for the summer months, it provides the opportunity to enjoy alfresco dining in the company of family and friends. Manicured gardens that consist of hardy, eye catching foliage feature around the property, keeping maintenance to a minimum for maximum enjoyment of the natural elements with little fuss.

Enjoying the country lifestyle couldn't be much easier when you have so many modern comforts at your disposal. With style and elegance, this home signals the beginning of a new era in rural home design.

Sanctum Design Consultants Pty Ltd

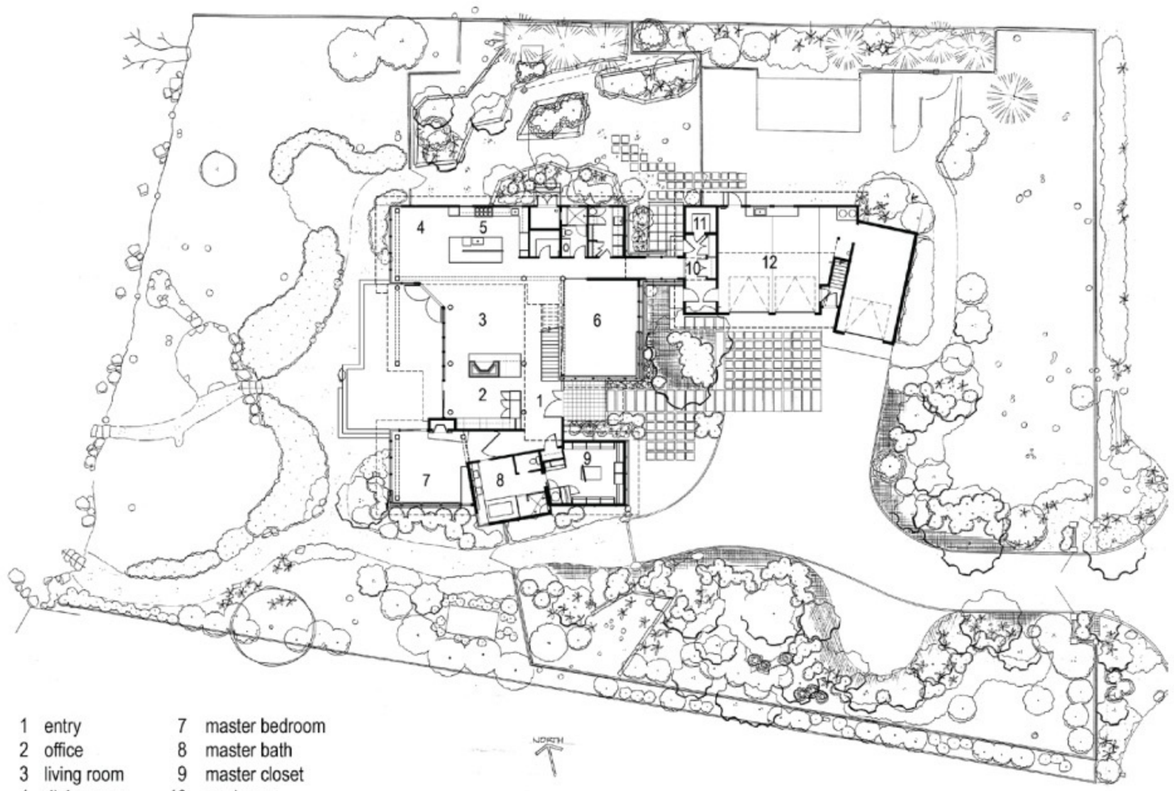
209/40 Yeo Street,
Neutral Bay NSW 2089
Australia
T: +61 2 9909 8844
www.sanctumdesign.com.au

Builder: Claron Property Group

Photography by Eliot Cohen
Words by Corey Thomas

Waterfront Retreat

A contemporary country home brings together a contrasting but complimentary palette of materials that are enhanced by the natural charms of a picturesque location.



1 entry
2 office
3 living room
4 dining room
5 kitchen
6 media room
7 master bedroom
8 master bath
9 master closet
10 mud room
11 wine room
12 garage

The sheer beauty of this ocean-side location presented architect Vassos M. Demetriou of Demetriou Architects with a great challenge – to make the most of the site with a design that reflected and respected its natural environment. Allowing the surroundings to inform the design, regionally inspired materials were used for their low maintenance and natural weathering abilities. Cedar, concrete, cor-ten, steel and zinc are heavily punctuated by expansive fenestration, used to bring the outdoors in and minimize visual dead ends.

Characterized by the expression of the structure, the home is a modern take on Northwest architecture. The clean lines of the contemporary materials used are carried from the outside in. Exterior concrete walls are exposed on their interior faces and cor-ten steel panels on the exterior volumes wrap around to the interior.

Different but complementary materials define individual volumes, visually organize the structure and strengthen the connection between inside and out. The division between inside and out is blurred by large walls of glass that look out over the waterfront, whose landscaping was carefully considered during the construction process. The treatment of the shoreline is now considered by the area's regulatory agency as a prime example of how to maintain the beauty and integrity of a waterfront site.

A grasscrete motorcourt was laid to define the approach, reducing the paved surface area and preserving the wooded waterfront feel. Inside, structural members and architectural elements are used instead of walls to define spaces within the lofty living areas. Mimicking the trees surrounding the home, exposed steel columns and beams facilitate the open plan desired by the clients and allow for large windows to the waterfront which maximize connection to the stunning outlook.

Acting both as an architectural focal point and a means of separation between the family and living rooms is a custom steel and Jabota staircase. Below run large sliding glass doors that enclose a media room, retaining visual connection with surrounding spaces.

A centrally located cast concrete fireplace with cantilevered steel mantle and integrated wood storage is a unifying design element that can be viewed and its warmth enjoyed from the kitchen, dining room, family room and upstairs hallway. It also acts as a divider between the living room and adjacent office spaces.

Enjoyable all year round, this innately beautiful and cleverly organized country home leaves us all daydreaming about curling up by the cozy wood fire and gazing out over the stunning waterside landscape. It doesn't get much more romantic than this.

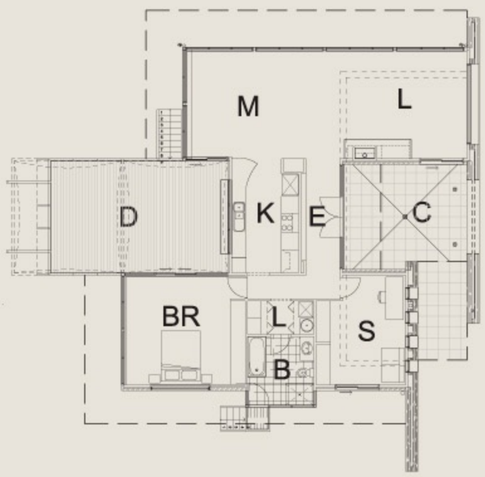
Demetriou Architects

5555 Lakeview Drive
Suite 200
Kirkland, Washington 98033
United States of America
T: +1 425 827 1700
E: architects@demetriouarchitects.com
www.demetriouarchitects.com

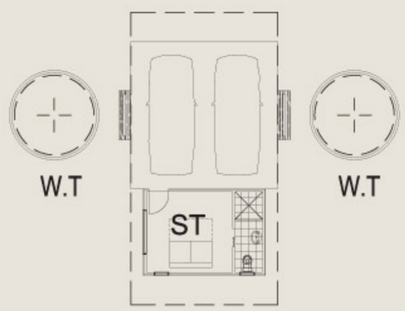
Architect: Vassos Demetriou
Interior Design: Vassos Demetriou, Lisa Behringer
Project Manager: Jeffrey Barnett
Landscape: Island Gardens Company
Contractor: Dan Lowe Construction

Photography: Mike Jensen, Adam Behringer
Words: Jade de Souza

Site Plan



Ground Floor Plan



Garage Floor Plan

Valley Splendour

Sitting perched above the Araluen Valley near Braidwood, NSW, this relatively small home enjoys sensational views of the National Park and the constantly changing weather ebbing and flowing in the valley.

What started as a modest brief to construct a rural retreat for Jon and Leslie East came to fruition in a somewhat more exotic fashion. A dramatic cantilevered roof, dark and informal blade stonewall, floating floor structure and minimalist finishes have combined to produce an architecturally significant response to a simple brief.

Designed by TT Architecture, the house effectively transitions from hard to soft side as you move from the entry to the living area. Jon East is a retired geologist, hence the selection of the strong quartzite stone wall presented at the entrance. After passing through this tough skin one enters light filled, soft living spaces that pay homage to the spectacular outlook.

An interesting combination of various artefacts collected by Jon and Leslie along their travels combine with statement pieces of furniture, supplying a colourful element to the otherwise neutral minimalist interior. Views can be enjoyed from the kitchen as well as from the master bedroom with its ceiling to floor windows.

Externally, sails have been erected above an outdoor deck to provide shade for the seating area. Down lights beneath the cantilevered roof illuminate its imposing mass and rich colour. Effects employed to the exterior of the home unite the structure with its environment, as it appears to stretch out towards the valley.

In response to the natural setting, the home employs some sustainable features including recycled timber, double glazed windows and a suspended concrete slab floor which becomes a thermal mass in response to the home's solar gain.

A dramatic cantilevered roof, dark and informal blade stonewall, floating floor structure and minimalist finishes have combined to produce an architecturally significant response to a simple brief.

TT Architecture

35 Kennedy Street,
Kingston Canberra ACT 2604
Australia
T: +61 2 6232 6311
mail@ttarchitecture.com.au
www.ttarchitecture.com.au

Photography by Lisa McKelvie
Words: Jade de Souza

Heightened Sense of Living

With an astonishing eleven levels – seven of which are attributed to thoughtfully composed, open-plan living – this unique home defies even the highest of residential zoning limits. Designed by Martin Holub Architects and built by Heitmann & Heitmann, the structure is a carefully planned and well-composed labyrinth of contemporary splendour.

From the exterior, an imposing combination of hilltop location and height induces a feeling of awe-inspiring admiration. Captivating and fascinating, the exterior is made up of four main materials. Exposed concrete foundation walls rise from the ground, with the rest of the home finished in a combination of (cedar) wood siding and stucco. The standing seam metal roof is made of lead-coated copper, a sturdy and lasting material that won't tarnish.

Upon entering the monolithic building, an air of light and space captures the sense of being and allows one to feel totally at home. With the goal of separating each of the levels and avoid long flights of stairs, an innovative design was implemented.

One of the most striking and ubiquitous features of the home is that from almost anywhere, sweeping views of the surrounding land can be comprehensively enjoyed. In addition, the angular nature of the architecture not only incites a sense of intrigue, but also provides areas of privacy. While the interior spaces have a general flow, each of their respective functions is finely articulated.

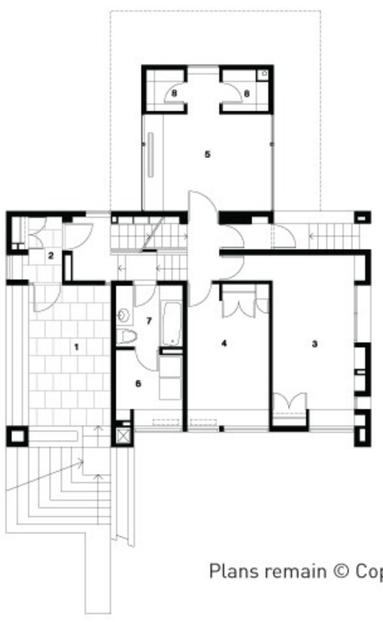
Since its completion fourteen years ago, the owners of the home have collected and inherited a number of paintings and many pieces of antique furniture. With a diminishing amount of space to store and display them, additions such as a gallery were incorporated into the home, adding to its impressive size.

Easy on the environment, the contemporary design makes use of its orientation to reduce heating and cooling costs, with these functions supplemented by solar collectors, such as the water heater and geothermal heating and cooling.

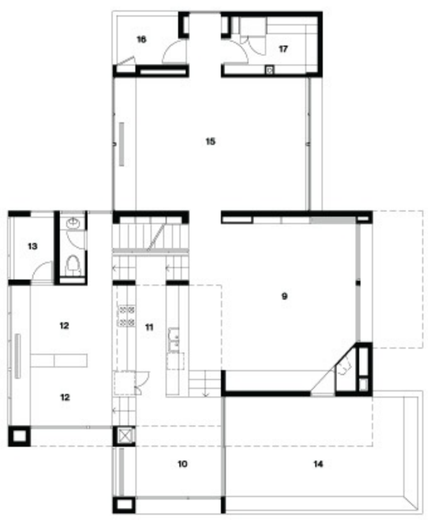
Strips of maple flooring are used in the living room and gallery, while economical rubber tiling has been laid in the kitchen and dining room. Ceramic tiles adorn the master bathroom, while the guest bathroom and powder room make use of solid vinyl tiles. Lush carpeting is present throughout the rest of the home, and for the outdoor sections, industrial thermoplastic matting and bluestone slabs are used for their hardy nature.

Innovation and functionality are here combined in a remarkable home that doesn't fail to impress.

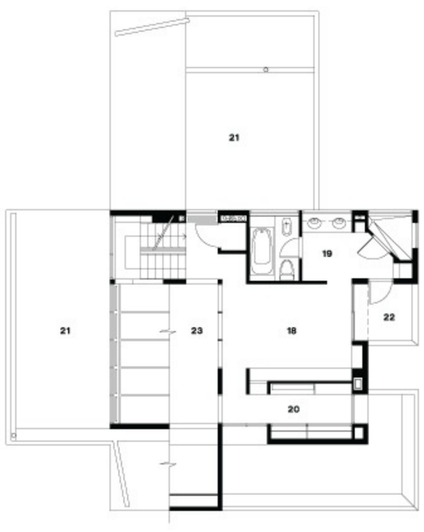
First Floor



Second Floor



Third Floor



Plans remain © Copyright of Martin Holub Architects

1. Porch
2. Vestibule
3. Guest Bedroom 1
4. Guest Bedroom 2
5. Office / TV Room
6. Laundry
7. Guest Bathroom
8. Storage
9. Living Room
10. Dining Room
11. Kitchen
12. Study
13. Screened-Off Balcony
14. Terrace
15. Gallery
16. Barbecue Balcony
17. Pantry
18. Master Bedroom
19. Master Bathroom
20. Walk-in-Closet
21. Roof
22. Balcony
23. Open Below

Martin Holub Architects

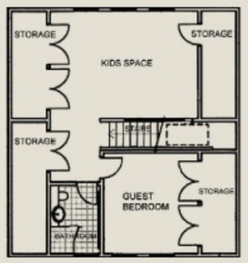
116 West 72 Street,
New York NY 10023
United States of America
T: +1 212 787 7644
www.mharchitects.com

Photography by Chris Kendall
Words by Corey Thomas

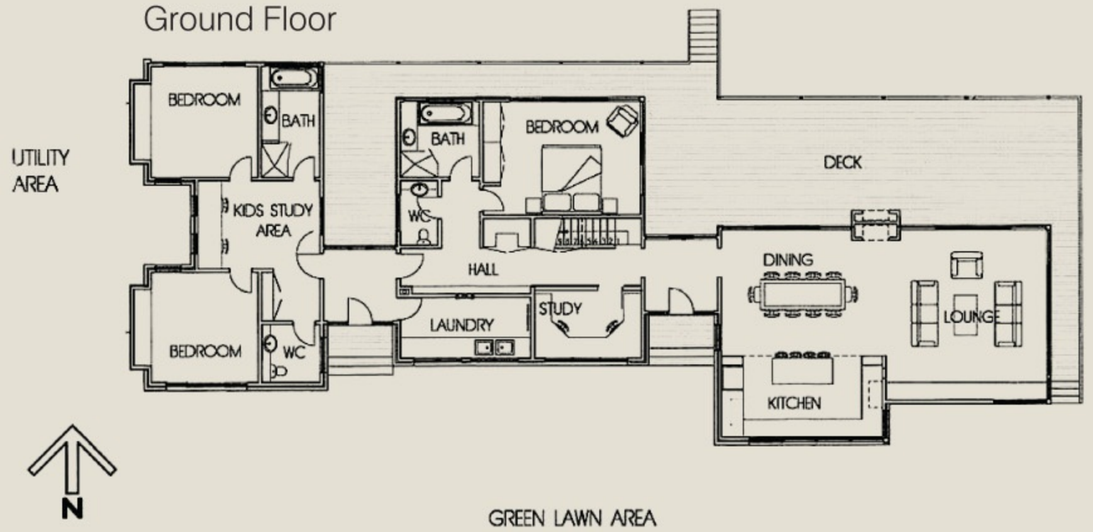
Informal Australian

Winding past one of those huge climbing trees we all wish we had in our yards as kids, you approach a simple and environmentally responsible homestead that appears similar to the humble Aussie farm shed on a much larger scale.

Upper Floor



Ground Floor



Plans remain © Copyright of Holman Home Design Pty Ltd

The clients were not looking for opulence, but they did want comfort and functionality in a home that was energy efficient and constructed from durable materials.

Corrugated Colorbond steel cladding gives a striking appearance with rendered brickwork as you approach, with two breezeways through the house allowing glimpses to the valley views beyond.

Inside, the house is divided into three pavilions connected by these breezeways. The length of the home is oriented north, with the main living areas doused in warm sunlight during winter. An angled roof over the living areas opens the communal space widely to the beautiful views, enjoyed especially in summer from the alfresco deck. Spread with timber floors that reflect the rural vernacular, the breezy open lounge, kitchen and dining area is light and airy as it floats above the landscape.

The sleek and modern kitchen enjoys privacy from the adjoining living room, but is still comfortably open to the dining area, allowing for family interaction and easy entertaining. Finished in white laminate with CaesarStone bench tops, the kitchen enjoys pastoral views to the north and the low mountain range to the southwest.

Within this central pavilion is also an attic, where a children's play area, a bathroom and guest bedroom make for highly functional and private spaces for younger members of the family and also for visiting guests.

Back downstairs, the master bedroom is a beautiful retreat for its occupants. A simple colour palette is flooded both with sunlight and the expansive views over the surrounding Central NSW landscape area, which is a dream to wake up to.

The key visual feature of the interior is the framing of the northern views by large sliding glazed doors. The main attribute of the home however is related to emotion, as there is a general feeling of peace and calm that comes over you upon entering the home.

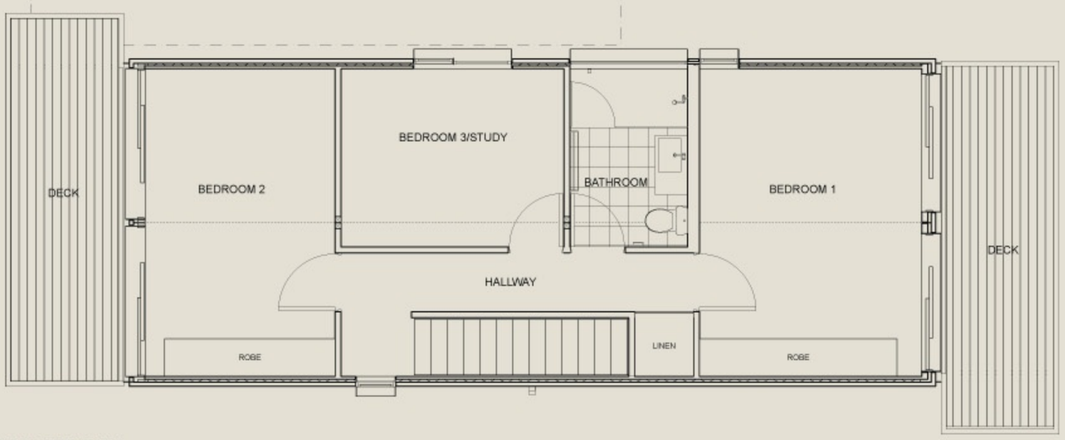
A simple colour palette is flooded both with sunlight and the expansive views over the surrounding Central NSW landscape area, which is a dream to wake up to.

Holman Home Design Pty Ltd

T: +61 427 632 765
info@holmanhomedesign.com.au
www.holmanhomedesign.com.au

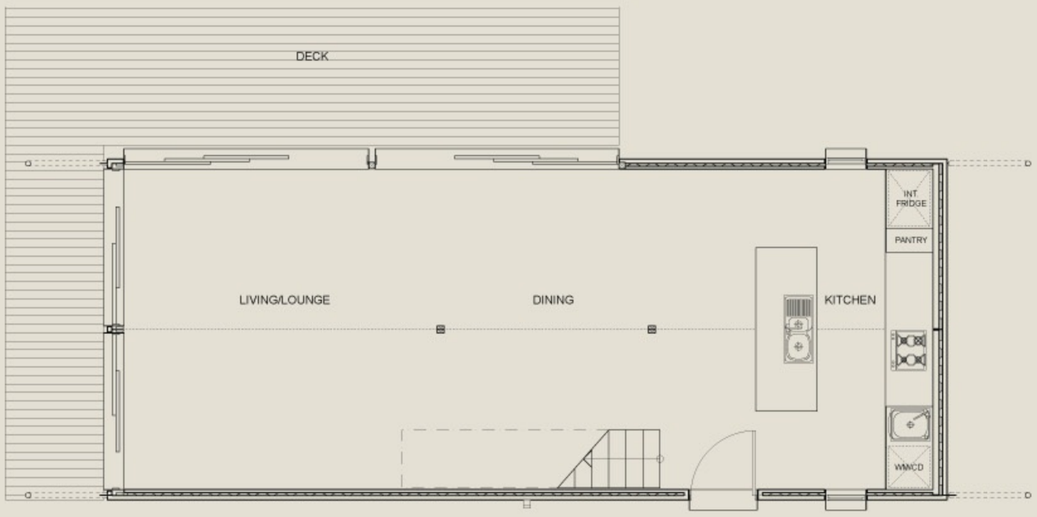
Photography supplied by
Holman Home Design Pty Ltd
Words: Jade de Souza

Upper Floor



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Ground Floor



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Resourceful Design

Matthew Grace Architecture has recently released resPOD, a series of prefabricated, modular homes constructed within the skeleton of disused shipping containers. Each dwelling embraces environmental sustainability with standard design features including passive solar, high insulation and ventilation, double glazing and grey water systems. resPOD can also be upgraded to operate completely off-grid for an entirely self-sufficient living experience.

Utilising Australian owned and manufactured products, this flexible living option is not only cost effective, but also enables every home owner to be environmentally responsible whilst maintaining a high level of quality and detail. A range of interior and exterior finish options, upgrades and selections ensure each pod can be tailored to suit the end user and in most cases can be delivered to site within 8 - 10 weeks.

The homes can be clad in a variety of finishes such as timber or corrugated iron, providing a contemporary look that is finished off with a sleek and modern interior and an abundance of windows, proving that you don't have to compromise on style when purchasing a prefabricated home.

A number of standard configurations have developed to embrace and promote the ease of living sustainably. Catering for all kind of owners, the homes come in studio, one, two and three bedroom and are a great choice for use as a weekend retreat or a permanent residence. Each dwelling is designed to feel spacious and be user friendly despite its small footprint.

For this particular development in the leafy Victorian town of Hurstbridge, the use of shipping containers drew on its own theme from the start – industrial & minimal. The contrast of steel with timber, plasterboard and glass as well as the colour scheme ensured a timeless aesthetic was achieved. The materials used throughout are also very low maintenance which is a considerable benefit considering the nature of the site. The palette varies completely in each house – one being predominately white plasterboard with light floors, while the other uses lime washed plywood with dark floors – though both draw their tones from the natural surrounds.

Materiality was also crucial in ensuring that the two dwellings were sympathetic to the existing built context as well as the landscape while simultaneously conforming to the recently amended bushfire regulations. Silvertop Ash hardwood was used on the lower dwelling – demanding attention from the street – while the rear house was clad in dark Colorbond to ensure it appeared much more private as it blended into the background among the trees.

What makes this application of the resPOD so special is the position of the dwellings on the site, raised on posts between the existing vegetation. Due to their extreme proximity to the gorgeous gums, the houses really become likened to those of the tree variety.

Each dwelling is designed to feel spacious and be user friendly despite its small footprint.

Matthew Grace Architecture

PO Box 538,
Benalla VIC 3672
Australia
M: +61 419 537 351
E: matthew@mgarchitecture.com.au
www.mgarchitecture.com.au

Photography by Matthew Mallett
Words by Jade de Souza

Balinese Beauty

A rather special take on the traditional farmhouse, this Balinese resort-inspired house is a tranquil oasis for its owners and their guests.

Positioned in a secluded valley that takes advantage of the 600 acre property's best Noosa Hinterland features, this luxury home designed by Paul Hindes of Soul Space encompasses those indulgent holiday resort luxuries we all wish we could have at home.

When approaching the house down a winding rural road, little is given away about the opulent 'Australian farm house' it leads to. Once you sweep past the huge and welcoming feature tree and are brought to an inviting entry, the first glimpse is caught of the oasis beyond.

Upon entering to the grand, cathedral ceiling topped welcome vestibule, a secluded sub-tropical courtyard with a tranquil pond and lush plants reveals itself in all its splendor. Beyond, a shimmering swimming pool gives way to that typical Australian rolling countryside we all find so nostalgic.

Wrapping its warm embrace around the picturesque Balinese-style landscape, the home is designed as a series of pavilions broken up by tropical gardens. To one side, the owners' private retreat stretches towards the pool, while the guest accommodation and communal areas such as the kitchen, living and dining rooms likewise take advantage of the vistas to the other side of the central courtyard.

The palette of materials was kept simple and consistent, with robust finishes such as timber and stone setting a very natural tone that reflects the homestead nature of the building. A timber skeleton propping up arching cathedral ceilings makes for grand yet warm spaces that are reminiscent of the foyer of a luxury tropical hotel.

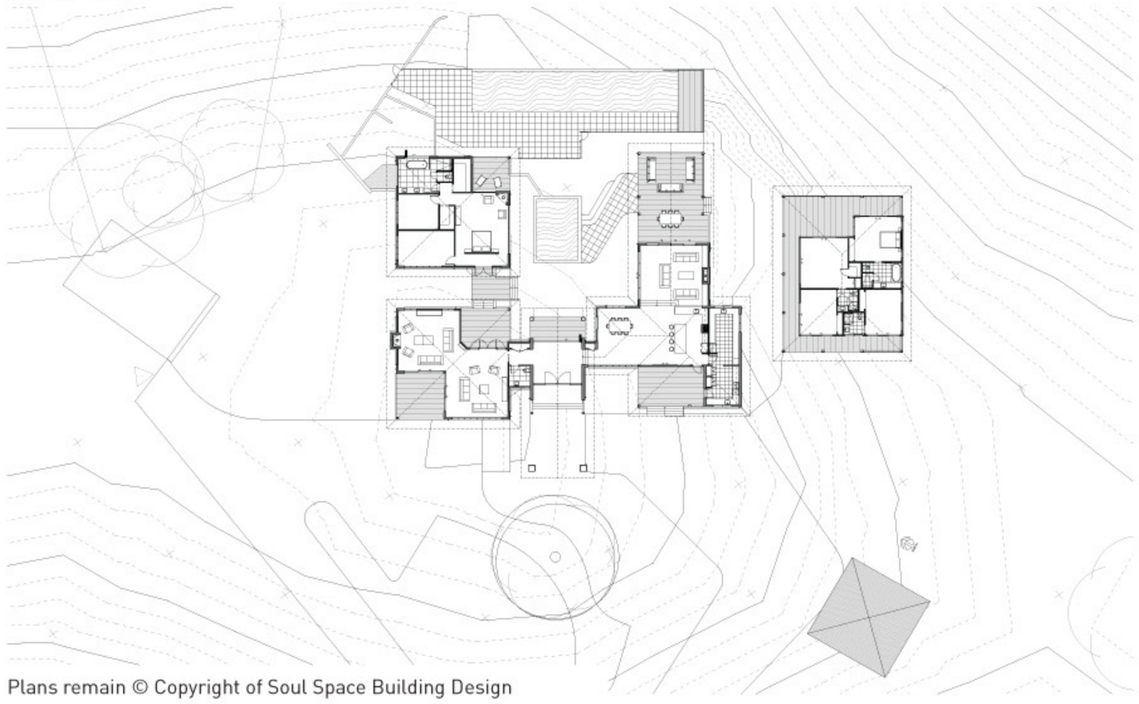
These cathedral ceilings frame the views to the garden and the expansive cattle property in the distance. In fact, every room enjoys an outlook to the home's lush surrounds and it is perhaps the rooms' interaction with the outdoors that is most alluring about the house. Bi-folding doors and windows ensure that almost every room can open up to take in the tranquil country sounds and warm Queensland breezes, bringing a real sense of tropical retreat into the house.

There is a definite cohesiveness in the design and decoration of the home, with each space taking on a unique identity while concurrently featuring the chosen finishes that perpetuate the desired Balinese aesthetic. Furniture is casual and comfortable with the perfect amount of formality and elegance. Rich in colours and textures, the interior spaces are flourished with natural features that further the home's connection with its natural surrounds.

Cool blue water stretches along the house for 25 metres, defining it from the cattle property beyond. Framed by tropical plants, the impressive pool provides not only a spectacular feature of the landscape but also a delightful place to cool off in the Queensland humidity. Sculptural sun lounges take in the warm afternoon rays, a most peaceful place to relax after a swim and enjoy the slightly surreal outlook. One minute you're engaged in a lush sub-tropical garden, only to be reminded of the beauty of the Australian landscape as you gaze beyond the pool.

Finding its Balinese identity in a myriad of carefully selected features, this enviable home gracing the rolling hills of the Noosa Hinterland has exceeded the client's expectation for a tropical retreat to enjoy year round with family and friends.

Site Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of Soul Space Building Design

These cathedral ceilings frame the views to the garden and the expansive cattle property in the distance. In fact, every room enjoys an outlook to the home's lush surrounds and it is perhaps the rooms' interaction with the outdoors that is most alluring about the house.

Paul Hindes
Soul Space Building Design

23 Paluma Street
Sunrise Beach QLD 4567
Australia
T: +61 7 5455 3651
www.soulspace.com.au

Builder: Greg Reed

Photography by Andrej Kadacik
Words by Jade de Souza

Redgate Beach House

This contemporary rural home has a strong emphasis on practical planning and material selection to take advantage of and express the natural qualities of the site.

Located in the remote area of Redgate – south of the famous Margaret River region – the home is surrounded by rural hinterland and native forest, with Redgate surf beach just a stone's throw away.

Craig Steere Architects interpreted the client's desire for a modern, passive solar home which maximised views to the ocean whilst retaining a sense of living amongst the trees with the creation of a low profile linear building form. Elevated on a low brick plinth, the house floats just above the contours of the site and is cranked to obtain ocean and valley views.

Three separate wings, the main suite, the living wing and the children's/guest bedroom wing allow the small building to nonetheless take advantage of the sweeping views in multiple directions.

The shape of the building was informed largely by the environmental conditions of the site. Often subject to salt-laden winds and limestone dust from a nearby quarry, the house was designed to have a protective shoulder against the elements with profiled steel roofs extending down the outer walls. The building materials were all selected for their durability, and combine to create a simple industrial palette, which also responds to the colours and textures of the site itself.

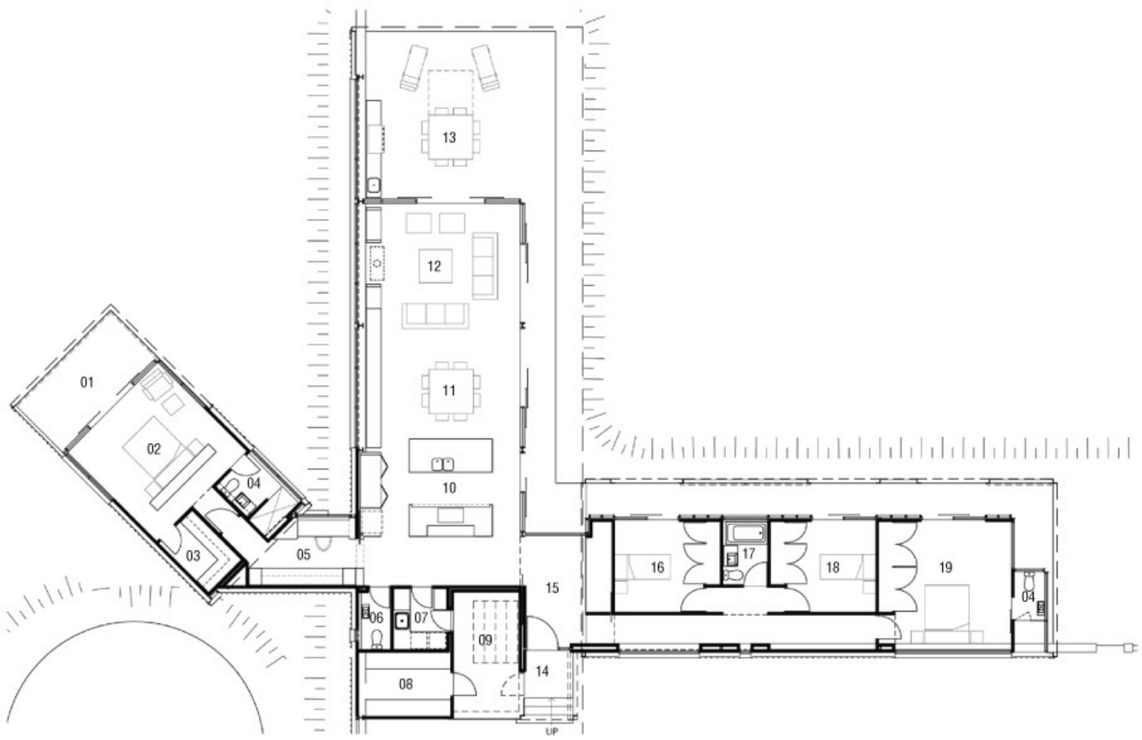
There was a strong interest to retain existing native vegetation and thus maintain the visual buffer between the house and the quarry, and to benefit from the natural protection the trees and coastal scrub provide, particularly in the more extreme seasons.

The interior spaces are lightweight and open, with the rich red tones of the walnut veneered cabinetry encouraging visual interaction with the surrounding rock and sand. Furthermore, internal steel support beams follow the roof as it becomes the wall, mirroring the steel cladding that does the same on the exterior. Exposed, polished concrete floors act as a thermal mass as well as a low maintenance finish – important in a holiday house. Large amounts of north facing glazing facilitate the entry of natural lighting into the expansive interior spaces.

A sense of elevation and lightness is maximised by the cantilevered concrete deck that creates a distinct edge between the house and landscape. Large steel-framed sliding screens extend across the west elevation of the bedroom wing, allowing protection from the sun and wind, whilst increasing the flexibility to access views from the bedrooms and verandahs.

Floor Plan Legend

1. Deck
2. Main Suite
3. Walk-In Robe
4. Ensuite
5. Study
6. WC
7. Laundry
8. Store
9. Drying
10. Kitchen
11. Dining
12. Living
13. Outdoor Living
14. Portico
15. Entry
16. Bed 2
17. Bath
18. Bed 3
19. Bed 4



Plans remain © Copyright of
Craig Steere Architects

Craig Steere Architects

Suite 10/219 Onslow Road,
Shenton Park WA 6008
Australia
T: +61 8 9380 4662
www.craigsteerearchitects.com.au

Photography by Lee Griffith
Words by Jade de Souza

Inside Out House

A couple of successful farmers ‘downsized’ to a 150 acre cattle property on the Sunshine Coast and built a new, country house with clean lines and natural materials that give it a warm, rural feel.

Ground Floor

1. Driveway
2. Courtyard
3. Covered Terrace
4. Entry
5. Living
6. Dining
7. Kitchen
8. Pantry
9. Covered Deck
10. Office
11. Main Bedroom
12. Ensuite
13. Bathroom/WC
14. Powder Room
15. Bedroom
16. Lounge
17. Gallery
18. Hobby Room
19. Laundry
20. Garage
21. Service Court

Plans remain © Copyright of Norman Richards building design + interiors

With sweeping country views available from the hillside site, the home glides across the landscape taking in the outlook from every possible angle. The design of the home was a challenge given the site's exposure to weather extremes in both summer and winter, but Norman Richards of Norman Richards building design and interiors has achieved a comfortable home with striking architecture that is truly individual. Low horizontal rooflines and alternating walls of stone, timber, glass and 'French Grey' render tie the home into its rural setting.

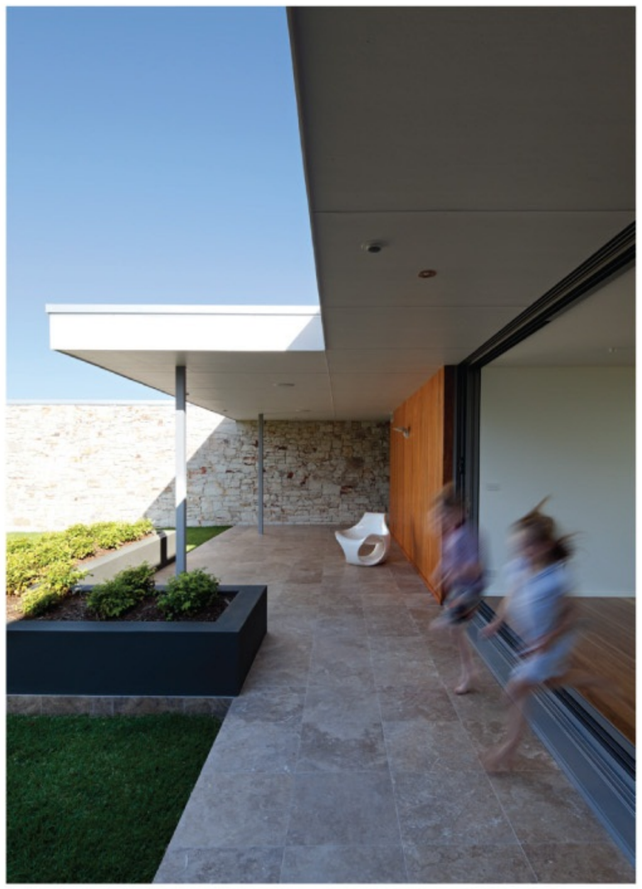
Viewed from the valley below, the 1.2 metre cantilevered floor slab and deck gives the impression the house is floating gently on the hillside, while offering the comfort of solar passive thermal performance.

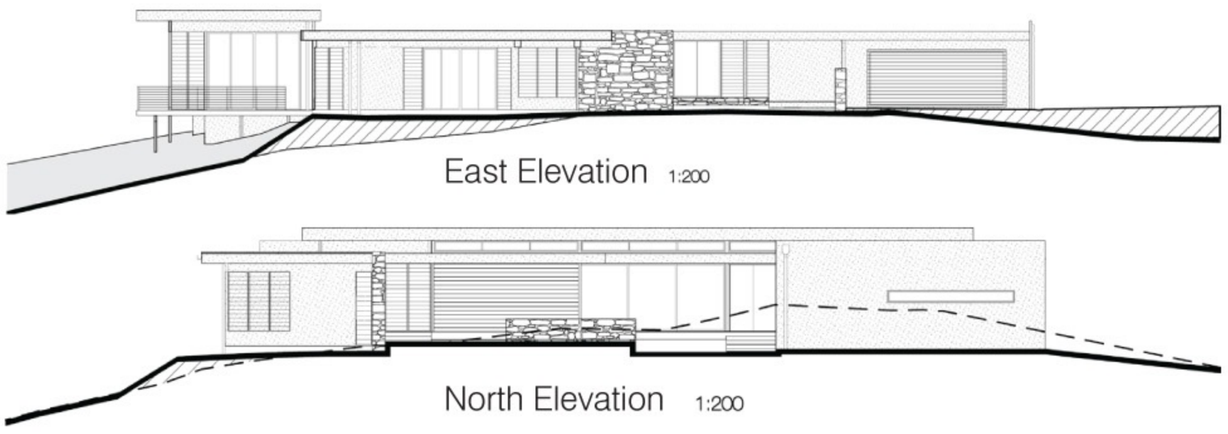
The house cleverly acts as a windbreak and a sun catcher, with its J-shape configuration wrapping around a 15 x 20 metre north-facing courtyard and the projecting wings of the home pushed outwards onto the green space, creating a sense of the home being turned inside out.

Strong stone walls of hand pitched dry stacked Eidsvold siltstone radiate from the courtyard, extending and connecting the house to the landscape. The house has two outdoor living areas, one facing north and the other southeast, ensuring there is always a comfortable place to reside outside. Walls dissolve as five metres of retractable glass and floor to ceiling ribbon windows seamlessly connect the inside and outside spaces for exceptional natural living.

The kitchen affords easy access to the dining room and both outdoor entertaining areas. Teak veneer joinery is clean and highly functional with handless details, fully integrated appliances and a butler's pantry to keep daily clutter at bay. The breakfast bar can be reached from the paddocks below via the deck and the laundry is located near the garage to enable a wash down area for dirty hands/clothing before entering the house.

A testament to self-sufficient living, the house harvests rain water and has an onsite waste-water treatment plant. An orchard and vegetable patch provide produce for the home and the cows in the paddocks below end up on the barbecue.





Norman Richards building design + interiors

6 Coral Street,
Maleny QLD 4552
Australia
T: +61 7 5435 2788
www.normanrichards.com

Photography by Christopher Frederick Jones
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan

Plans remain © Copyright of Impeckable Constructions

The Peak of Perfection

Blending contemporary architectural features with environmental sustainability and breathtaking views, this rural retreat is a monument to quality design and expert workmanship.

Nathan and Sherinah Peck of Impeckable Constructions have created for themselves a truly stunning country home, reaching towards the magnificent views in all its architectural glory. They wanted a residence that was functional for their young family, provided space for elegant entertaining, and exemplified sustainable design, as it would be a demonstration project for their company's capabilities.

The unique and breathtaking mountaintop site of 22 hectares enjoys a commanding outlook of the magnificent Southern Illawarra coastline and the hinterland around Jamberoo. As such, Nathan and Sherinah wanted the house to capture the available vistas from every point.

What resulted after consultation with Nowra Architect Colin Irwin of BHI was a home comprising two pavilions for living and sleeping, lightly connected by a glazed walkway that frames the protected pool and courtyard, opening out to the view. A simple and honest aesthetic flows through the property and allows the stunning natural environment to dominate.

The isolation and privacy of the home is used to full advantage with plenty of glazing and retractable walls. Hence, the strong visual connection between internal and external spaces allows residents and visitors alike to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of the site's dramatic mountaintop location.

Warm spotted gum flooring spreads throughout the home's simple and sophisticated interiors, framed by abundant views of the surrounding green landscape. The voluminous kitchen, living and dining areas open out to a gorgeous deck space, sheltered by the impressive cantilevering roof that gives the home much of its unique external identity.

While the home enjoys four double bedrooms and guest accommodation, it is the master suite that exudes luxury in its truest form, with an entire wall opening the space to the landscape. The view can even be enjoyed from the double shower to the ensuite or when soaking in the outdoor tub on the deck.

With 200,000 litres of water storage and 120 solar panels, the home is an admirable example of self-sufficiency, with all water collected, stored and treated onsite, and all power generated by the solar panels. Orientation and ventilation maintain comfortable temperatures all year round.

Impeckable Constructions

PO Box 188,
Jamberoo NSW 2533
Australia
T: +61 409 302 407
www.impeckableconstructions.com.au

Photography by Steve Conti
Words by Jade de Souza

Environmental Empathy

A palette of natural materials comes together in a design that is sympathetic to its immediate surroundings and also to the greater environment through the implementation of sustainable principles.

The clients wanted to transform their rather bland pastoral site into a picturesque haven, with the addition of a simply designed home whose clean lines and natural palette of materials complimented the surrounding rural environment. Maximizing solar passivity and energy efficiency was of utmost importance.

This highly rated home is an amalgamation of environmentally responsible design concepts that have been exploited to provide sustainability throughout the home. These include incorporating water, energy and waste efficiencies with passive solar design features such as orientation, calculated thermal mass, ventilation, insulation, shading and building materials that meet ESD principles.

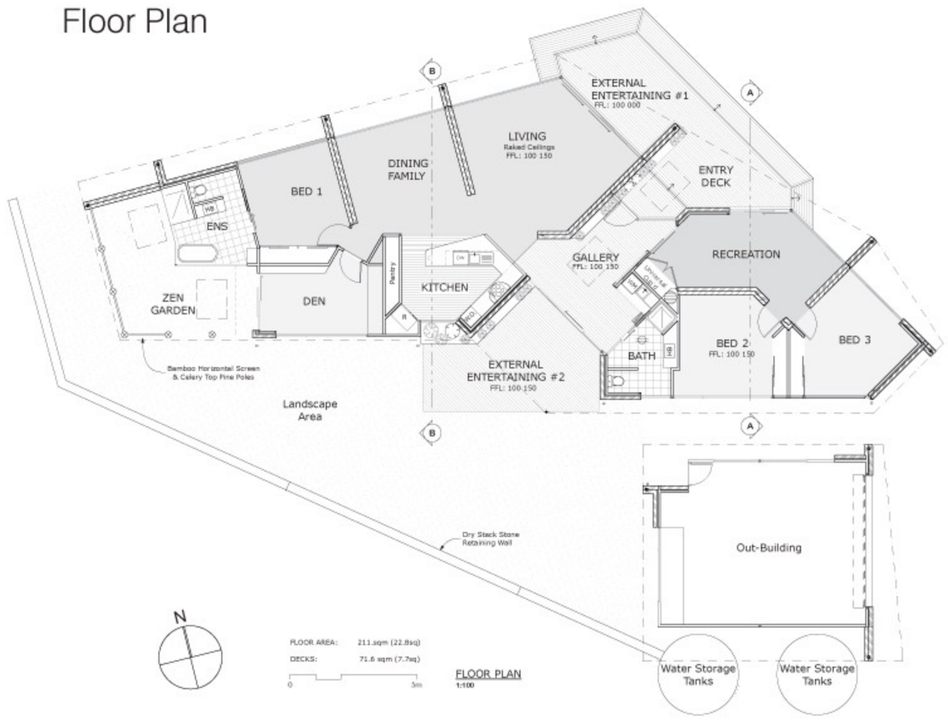
The wedge shaped home is oriented to the north which provides for optimum solar gain. Strategic placement of functioning windows and doors and calculated roof overhangs aid natural cross-flow ventilation and external shading in summer.

When designing the home, a concept took shape that saw the strategic placement of thickened, thermal storage, dolerite blade walls that both entice you into the home and define the two main zones: the main living area and parent's retreat, and a totally private, self-contained area for the teenage children. The thermal mass of the blade walls thus not only provides for passive solar gain but creates flexibility so that each family member can enjoy their own space.

The timeless design expresses a close relationship to the site through both its architectural form and the use of natural, renewable and recyclable materials such as the reject dolerite wall stone procured from a non-commercial quarry, harvested salvaged celery pine poles and renewable bamboo screening. The boundaries between the interior and exterior are subtly blurred, as the bamboo and bluestone feature extends from the interior to the exterior of the home. These materials provide excellent durability and the reusability factor together with low embodied energy extends the lifecycle of the home.

The clients now enjoy lifestyle benefits that pertain not only to the physical layout but also to the energy efficient and economical sustainability of the home. These features are a testament to the designer's responsible approach to the environment, creating a design that reduces energy related greenhouse gas emissions.

Floor Plan



The timeless design expresses a close relationship to the site through both its architectural form and the use of natural, renewable and recyclable materials.

Plans remain © Copyright of Clever Design

Clever Design

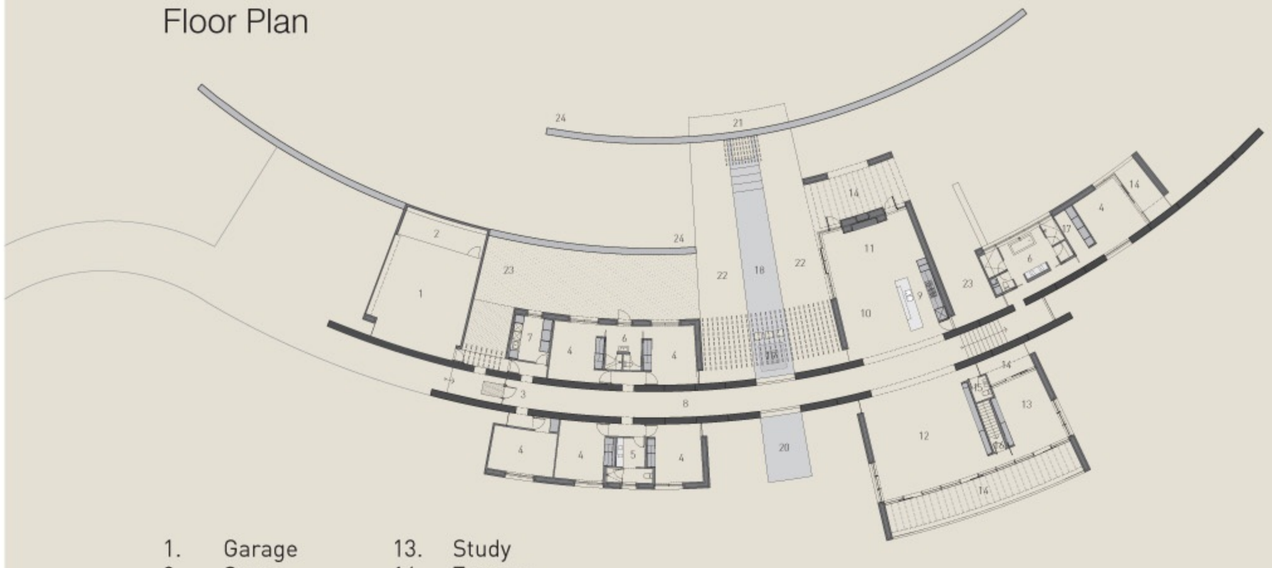
1546 South Arm Road,
Sandford TAS 7020
Australia
T: +61 3 6248 8283
www.cleverdesign.com.au

Photography by Richard Eastwood
Words by Jade de Souza

Accented Architecture

In its gentle arc towards the rural landscape, the Merricks House by acclaimed architecture firm Wood Marsh follows the contours of the land and elegantly frames views to the surrounding vineyard and ocean beyond.

Floor Plan



1. Garage
2. Store
3. Entry
4. Bedroom
5. Bathroom
6. Ensuite
7. Laundry
8. Corridor
9. Kitchen
10. Dining
11. Lounge
12. Living
13. Study
14. Terrace
15. Powder
16. Basement Stair
17. Robe
18. Pool
19. Spa
20. Pond
21. Pool Equipment
22. Pool Terrace
23. Courtyard
24. Garden Wall

Plans remain © Copyright of Wood Marsh Architecture

A pair of curved, rammed-earth walls act as a solid, central spine from which smaller, more refined volumes radiate. The 'in-between' spaces that are created provide shelter and intimacy against the often harsh Victorian coastal environment.

The site enjoys a glorious Mornington Peninsula position and is accessed via a long, winding drive through an established vineyard. The house gives little away upon approach, presenting its abstract, modest façade as it emerges from behind a break in a large hedge.

Entering between tall earth walls, a long corridor curves beyond view as the timber ceiling drops into the distance. Upon reaching the lowest point of the corridor, large windows slice through the earth walls to reveal a dramatic view south across the vines to the ocean beyond. To the north, a dark strip of water reflects the sky as it transverses the courtyard.

Further along the central spine, the ceiling arcs up. From here the view unfolds as two large living spaces intersect the corridor, while a staircase ascends beyond and appears to hover above the vines. A discrete opening accesses a further volume beyond, containing the main bedroom, ensuite and a private terrace.

Primarily a holiday and weekend residence, three bedroom wings are accessed through subtle openings in the central corridor. Allowing autonomy between visitors, this layout ensures the house doesn't feel empty when not fully occupied.

The brief called for a large, flexible family home with a range of spaces that can be enjoyed throughout the seasons. Hence, a range of terraces and courtyards appear between or within the timber volumes, providing varying degrees of shelter. A basement cellar provides storage for wine, including that produced on the property.

A restrained palette of textures and colours echo the burnt timbers and sunbleached earth of the harsh Australian environment, which contrast against the verdant, manicured vineyard. The bold charcoal and off-white exterior gives way to a warmer more neutral interior palette that compliments the client's substantial art collection.

The structural engineer and rammed-earth contractor were involved early in the design process to ensure the seamless integration of services, openings and frameless glazing with the rammed earth. A landscape plan was developed that adds further complexity to the art of concealing and revealing views through and across the landscape.

Timber pergolas and external blinds are used as screening devices, mediating sunlight as it moves across the house. Thickened walls allow for deeply recessed windows that are shaded from the summer sun, whilst also providing the opportunity for recessed window frames and achieving a thermal break.

Natural materials with a low embodied energy rating are used throughout the building, whose rammed earth structure provides great insulation properties. All spaces are cross ventilated and each building volume can be heated and cooled independently depending on how the house is occupied.

With energy efficiency and sustainability as key ingredients, the property is not connected to mains water. Instead, all rainwater is harvested and used throughout the house, while water collected in the dams is used for irrigation.Additionally, all sewerage is treated on site.

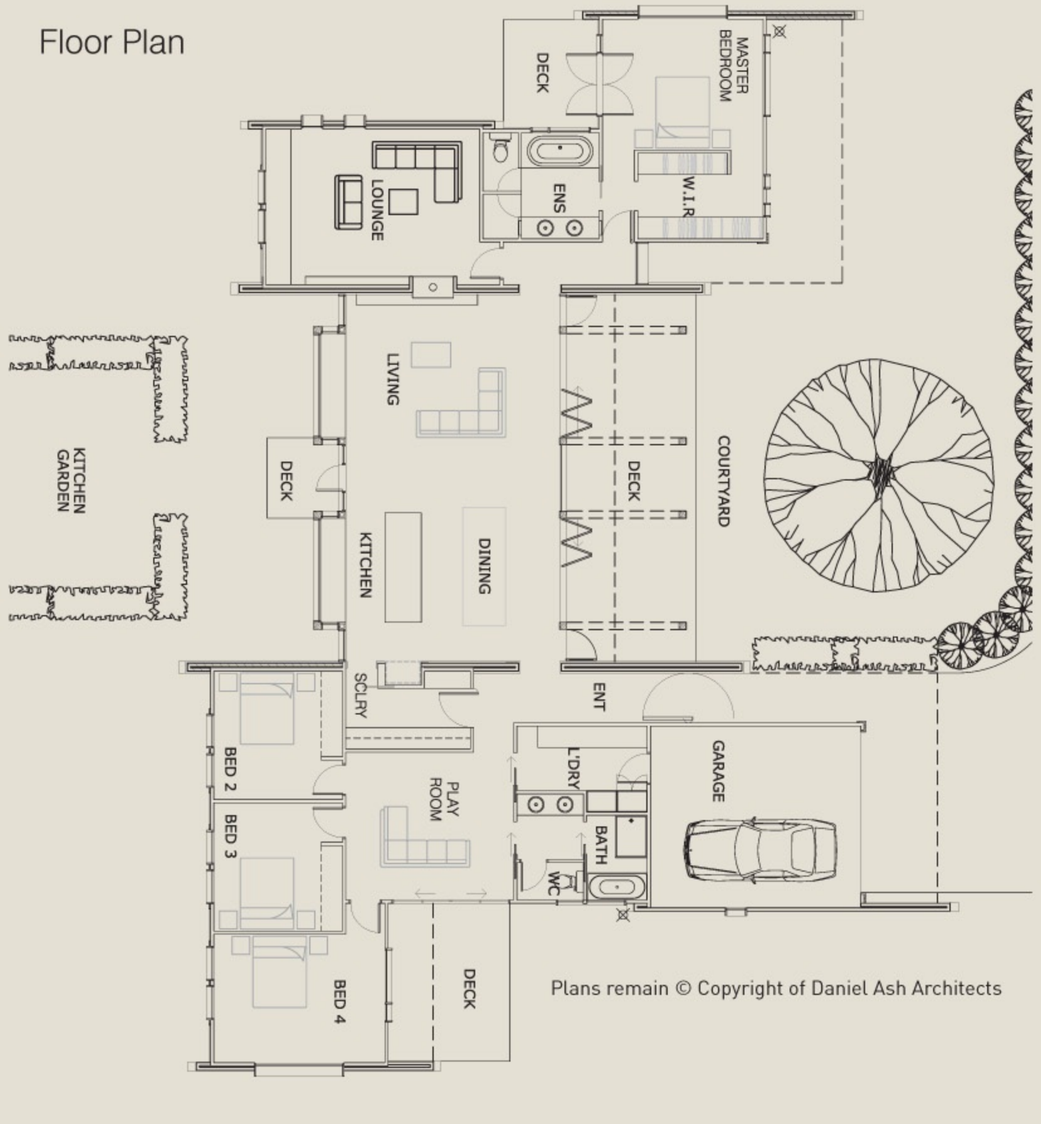
Wood Marsh has created both a sustainable and aesthetically spectacular family home on this majestic peninsula property, one that brings together unusual design with easy, functional living for the ultimate weekend escape.

Wood Marsh Architecture

30 Beaconsfield Parade,
Port Melbourne VIC 3207
Australia
T: +61 3 9676 2600
www.woodmarsh.com.au

Photography by Jean Luc Laloux
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of Daniel Ash Architects

Modern Australia

This contemporary rural home on the outskirts of Geelong draws on the Australian farm house and shearing shed in its combination of modern style and environmental sensitivity.

Extensive views to the east, west and south see the location take in amazing sunsets as well as the ominous outlook to the ferocious storms that roll in from the Otway Ranges.

Harsh southern elements are combatted by the house facing north, with picture windows to the south punctuating the home's interior with the impressive view. The house embraces a sheltered deck to the north that is accessed through operable glazing for easy indoor-outdoor living.

Timber beams arc over the area to provide structural support for the deciduous vines that will protect users from the sun in summer and invite its warm rays into the house when they lose their leaves in winter.

Earthy colours and natural materials combine in a simple palette that speaks the language of its natural setting. White Colorbond corrugated sheeting is punctuated by rendered walls that are drawn inside and act as 'bookends' to the main living space. Spotted Gum floors flow from inside out.

The house is anchored by a large central living zone comprising kitchen, dining and family rooms, with private spaces to either side. A huge Adelaide granite kitchen bench and a bluestone clad fireplace are the standout features of the living zone. The island bench is a great place for family to gather before dinner or for friends to relax with a drink. The adjacent lounge area is cozy and warm, combining rich colours with amazing views that are particularly enjoyable from the window seat.

The luxurious master suite and adjoining west-facing deck take in the gorgeous sunsets. Children happily enjoy their own wing of the house comprising bedrooms, bathroom and a playroom that opens out to a large deck that takes in the warm morning sun.

Thoughtful sustainable design is seamlessly incorporated to the contemporary aesthetic. Eave overhangs, window size and orientation make the most of passive solar principles, while solar panels provide the energy to power the home's utilities. A unique feature is the worm farm that processes all organic matter produced. The house is double glazed, fully insulated and collects its own water.

Working throughout Victoria, Daniel Ash Architects is a young architecture and interiors firm with a strong green ethos, cleverly incorporating ecologically sustainable design features into modern architecture.

Daniel Ash Architects

44 Charles Street,
Prahran VIC 3181
Australia
M: 0432 670 312
info@danielash.com.au
www.danielash.com.au

Photography provided
by Oliver Forbes
Trent Perret
and Daniel Ash

Words by Jade de Souza

Resort Style

The owners enlisted Peter Jackson, of Peter Jackson Design, to create for them a functional home that expresses uniqueness in a one-of-a-kind form. They wanted the home to have a pavilion style to give it a relaxed, resort ambience.

Constructed by Steve Fisher Innovative Homes, the residence wraps around an expansive, north-facing outdoor area that provides a vital link for the entire design. Here, a series of gazebo type areas sit below raised and extended roofs that jut out from the house. These features see the materialisation of the aesthetic with the use of elegant vertical and horizontal lines capped off with the extended, exposed rafter tails.

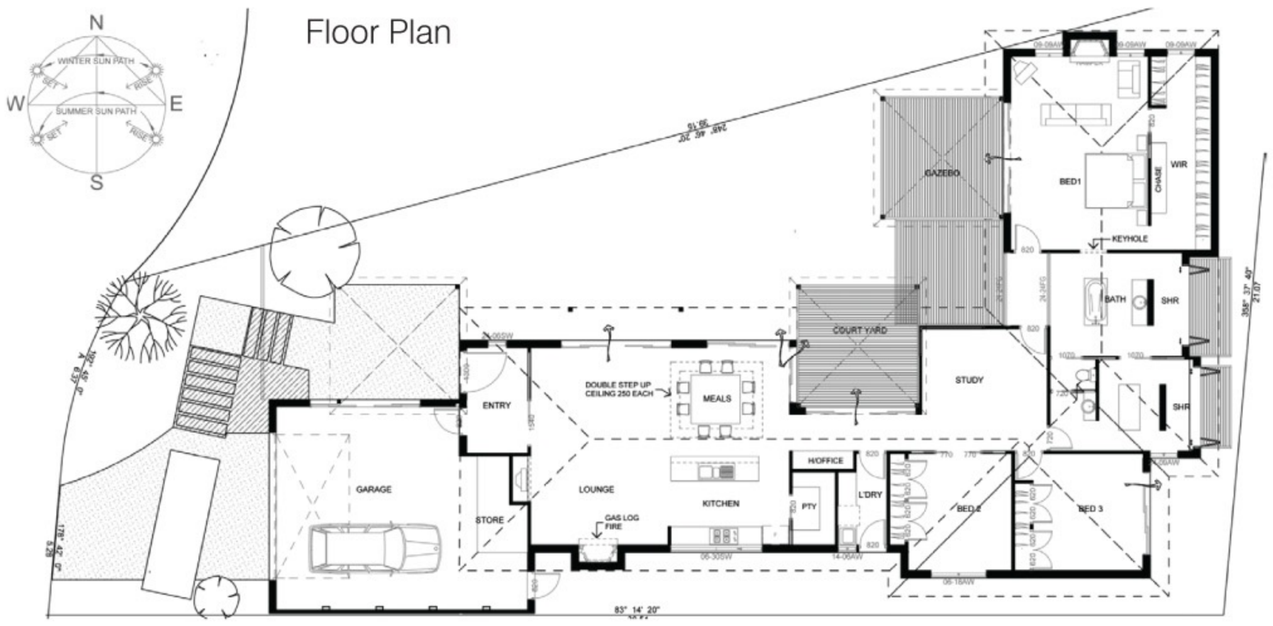
A circular access way adds to the mystique and interest of the space as it frames exotic plantings, tranquil water features and crazy paving.

Inside, all the major rooms are oriented to access or overlook the beautifully landscaped outdoor areas so that the many sliding doors throughout can extend the house outdoors. Furnished with a range of colours and textures, the oversized master bedroom – which includes an open fire – enjoys direct access to the landscaped courtyard through a huge sliding door. The ensuite, exposed through a circular opening in the wall sees a truly different layout. A free-standing bath is made particularly luxurious by its outlook through the adjacent window. The shower is accessible from outside and there is space for a massage table.

The communal areas are cosy and inviting thanks to a number of interacting elements. Chocolate brown floor tiles oppose a grand bulk head ceiling under which rich furniture is highlighted with strategic lighting. Two walls of sliding doors permit flow out to the alfresco area for effortless entertaining all year round.

This is a unique residence, set amid a typically Australian township, and is a testament to the design skill of Peter Jackson and his team.

Floor Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of
Peter Jackson Design

Peter Jackson Design

1/267 Centre Road,
Bentleigh VIC 3204
Australia
T: +61 3 9557 4790
www.peterjackson.net.au

Photography by Brett Holmberg
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan

Plans remain © Copyright of Peter Jackson Design

Room With a View

Perched delicately at the top of a slight hill, this impressive property is the epitome of modern, luxurious, country living. From its prominent exterior design, to the intricacies featured within, this home by Peter Jackson Design does not disappoint.

HORA

Iconic from the outset, wide eaves are a notable feature, extending beyond the walls of the home and effectively enhancing its length visually. A raised section of the roof creates a focal point in the design of the home – which was constructed by Steve Fisher Innovative Homes – highlighting the expansive alfresco dining area.

With a lake to the front and sweeping vistas of the undulating countryside to compliment, extensive glazing is only natural in the design. From within the home, clean lines and a simple palette help to maintain focus on the magnificent views with large floor-to-ceiling fixed glass windows to frame the magnificent landscape. The orientation and layout of the home has been carefully considered, allowing for residents and guests to enjoy the changing scenery throughout the day.

An open plan design is facilitative of a natural flow, allowing light to fill the home organically from the front, through to the back. In addition, specific windows around the home have been selected to open, aiding and maximizing the effective cooling principle of cross ventilation.

The outdoor living room is unique in that it is enclosed within the walls of the home. Averting wind and rain, it achieves gorgeous views through the floor to ceiling glazed sliding doors and clerestory windows. This is without a doubt the perfect place to entertain year round.

Back inside, the master bedroom – a haven for adults – fairs as one of the most impressive points of the home. Aside from million dollar views that extend across to the horizon and a generous footprint, the adjoining ensuite is highlighted with the inclusion of a large opening to allow the view to be admired from the freestanding bath.

Another feature of the home is the extensive walk in pantry located behind the kitchen. With light coloured stone bench tops sympathetic to the theme of the home, it is the odd flash of colour in furniture and cabinetry around the home, which adds to its character and attraction.

The orientation and layout of the home has been carefully considered, allowing for residents and guests to enjoy the changing scenery throughout the day.

Peter Jackson Design

1/267 Centre Road,
Bentleigh VIC 3204
Australia
T: +61 3 9557 4790
www.peterjackson.net.au

Photos: Brett Holmberg
Words: Corey Thomas

Rule, Britannia

Attuning itself to a unique approach in design for the modern era, this home by Peter Jackson Design is influenced by traditional English architecture and reflects the demands of a typically rural setting.

Built by Steve Fisher Innovative Homes, this home presents an emphasis on recycled materials, possesses an accurate authenticity, while at the same time, modern principles and methods of the design and construction aid in maximizing the sustainability of the home. Its orientation is complementary to solar gain, while the roof was designed to harvest rainwater.

In keeping with the style of the home, the footprint of the home was designed so that roof spans were kept to a minimum, allowing the steep pitch of the roof to fall below height restrictions.

Positioned atop a carefully selected undulation, the partially stone clad home facilitates views over the farm and river, as well as the ocean nearby.

Inside, the true essence of the style is realized. An oversized fireplace and sitting area is characterized by traditional features such as the stone work and timber lined cathedral ceilings. Together with exposed timber trusses, these elements bring the clients brief to fruition.

From the inside out, the home maintains the conventional 'English Country' style, which is attributed to the inclusion of key traditional elements. This ranges from elements such as the conservatory style glazing, and projecting windows, the dormers, benching and joinery.

Attention to detail is prevalent throughout, with smaller sized windows intentionally used to once again instill authenticity into the design.

Columns and purpose built trusses inside also afford the exposure and use of rough-sawn recycled hardwood timbers to dramatic effect, bolstering its 'rural' environment.

Peter Jackson Design

1/267 Centre Road,
Bentleigh VIC 3204
Australia
T: +61 3 9557 4790
www.peterjackson.net.au

Photos: Brett Holmberg
Words: Corey Thomas

Traditional Extension

One of the first built in Inverloch, this country residence has period features, heavily timber clad interior walls, and was covered by a council heritage overlay. The extension offers functionality for modern living with two wings now bursting forth from the original box home, closely respecting its heritage and origins.

The owners of this traditional Australian homestead style home commissioned Peter Jackson to increase the original dwelling's functionality with the creation of open shared spaces.

The gorgeous original dwelling was one of undeniable charm, though its usability for a modern family was lacking. Hence, the owners wanted new living spaces to be included in a renovation that was sensitive to the existing detailing and respectful to the character of the charming spaces and facades. The changes needed to take advantage of the site's orientation, maximise opportunities for northern light and capitalise the water views.

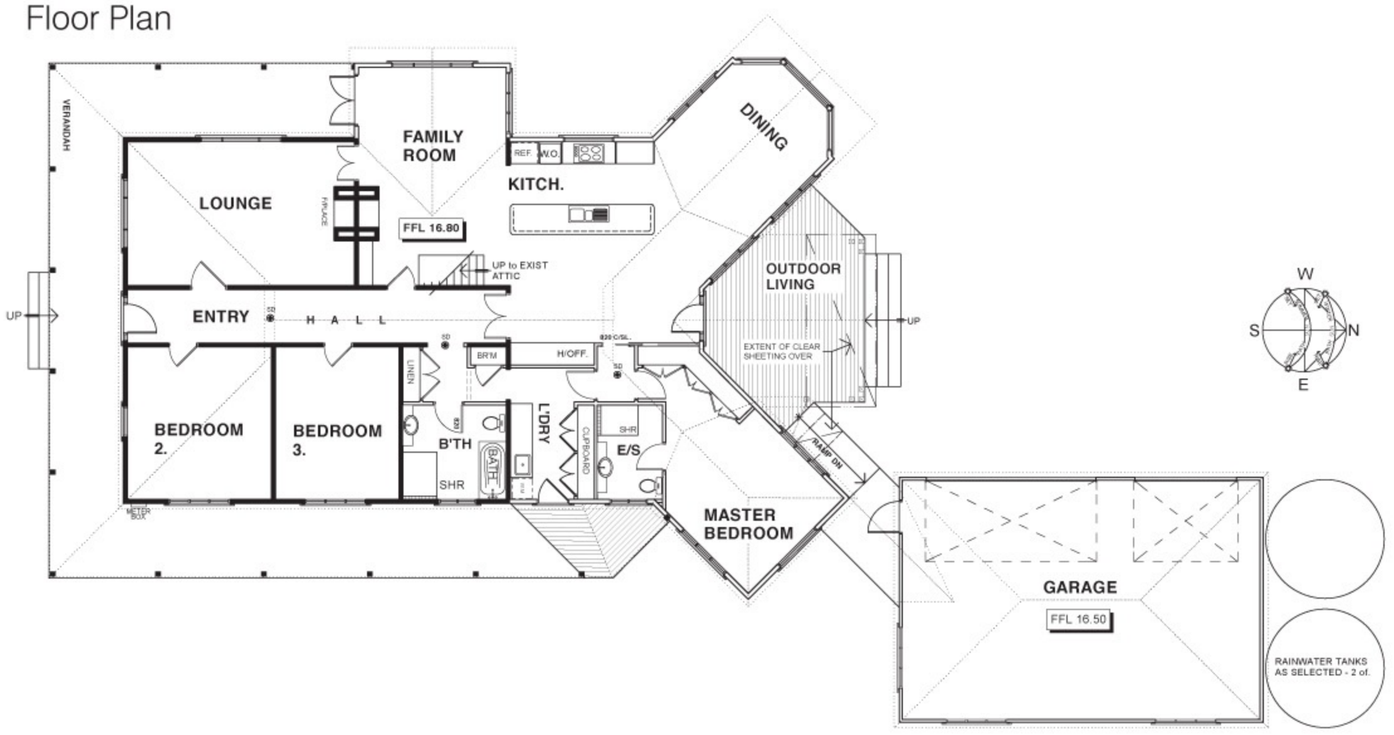
The airy, light-filled extension is a clear divergence from the character of the original dwelling whilst elements in detailing marry the two sections seamlessly. The internal and external design elegantly balances the juxtaposition of old and new, light and dark, private and open spaces to maintain the character filled 'Australian Homestead' style home whilst offering functionality for modern living.

Similar cladding materials and colours maintain the characteristics of the original dwelling. Elements such as the corrugated cladding materials for roofing and external walls were used to integrate the two sections of old and new. A fan-like design developed that saw all the new rooms take in a water view. An appropriate mix of large sheets of glass and segmented period style windows have been used in selected locations depending on the room's use, outlook and solar gain.

Crowned with gable end roofing, a full height north facing bay window graces the meals/family area and fills it with abundant light. This space forms the main feature of the house, with a generous gallery style kitchen that was introduced for maximum flow. The clean white kitchen is flooded with sunshine from a window behind the cook top that acts as a splash back. To either side project the lounge and the dining areas.

A large north facing deck was added to increase usable outdoor space. Spreading its timber floor out towards the scenic rural outlook, the deck provides a lovely place to recline and relax.

Floor Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of Peter Jackson Design

Peter Jackson Design

1/267 Centre Road,
Bentleigh VIC 3204
Australia
T: +61 3 9557 4790
www.peterjackson.net.au

Photos: Brett Holmberg
Words: Jade de Souza

Contemporary Masterpiece

Sensational linear design is showcased by Vibe Design Group in this residence that graces the landscape on Mount Eliza's hillside.

Having lived on the expansive property for some years, the client's intention was to demolish their existing aged residence, and re-develop to take advantage of the spectacular bay views.

The irregular-shaped corner site of 6821m2 in Victoria's Mt. Eliza, offered spectacular 180° views across Port Phillip Bay and to the Mornington Yacht Club. The site featured a slope of increased steepness toward the Northwest corner. Beautiful established gum trees of significant age and size lined the perimeter of the site and road reserve.

The client's required a family home to share with their two teenage children, plus a guest bedroom for visiting relatives. In addition, the brief called for on-site boat, caravan and trailer storage. To prevent the residence from appearing lost on the land, Vibe Design opted not to accommodate the boat/caravan storage in a detached structure or shed, but to incorporate it into the main body of the house. The resulting elongated façade created an extreme line, and enabled placement of the garaging facilities at one end balanced by the lightly suspended children's wing at the other.

Attracted to timber for its natural and sustainable qualities, Vibe deliberately chose Silvertop Ash as the primary cladding for the residence. The timber is intended to grey over time and sit harmoniously within the surrounding gum treed environs. Its naturalness is in contrast to the Alucobond, Exotec Façade Panel System and rendered surfaces, but the material specifications work together with undeniable synergy.

Shape and form were used in a combination of solid elements, blade walls and cantilevers to purposefully guide the journey through the home. Upon entering, an ascending staircase to the right reaches the guest bedroom, powder room, gym, laundry and garaging facilities, although one instinctively leads left into primary living space.

An elevated ceiling area with perimeter windows, protected by calculated eaves, sends diffused light through the lounge and dining area. The sleek lines of the kitchen are protected from clutter as an expansive scullery area with private desk is accessed via an integrated veneer panel door. Beyond the kitchen, a sliding wall offers separation to the rumpus and children's bedrooms. These bedrooms are given access to a dual ensuite, entering into a private vanity area with a translucent screened shower positioned between.

A floating staircase ascends to the master bedroom and study in the upper storey. The ensuite incorporates a portal window, which peers through the master bedroom for appreciation of the breathtaking view whilst showering.

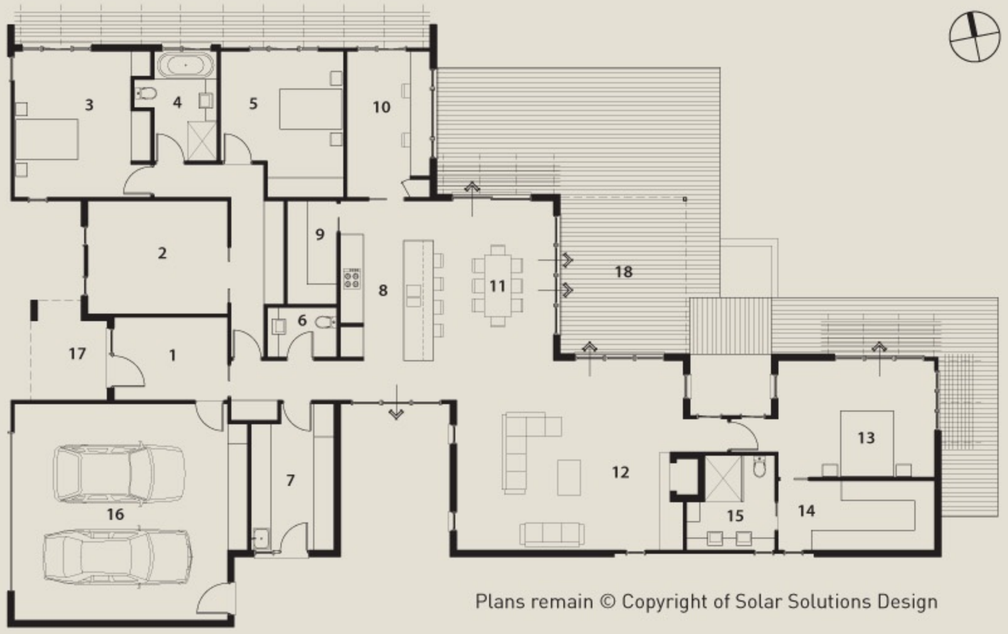
The beautiful outlook remains ever present throughout the home, with every living space and bedroom sharing in the enviable water views.

Vibe Design Group

551 Burwood Road,
Hawthorn VIC 3122
Australia
T: 1800 188 056
www.vibedesign.com.au

Photography by Robert Hamer

Floor Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of Solar Solutions Design

1. Entry
2. Sitting
3. Bedroom 2
4. Bath
5. Bedroom 3
6. Powder
7. Laundry
8. Kitchen
9. W.I.P.
10. Study
11. Meals
12. Living
13. Bedroom 1
14. W.I.R.
15. Ensuite
16. Garage
17. Porch
18. Alfresco

Smart Design

Focusing on climate, correct solar orientation, privacy and zoning, Solar Solutions have designed an energy-efficient home with strong visual appeal that has surpassed the client's expectations.

The challenge was to create an energy-efficient home that would optimize privacy and incorporate as much northerly aspect as possible.

With seclusion from the busy main road and a comfortable, low-maintenance indoor/outdoor lifestyle at the fore of the design brief, the challenge was to create an energy-efficient home that would optimize privacy and incorporate as much northerly aspect as possible.

The long, slim design of the home maximizes the northern exposure ensuring good sun penetration in the winter and shading on the northern windows in summer. A raked ceiling with highlight windows in the living areas allows northern light to penetrate deeper into the interior, while also providing ventilation when hot air becomes trapped in the cathedral ceiling of the alfresco area. Privacy has been achieved through the use of slim windows and placement of the garage, ensuring the front façade is secluded and sheltered from the street.

Solar passive design was integral to the placement of rooms to allow for comfortable living while clever zoning of guest bedrooms will eliminate the need for heating and cooling when these rooms are not in use. The large north-facing alfresco provides the perfect indoor/outdoor living area for easy entertaining and the addition of a courtyard to the southern side allows for prevailing south westerly winds to create cross-flow ventilation.

The muted render tiles provided by CSR Hebel Powerpanel wall system, juxtapose blocks of colour to add excitement and contrast to the façade that blends beautifully with its environment. Thermally improved aluminium double-glazed windows were used together with an elliptical louvre shading system designed to shade the northern windows in summer. In winter, the sun can penetrate the living areas and fill them with ample light.

White was chosen to further enhance the light-filled internal spaces while bold splashes of red in the living room add a sense of warmth and intimacy. Clean lines create a simple, yet stunning indoor living environment overlooking the generous north-facing alfresco entertaining area.

Solar Solutions Design

Suite 2, 199 Stud Rd,
Wantirna VIC 3152
Australia
T: +61 3 9801 7247
www.solarsolutionsdesign.com.au

Photography by Matthew Mallett

Floor Plan

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Plans remain © Copyright of Solar Solutions Design

1. Entry
2. Living
3. Meals
4. Kitchen
5. W.I.P.
6. Laundry
7. Boot Room
8. Bedroom 1
9. W.I.R.
10. Ensuite
11. Powder
12. Cellar
13. Bedroom 2
14. Ensuite
15. Bedroom 3
16. Ensuite
17. Theatre
18. Study
19. Garage
20. Porch
21. Outdoor Living

Lake View

Skilfully designed to optimise the natural assets the site offered, this exceptional home boasts a premium outlook from the living areas and master bedroom while also capturing cooling breezes from the south. A tranquil water feature surrounds the expansive deck providing a stunning setting for relaxed living and entertaining.

The clients wanted an attractive, energy-efficient home that would provide sweeping views of the lake and picturesque surrounds and slot seamlessly into the sloping site. A low maintenance design was essential whilst still creating a unique and striking design that would complement its surroundings. The strong theme of entertaining is evident with the relationship between indoor and outdoor spaces.

Nestled amongst the picturesque surrounds of Upper Beaconsfield, this exceptional home is a design showpiece capitalising on the magnificent southern views over the lake. All the main living areas and master bedroom take full advantage of this serene outlook. These areas also open onto a generous deck surrounded by a tranquil water feature, which flows between the western and eastern elevations of the house.

Bold angles and the striking use of rich colour, both externally and internally, give this home a very dramatic modern feel which is further enhanced by contrasting finishes and textures. A stone feature wall contrasts sharply with a block of burgundy in the living room exemplifying the clever juxtaposition of colour and texture used throughout the home.

The seamless integration of Colorbond and rendered surfaces unite to make a stunning and articulate exterior. Steel elements were used as features throughout and for their low maintenance properties. The light hues and corrugation of the steel compliment the smoother texture of the rendered sections providing relief on the large expanses of wall.

Energy efficiency has been addressed by designing the home to capture the prevailing southerly breezes that are naturally cooled from the lake and pushed throughout the home in the warmer months, thereby minimising the need for cooling. The use of an elliptical louvre system allows winter sun penetration warming the concrete slab whilst blocking the harsh summer sun from hitting the glass.

Solar Solutions Design

Suite 2, 199 Stud Rd,
Wantirna VIC 3152
Australia
T: +61 3 9801 7247
www.solarsolutionsdesign.com.au

Photography by Matthew Mallett

Sensitive Design

Designed to suit the site and client brief this cleverly zoned, light filled home provides year round comfort. With its impressive 6 Star energy rating, it surpassed the client's expectations.

This spectacular home epitomises energy efficient design without compromising style. Located in the heart of the Yarra Valley, this secluded 3.2 acre property boasts captivating views and is surrounded by an abundance of native vegetation, the ideal blank canvas.

The colours and materials selected for the home compliment the surrounding area, presenting a harmonious unobtrusive design that flows seamlessly into the landscape. The use of natural sandstone, oiled timbers and rendered panels permit a stylish grandeur within the sensitive design. The naturally occurring variations in the timber and sandstone add warmth and character to this home no matter the time of year. Continuation of such materials internally unifies the interior and exterior highlighting the detail and time spent in the design process, increasing the natural feel of the home.

CSR Hebel Powerpanel wall system was selected as the home's cladding for its superior acoustic insulation and thermal properties, resulting in an individual design with a stylish rendered look. Using the timber and natural stone materials further articulates the elevations and lends visual strength, blending the unique façade beautifully with its environment. The main muted render tone juxtaposed with coloured feature render sections adds excitement and contrast to the façade, retaining the interest of all who view it.

High quality materials and finishes coupled with solar passive design principles achieve a high level of comfort within the home. Thermally improved timber double-glazed windows were used together with an elliptical louvre shading system designed to shade the northern windows in summer, whilst allowing the winter sun to penetrate the living areas with ample natural light.

These bright, light filled spaces were made possible through articulation of all facades with the additional benefit of increasing the field of view highlighting all the Yarra Valley has to offer. This articulation created three courtyard areas all concealed from the entry, enhancing privacy and increasing northern exposure.

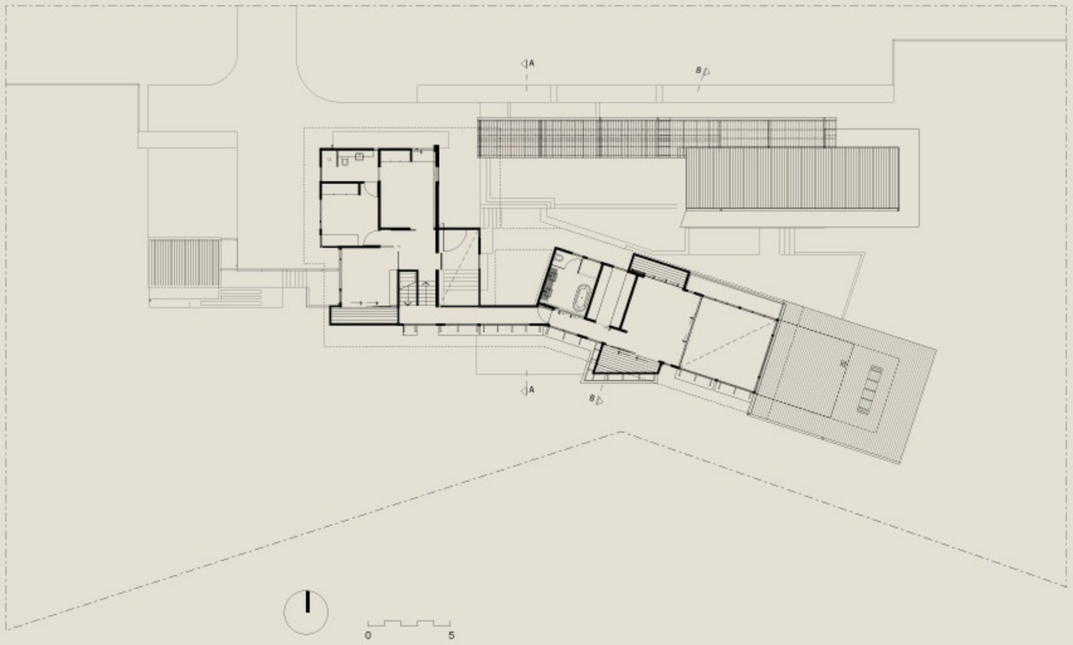
This harmonious home exemplifies energy efficient design with an emphasis on reflecting and respecting the natural surrounds and site conditions. The attention to these factors has resulted in a showpiece home, ready to be a leading example of the possibilities of 6 Star requirements.

Solar Solutions Design

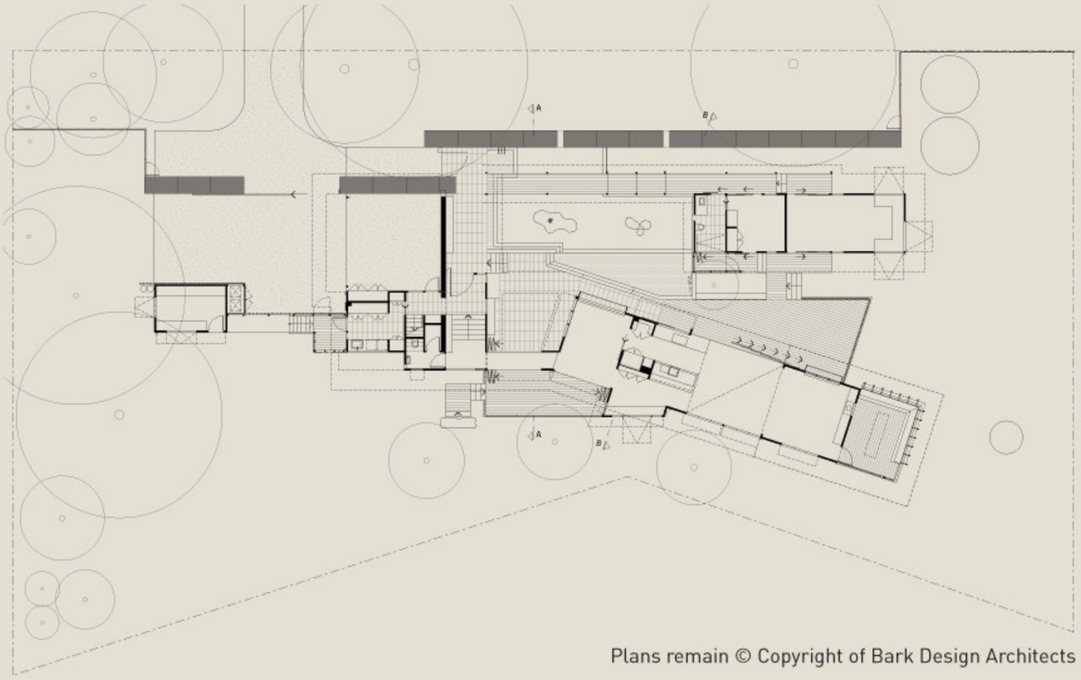
Suite 2, 199 Stud Rd,
Wantirna VIC 3152
Australia
T: +61 3 9801 7247
www.solarsolutionsdesign.com.au

Photography by Matthew Mallett

First Floor



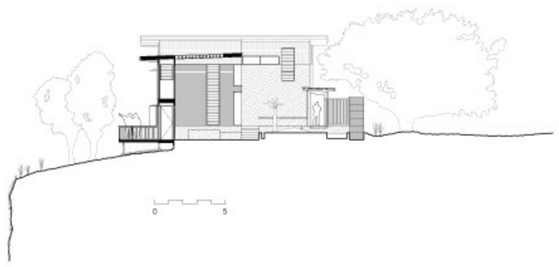
Ground Floor

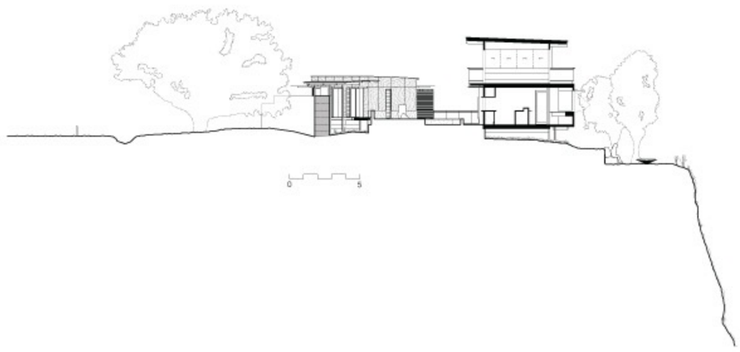


Plans remain © Copyright of Bark Design Architects

Everlasting Flexibility

With a philosophy to match its qualities of assimilation to its astounding surrounds, this remarkable home constitutes the seamless integration of outdoor and indoor spaces, incorporating an air of transparency from all angles.





From a breathtaking home by Bark Design Architects comes an even more impressive outlook. Perched on the edge of the picturesque Glass House Mountains, it inspires an air of tranquility and peace.

With a large and sprawling footprint, the home is surprisingly slim, with a considerable amount of transparency. At the same time its grand scale and monumental 'garden wall' constitute qualities of being robust, anchored and earthbound.

To the rear of the residence, a courtyard sanctuary is created between the refuge of the home and the broader natural volcanic landscape. Here, mountain vistas are enjoyed through transparent internal spaces, while being protected from the weather and the road and also capturing the northern aspect for winter sun.

Responsive to the land on which it is located, the building's form and bulk on the escarpment appears recessive rather than dominant to the landscape of the ridge.

The design has been carefully considered to engage with existing topography, orientation, views and vegetation so as to create a harmony in its surroundings.

Satisfying the brief, the home is separated into distinct spatial zones, and the feeling of pavilions connected around the edges of the main outdoor courtyard space creates a loosely connected resort feel within the mountain lodge typology.

Crafted timber joinery and custom made stone work add elements of personalisation and inform a culture of fine craft and attention to detail. From almost any angle, this home defines assimilation, blending effortlessly into the landscape.

Even the constructed elements of the landscape have been created with perfection, from the stone wall to the ponds, pool and plantings.

From within, the lines between outside and in are blurred with an inviting aspect of openness and interconnectivity. Areas of transparency and places that connect outward all combine to create a home that has a positive impact on the environment, with natural cooling, heating and lighting throughout.

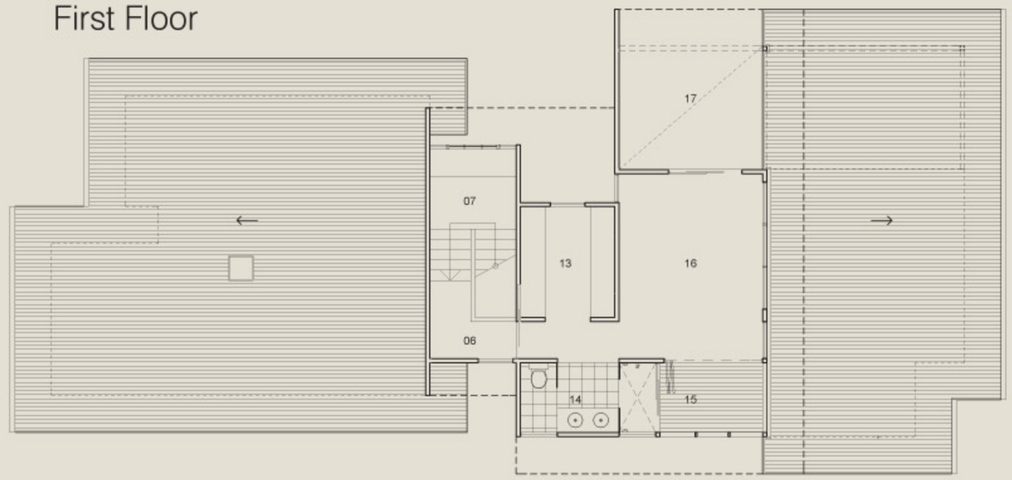
Memorable from the moment you gaze upon its beauty, this home is one that is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Bark Design Architects

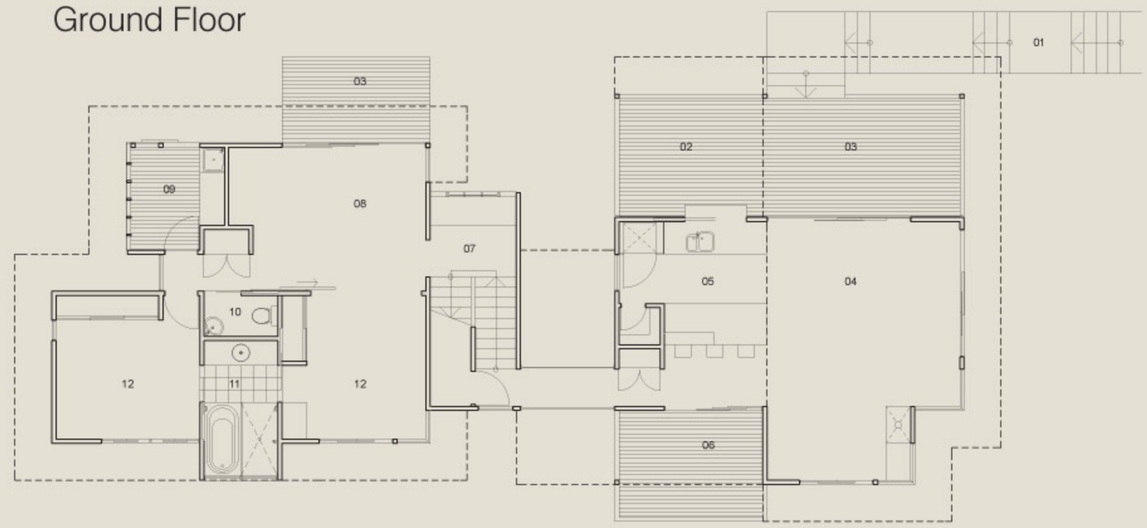
Studio 185 Sunrise Road,
Tinbeerwah QLD 4563
Australia
T: +61 7 5471 0340
www.barkdesign.com.au

Photography by Christopher Frederick Jones
Words by Corey Thomas

First Floor



Ground Floor



1. Entry Steps
2. Outdoor Dining
3. Outdoor Living
4. Living / Dining
5. Kitchen
6. Southern Deck
7. Stairway
8. Lounge
9. Laundry / Drying Deck
10. Powder Room
11. Shared Bathroom
12. Bedroom
13. Walk-In-Robe
14. Ensuite
15. Bedroom Deck
16. Main Bedroom
17. Void Below

Plans remain © Copyright of Bark Design Architects

Timber Terrific

A modern design expressed in classic Australian materials, this enviable country house enjoys the most scenic of outlooks from its perch among the trees.

This Sunshine Coast hinterland house at Mt. Ninderry is comprised of two interconnecting, timber-framed volumes for living and sleeping. Connected by a translucent stair tower, the home is perched high on the site to take in broad views of the Pacific coastline, the agricultural pastures and forested hinterland in the foreground of Mt. Ninderry.

Though expressive in its architectural form, the building is carefully nestled into the hillside, sympathetic to the topography and the surrounding natural vegetation. The architectural language of the house explores a contemporary 'bush' vernacular, with lightweight fibre cement sheet cladding, corrugated iron sheet cladding and Queensland hardwood framing and screens giving prevalence to the amazing views.

During the day, the house explores lightness, filtering natural breezes and layers of transparency, integrating indoor and outdoor spaces with dynamic patterns of light and shadow. In the evening, the house glows gently like a lantern in the trees.

A flexible frame enables the sort-after contemporary lifestyle with a resolution of planning, spatial connections and structure allowing for both day to day and long term flexibility of varying uses and lifestyle configurations.

The main spaces step down and run with the land, connected in part by the double height living and northern deck space. The main bedroom retreat is perched high and private in the trees. White walls and simple furniture selection further enhance the outlook past the native eucalypts to the landscape beyond, with the great volume of the spaces enhancing the open ambiance.

Located as high as possible on the site, the views are maximized and the outdoor spaces are oriented to the north. Sunlight and natural cooling breezes are encouraged through the spaces using louvres and adjustable fenestration. The building has been designed to maximize passive temperature and ventilation through cross ventilation and stack effect principles. It minimizes the need for artificial systems for lighting, ventilation, heating and cooling. Appliances are energy efficient. The site treatment and landscaping show concern for site preservation of natural topography, and the selected plant species reinforce local biodiversity and use minimal water.

Bark Design Architects are firm believers that teamwork and collaboration between architect, client and builder are integral to creating successful and sustainable environments for living and working.

Bark Design Architects

Studio 185 Sunrise Road,
Tinbeerwah QLD 4563
Australia
T: +61 7 5471 0340
www.barkdesign.com.au

Photography by David Sandison
Words by Jade de Souza

Rural Innovation

Residential renovation projects don't often allow a designer to truly transform a home, however this particular multi-award winning project is the exception. Form and Function have taken a rather ordinary country house and built on its rural vernacular, accentuating timber elements and filling the home with contemporary styling.

The rustic exterior complements its natural surrounds and an exquisite interior draws on the same theme. Large glazed sections provide spectacular views across the valley and surrounding forest, bathe the transformed interior with light and connect the internal spaces with the treasures of the home's location.

Encased in the timber clad exterior is an inspirational home office, transitional library, hidden entrances behind sliding bookcases, exquisitely designed and finished kitchen and bathrooms, custom designed features and an intelligent material selection combining to convert this old shack into a bush beauty.

One of the most special aspects of the project is the way in which it unites the beauty and diversity of timber. The design incorporates rough sawn hardwood decking, chunky recycled Ironbark window frames, recycled Karri in exposed trusses and feature raw tree limbs throughout.

Extensive timber joinery in the library, study and kitchen areas and thoughtful creative detailing in timber floor coverings contribute to the success of the look. In addition, an external terraced timber decking and planter box system allows the theme to flow effortlessly from internal to external spaces and ensures the dwelling sits unobtrusively within the natural environment. The rustic natural external beauty and polished, highly creative internal finishes combine to make this home a worthy showpiece of what is achievable with wood.

As well as the home's innovative use of timber, the Jennings' kitchen looks like no other. The scale, textures and colours of the unusual components work together and create a purely individual aesthetic.

Raw use of black metal pipes, reclaimed timber features and concrete give the kitchen the warehouse feeling it strived for. Industrial switches and power points compliment powder coated metal pendant lights. Joinery seems half assembled, and the ceiling battens finish in a seemingly unplanned alignment overhead. Minimal built-in cabinetry is concealed through colour, providing a visual spark to the room.

This rural alteration renovated a run-of-the-mill home into a unique retreat with a homely, lived-in feeling. The warm, welcoming and naturally luxurious home that resulted fits the owner like an old slipper.

Form and Function

853 Raglan Parade,
Warrnambool, VIC 3280
Australia
T: +61 3 5561 1099
www.formandfunction.net.au

Photography provided by
Form and Function
Words by Jade de Souza

Farm Shed

Expressed in corrugated iron – echoing its rural setting and a farm shed look – this country house is a unique expression of client desire and architect creativity.

Ground Floor

Mezzanine Floor

Plans remain © Copyright of Kerstin Thompson Architects

Given its location on an exposed ridge with little surrounding vegetation, the choice of site was a bold one since environmental extremes needed careful consideration during the planning and design stage.

The clients were looking for something very lean and rustic. What was produced by Kerstin Thompson and Kelley Mackay of Kerstin Thompson Architects was a house that is essentially a shed with a skin of corrugated iron, which forms a protective shell. For both the owners and the Architect, the home was less about fancy finishes and elaborate details and more about a sense of being on site – producing a restrained connection with the land and the outlook. Hence the subtle design, which includes stepped floors that run down the hillside atop which it sits.

Expertly crafted by Matt and Trent Mepstead from Beachwood Constructions, the house takes on its tin shed identity from outside. However inside is where this theme really comes to life, with the exposed ceiling and concrete floor. Furniture is kept extremely minimal, fostering a calming and clutter free space. The simple industrial fixtures and fittings permits the amazing view to Phillip Island across Western Port Bay to be framed through apertures in the home's skin.

The openness of the house's main volume – the living areas – was countered by positioning a fireplace with integrated wood storage to the centre, essentially forming three separate rooms within the one space.

The master bedroom, study and bathroom space is very unique and impressive as the three rooms step down the land over three levels, spilling over into one another.

Running around the house are simple breezeways. Operable glass walls connect the external corridor to the house, and perforated corrugated iron sliding doors both shield it from and open it up to the surrounding environment.

This setup allows for a variety of uses across the different seasons and weather extremes. In summer, opening the glass walls allows breezes to flow through the house while the sun is filtered gently by perforations in the iron. In winter, the house is kept warm by opening the outdoor doors to let the sun flow through the glass. On those rare perfect Victorian days, all doors can be opened for a most natural experience.

A house is not just a structure; it is a commentary on the personalities of and the relationships between inhabitants. It is a portrait of who they are and is very personal. So what Kerstin Thompson Architects have created here is an emotional landscape, fostering all the needs and desires of some very lucky owners.

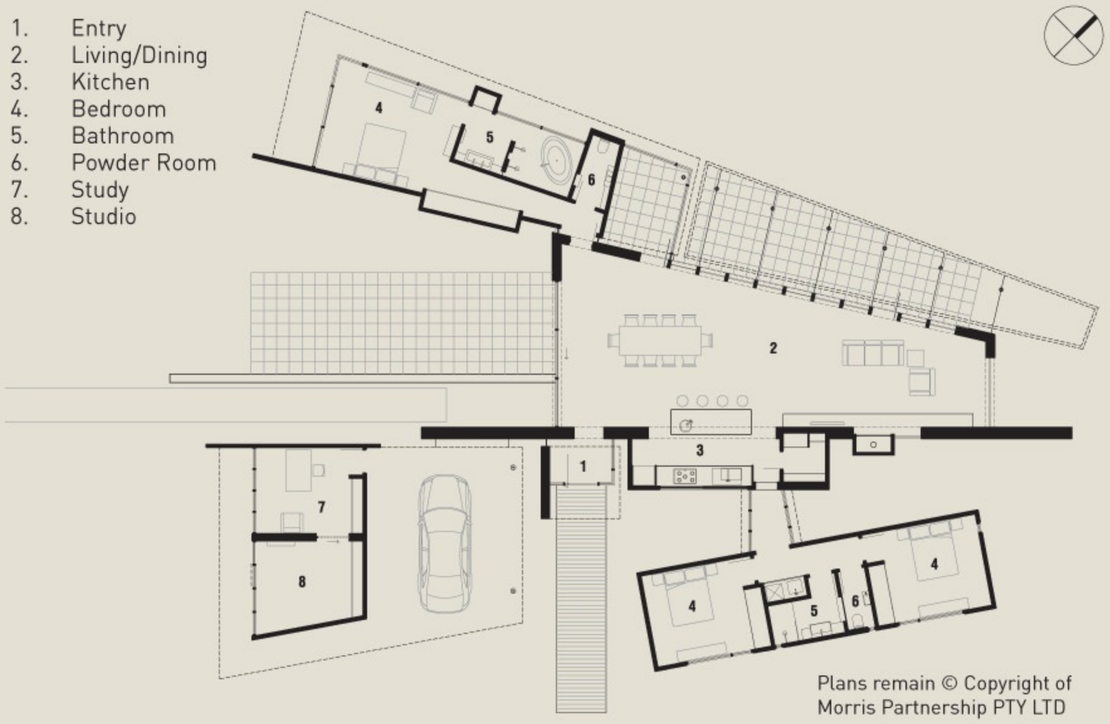
Kerstin Thompson Architects

277 Queensberry Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia
T: +61 3 8662 8800
www.kerstinthompson.com

Photography by Patrick Bingham-Hall
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan

1. Entry
2. Living/Dining
3. Kitchen
4. Bedroom
5. Bathroom
6. Powder Room
7. Study
8. Studio



Plans remain © Copyright of
Morris Partnership PTY LTD

Illusive and Provoking

Embracing the inherent fragility of the sandy coastal hinterland, this carefully considered house invites discovery and contemplation.

Arrival at the stunning Hinterland House by Victorian architect Mike Morris is a startling experience. A sandy track winds you through the hinterland scrub and concludes at a gravel clearing where a powerful rammed earth wall takes immediate prominence. Anchoring the building, the rammed earth wall provides the spine from which the other elements float.

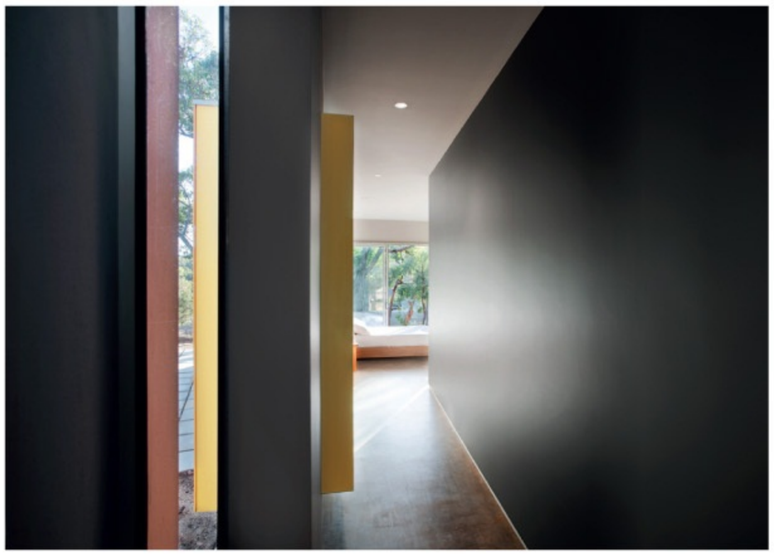
Lacking an obvious entry, the house is deliberately illusive, avoiding dominance of the landscape and instead encouraging a variety of visual and sensual experiences as it connects with the earth. Clever architecture engages the diverse environmental qualities of the site so that views of the landscape may be enjoyed and explored – a tranquil dam, the scrub, the eucalypts and the abundant wildlife.

Once inside, the excitement of the structure and the beautiful site is further revealed. A fragmented building, the home's living, working and sleeping zones are all separated by glazed slots, links and open spaces. Privacy is created without barriers. Movement between zones provides a continual disconnection reinforced by changes in materials. The journey between inside and out is one of minimal definition.

The material palette comprising Spotted Gum, rough recycled timber, concrete floors, corten steel and Zincalume is carried through inside and out. These materials tend to be concentrated in various zones, highlighting the disconnection and fragmentation of the architecture.

Carefully considered design elements address the necessary environmental issues. These include the building mass, double-glazing, shading and cross ventilation that reduces the need for air conditioning. Other sustainability solutions include the use of worm farm waste treatment, solar heating and hot water, and the cellar pantry that draws cooled air through an underground chamber.

This house is provocative in its rejection of any easy gratification of the aesthetic, beckoning occupants to think, observe and encounter the uniqueness of the Australian bush. It is a gutsy work by a mature architect who is confident and at ease with the art of house design.



Morris Partnership
Architecture and Planning

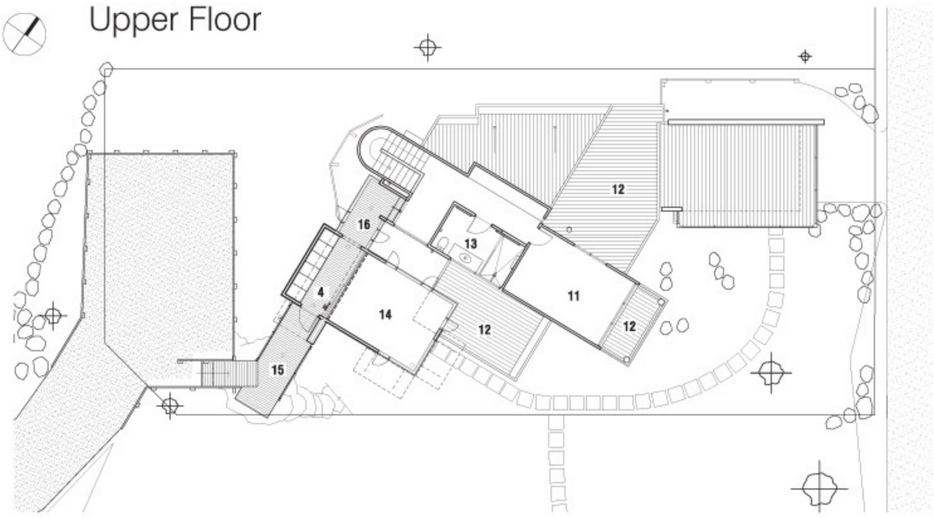
Level 1 / 292 Church Street,
Richmond VIC 3121
Australia
T: +61 9428 8807
www.morrispartnership.com.au

Photography by John Gollings

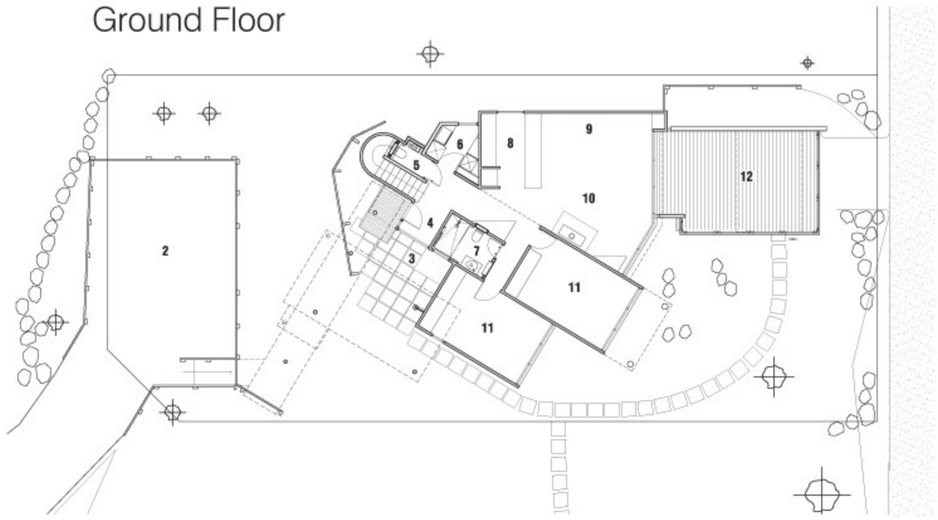
Tree House

Perched high up in Victoria's pristine Otway Ranges, this fascinating country house hides coyly amongst the eucalypts like an extravagant tree house.

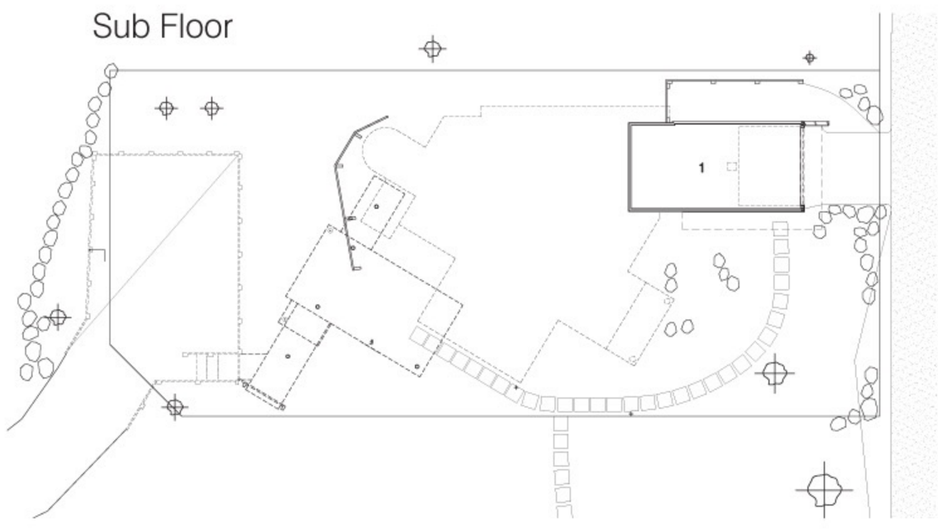
Upper Floor



Ground Floor



Sub Floor



1. Garage
2. Cars
3. Courtyard
4. Entry
5. Powder
6. Laundry
7. Bathroom
8. Kitchen
9. Dining
10. Living
11. Bedroom
12. Deck
13. Ensuite
14. Study
15. Bridge
16. Link

Plans remain © Copyright of
Morris Partnership PTY LTD

The talented team at Morris Partnership have designed a low key, subtle residence where respect for the bush environment is paramount and where a desire to be noticed is not indulged. Nevertheless views to the ocean are open and wide and decks at every level project through the trees.

The exterior of the house is clad in stained timber, copper, corten steel and painted cement sheet. These materials weather naturally to a recessive palette blending with the surrounding environment and enable only glimpses of the structure of the house to be viewed.

Extending over four levels – each offering a different perspective of the ocean – the house is an intriguing accumulation of cosy, comfortable spaces. The upper levels of the house enable views not only over the township of Lorne and to the water but also of the prolific birds which inhabit the lush forest surrounding.

The use of perforated metal screens at ground level allows air flow to be maintained around the house. In the summer months movement of cool air up through the levels of the house minimizes the need for air conditioning.

Inside, the interiors are deliberately simple, expressing the natural tones and textures of the surrounding environment. Timber floors blend seamlessly into the decks that float in the trees. Timber walkways address the steepness of the site, letting the natural gradients of the land remain unimpeded.

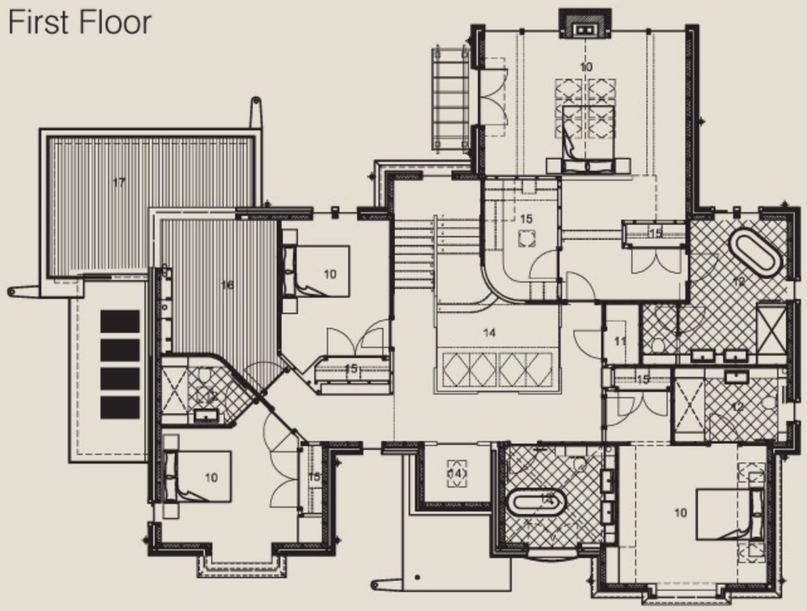
Many houses claim to blend seamlessly with their environment but few achieve such integration like this beautiful home. With its fragmented sections strung sensitively through the foliage like the kind of cubby house you dreamt of as a child, it really is a nature inspired project that expresses beauty through nature itself.

Morris Partnership
Architecture and Planning

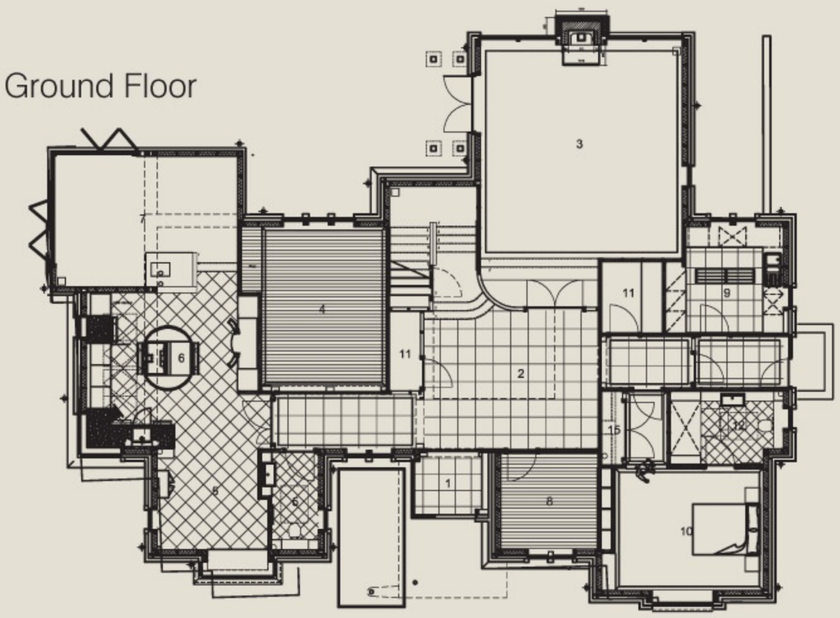
Level 1 / 292 Church Street,
Richmond VIC 3121
Australia
T: +61 9428 8807
www.morrispartnership.com.au

Photography by John Gollings

First Floor



Ground Floor



Plans remain © Copyright of MRH Architects

1. Entrance
2. Inner Gallery Hall
3. Formal Sitting Room
4. Dining Room
5. Breakfast Area
6. Kitchen
7. Family Room
8. Study
9. Laundry / Utility
10. Bedrooms
11. Storage
12. Ensuites
13. Family Tower Bathroom
14. Gallery
15. Wardrobe / Dressing
16. Dayroom / Theatre Room
17. Balcony
18. Double Garage and Plant Room
19. Studio / Office

Scottish Country Living

A generous family home in the Scottish Highlands of the United Kingdom brings together traditional design features with modern elements, making for a striking country home.

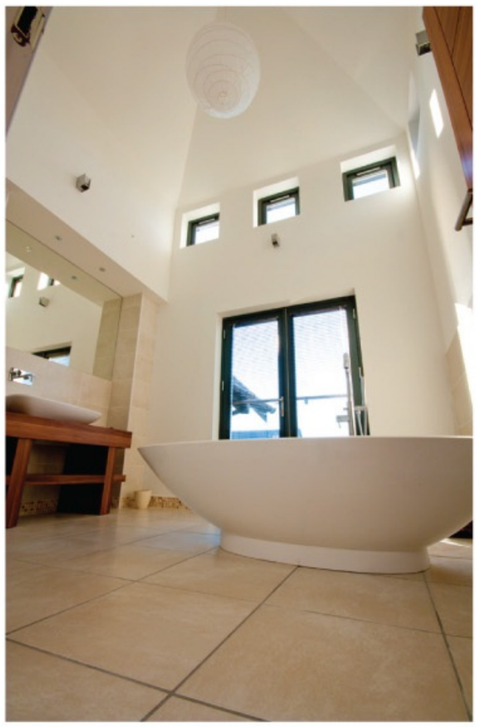
Mark Hornby of MRH Architectural Design and Planning is a master of traditional architecture. His evolving and diverse portfolio of work is a testament to his skill and commitment to providing personal and tailor made homes, both large and small, to an ever-increasing client base.

Turning his skills to his own home, Mark has designed and built himself a traditional Scottish house that takes on a modern twist in subtle, but defining features.

In keeping with the aesthetic of the area, stone, wood and slate combine in a warm and inviting exterior palette. Wet dash render is made rich with a slate roof and traditional Scottish-style exposed rafter eaves. American Red Cedar clad sections selectively accent small areas, as does the natural stone sourced from a local quarry, which is laid in traditional dry stone effect in order to tie back to Scottish roots. Grey windows and doors are a modern take on the surrounding areas, which would normally be finished in white.

The house maximises the topography of the site, providing a large family home that allows for a multitude of uses. Split-levels create an intriguing series of spaces, each of which is connected to the large hall at the centre of the house. This central hall sports a curved feature wall and vaulted ceiling, allowing for minimal corridors and, hence, a very open-plan feel.

Concentrating on both a high, professional standard and a value for money design strategy, MRH Design strives to achieve the best possible results for private and corporate clients. Their expertise is based on many years of experience in practical design and specification, work on-site and good relationships with industry related professionals.

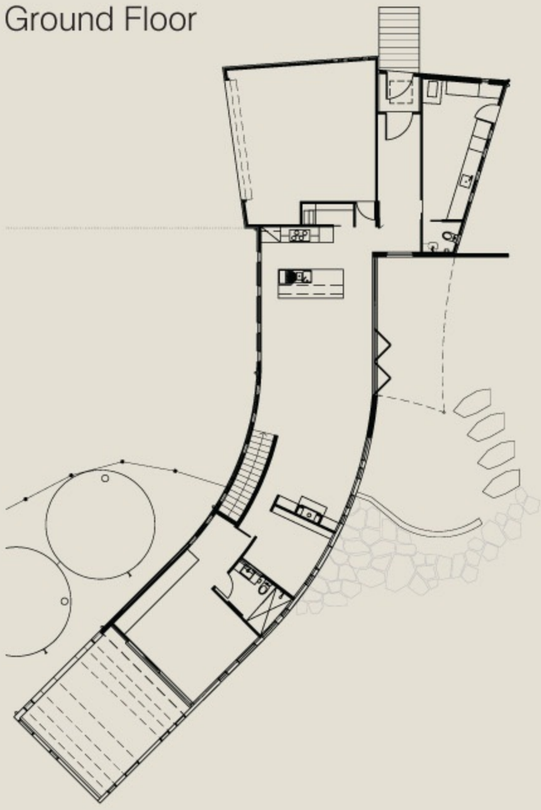


MRH Architectural Design and Planning

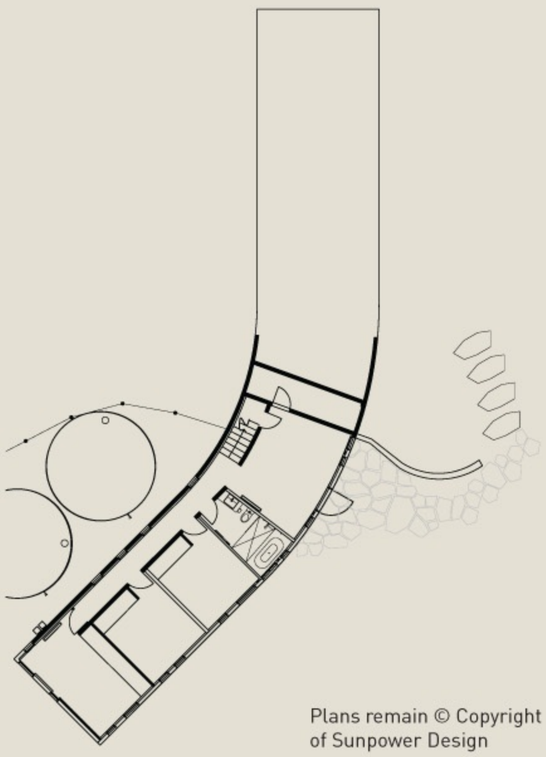
9 Height of Woodside,
Westhill, Inverness IV2 5TH
United Kingdom
T: +44 1463 794410
E: info@mrhdesign.co.uk
www.mrhdesign.co.uk

Photography by Mark Hornby
Words by Jade de Souza

Ground Floor



Lower Floor



Plans remain © Copyright
of Sunpower Design

Pitch Perfect

Throughout both summer and winter, this impressive concrete house is a comfortable and engaging retreat thanks to thoughtful solar gain principles and expert architectural design.

Located in secluded bushland near the small Victorian town of Musk, this 7.5 Star energy rated rural dwelling is the creation of the talented team at Sunpower Design. The sensually curved form is oriented north to make the most of the sun. Its narrow width is not only a unique architectural expression, but also allows for excellent solar access and good cross ventilation.

The main façade of the house was designed as a series of vertical panels; singular pieces of pre-cast concrete soaring an impressive six metres high as they define the sweeping boundary of the house. Their natural light grey colour and consistent finish contrasts well with the dark window frames, tones that unite easily with the surrounding bush landscape. Being surrounded by bush, the threat of bushfire was of great concern to the owners. These pre-cast concrete panels are able to provide a protective face to any oncoming fires from the north.

Accessed from the high point of the site through a custom made steel door, the core of the house is the upper level living, dining and open-plan kitchen area. Warmed by a wood heater, these spaces are especially cozy in winter. Large, north-facing stackable glass sliding doors frame views out to the bush and dam, as well as supplying direct access to the paved outdoor area. Manipulation of the site meant that both levels of the house could enjoy access to the outdoors.

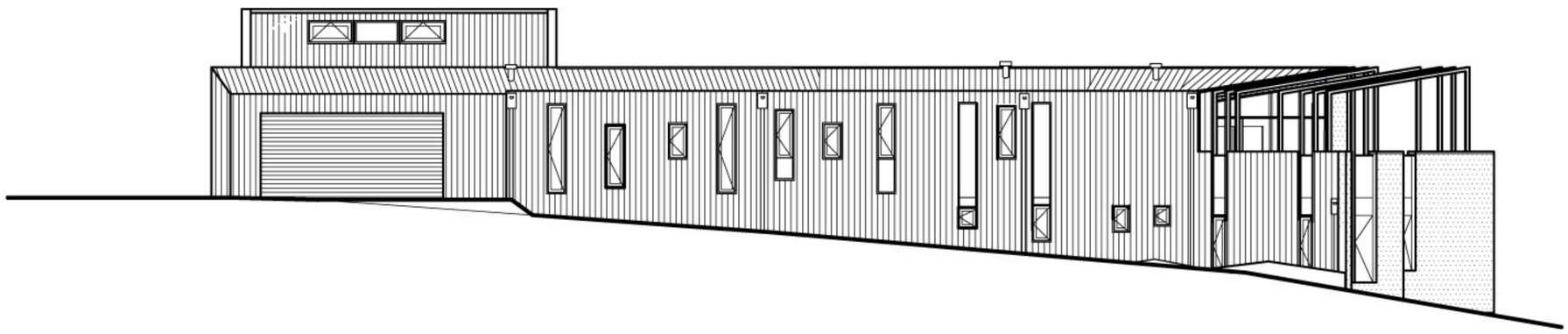
The curved element is repeated in the upper level where a raked ceiling culminates in a large curved cornice. Internal finishes consist of natural timber joinery and doors, stone and marble bench tops, polished concrete floors and crisp white walls. This subtle palette is composed so as not to compete with the star attraction of the site - nature.

Also to the top floor, the main bedroom adjoins a private balcony, which provides an elevated outdoor space that is open on three sides to the surrounding bush. A steel pergola overhead adds a striking visual element and serves as an attachment for a light shade when needed.

Downstairs, three guest bedrooms, a second living room and a guest bathroom with gorgeous bush views combine together to create a lovely home away from home for visitors. A staircase ascends to the main living area such that guests never feel disconnected.

A large laundry-cum-mudroom serves as a space to dry clothes on rainy days, with warmth supplied to the room via a wood fired auxiliary boiler.

South Elevation



Sunpower Design

25 Lanark Street,
East Brunswick VIC 3057
Australia
T: +61 3 9386 3700
www.sunpowerdesign.com.au

Photography by Yvonne Qumi
Words by Jade de Souza

Non-Traditional

Functional in its most intrinsic meaning, this home by Duc Associates exudes style and clarity of living in a design that flaunts an inspiring aesthetic and sustainability in a masterfully constructed project.

Ecologically sustainable from the front to the back, this exquisite home designed by Edward Duc of Duc Associates and constructed by owner builder Cameron Wild, demonstrates that even the most environmentally conscious design can attract curiosity and acclaim.

With two bedrooms, an expansive living area and a design that is open plan in nature, inhabitants enjoy a spacious and 'airy' atmosphere year round. However, this is not to be mistaken for a cold and uninviting home. The design incorporates a host of innovative features to keep the family comfortable in even the coldest or warmest weather, while using minimal energy – the home does not have or need an air conditioner!

Beginning with orientation, the home is positioned to exploit the sun's warmth in winter months, and expel it in the summer. This is the cheapest sustainable element of any building, and is often overlooked by builders and designers. If executed properly so as to gain maximum benefit, it effectively lowers energy consumption by warming and cooling the home naturally, eliminating the need for use of basic utilities.

In addition to this, the design includes materials such as Ortech recycled straw panel walls. These absorb the heat and act as further insulation to the high quality used in the external walls. Vergola louvres have also been installed to help regulate heating and cooling, while also facilitating cross flow ventilation. Cleverly, the raked roof acts to deflect the unpleasant winds that sweep in from the south.

Another sustainable solution is the polished concrete flooring used throughout the home. Not only is this a gorgeous aesthetic in a modern home, but also helps to control temperatures. As well, it is perfect for use in family homes as it is stain repellent and easy to clean.

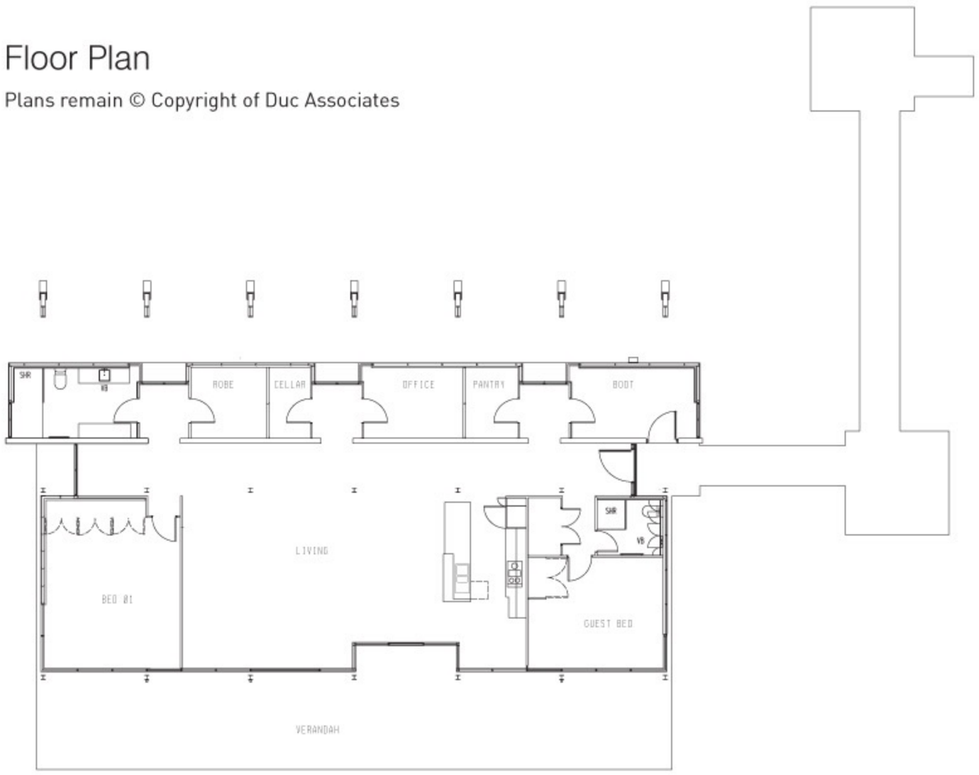
The bathroom walls are Seratone panel, while the thermal mass wall is pre-cast concrete tilt panel.

Back outside, the house is clad in corrugated iron, while the most impressive raked roof on the south side is made from Bondor panel. Reaching up to the stars, the angle of the roof inspires creativity and a sense of individuality, setting this home apart from others in impeccable fashion.

On the north side, 'shop-front' windows dominate, affording the most beautiful aspect of the home – its glorious view. Adding a luxurious element to an already wonderful dwelling, there isn't much else one could ask of such a functional, stylish and innovative home.

Floor Plan

Plans remain © Copyright of Duc Associates

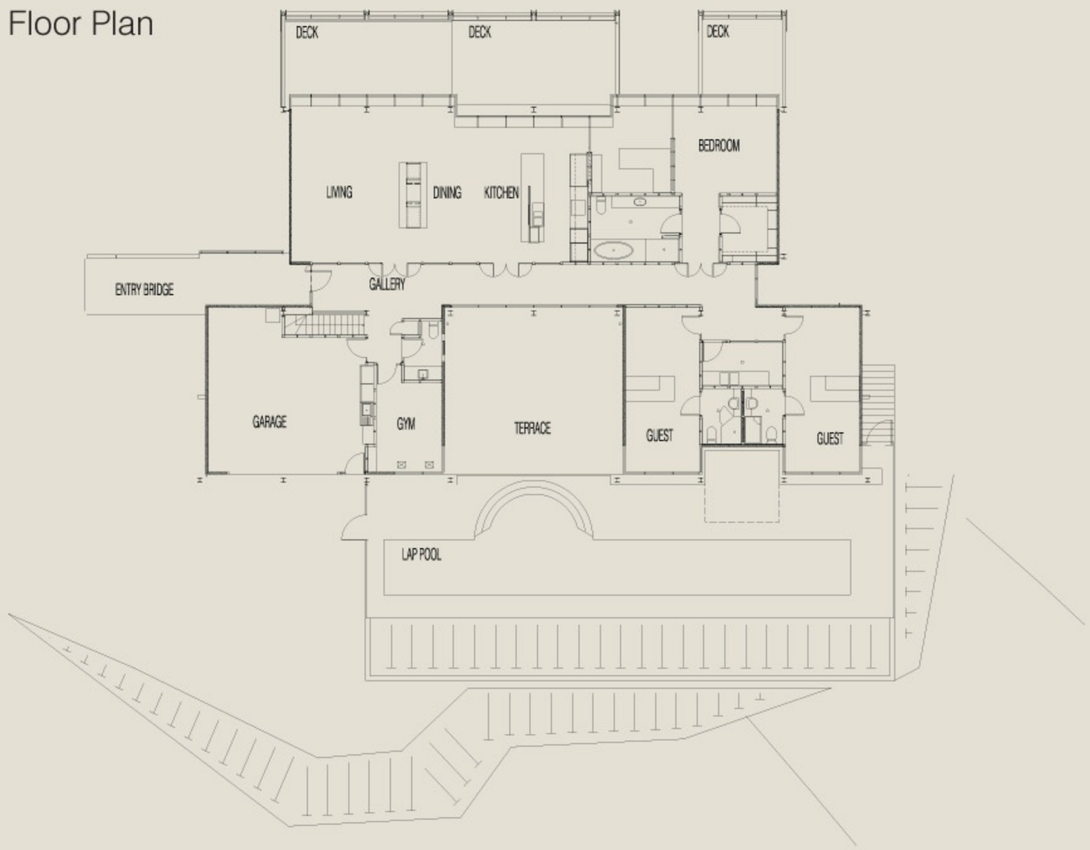


Duc Associates

21 Hillcrest Rd,
Merewether NSW 2291
Australia
T: +61 2 4963 2298
www.ducassociates.com.au

Photography by Bob Creasy
(Steel Profile)
Words by Corey Thomas

Floor Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of Duc Associates

Sun Soaked

Set on a grape-growing property in the prominent wine region of the Hunter Valley, this home has been crafted to satisfy the desires of the client and respond to the site.

The design philosophy was one of longevity, flexibility and reduced energy. To this end, a number of principles were implemented to ensure the home was adaptable and achieved an exceptional energy rating.

Built from recyclable materials, the home is grounded by a light steel structure that allows internal and external adaptations with minimal disturbance. To similar effect all the walls are modular and panelised so services remain loose, permitting the addition of new technologies without major works.

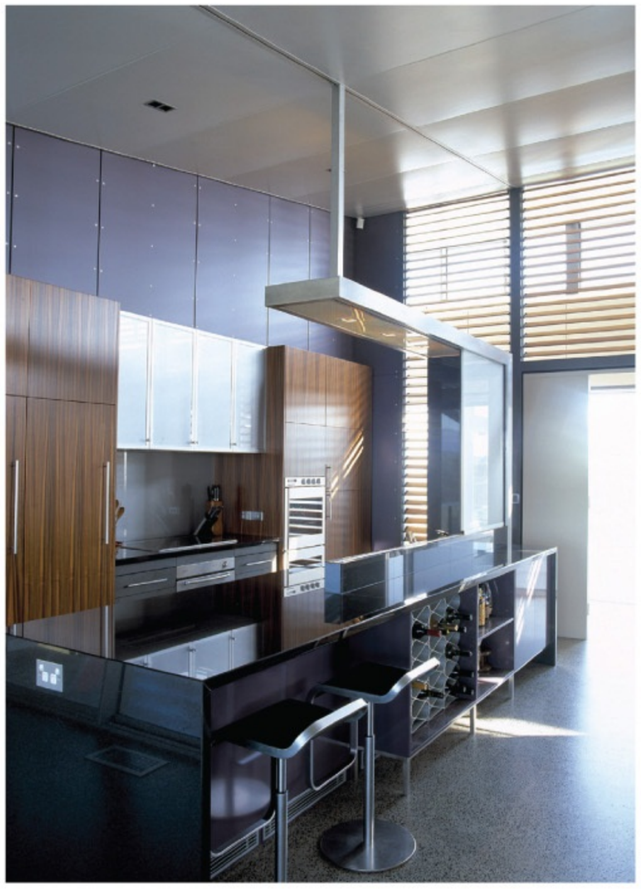
With slanting rooflines that express the slope of the land, the home is light in its visual and physical impact, effortlessly floating across the landscape with a grey colour palette that echoes that of the mountains across the valley.

As one approaches the property, selected glimpses of the house are offered with the sense of arrival peaking as the unusual form emerges in its entirety. The majesty of the home is heightened at night, when the soaring water tower at the entry is softly illuminated.

Crossing the entry bridge marks arrival at the gallery that runs the length of the house. From here stem all the other areas, making the gallery a practical place from where to modify the temperature of the entire home. Here, full walls of louvres are adjustable to either promote or preclude solar access and airflow.

Throughout the home's interior, fixtures and fittings are clean and modern as they sit atop a contemporary polished concrete floor. This attractive feature serves not only an aesthetic purpose but functions as a highly effective thermal mass, absorbing the sun's warm rays in winter.

Outside, a shimmering pool is framed by bluestone as it abuts a sunning terrace perfect for taking in the afternoon sun and the fresh country air sweeping up the valley.



Duc Associates

21 Hillcrest Rd,
Merewether NSW 2291
Australia
T: +61 2 4963 2298
www.ducassociates.com.au

Photography by Peter Hyatt
(Steel Profile)
Words by Jade de Souza

Contemporary Combination

A calm and serene house makes for the ultimate rural retreat on the Apple Isle. Unique ideas led to an extensive remodel, that saw old harmoniously meet new.

THE GARDENS OF JAPAN
SECRET GARDENS IN

There is a sense of striking originality and bold expression, yet extreme serenity and relaxation in this exceptionally understated house. The dwelling overlooking the D'Entrecasteaux Channel at Trial Bay in Tasmania was completely reorganized by Architect James Jones with the addition of a living room, a verandah, a courtyard and a garage.

The hero of the renovation is the abstract form of the new living room that projects towards the view like a cinematographer's camera. Windows to this strong geometric form have been crafted to take in the sublime subject and the abundant available light reflected off the precast concrete walls.

Expressing a unique duality, the new space is soft and delicate, open and light through its apertures and at the same time exudes strength and robustness against the elements. Connected via a glazed walkway to the original house, the space has been positioned so as not to impede the view from the existing areas of the house.

Elements of the existing dwelling were retained for their innate beauty which includes the external wall lines and the timber ceilings. All internal walls however were reconfigured to engage adjacent spaces, with fixtures and fittings replaced to reflect the new, modern sensibility of the house.

New windows and door openings have been added to the existing central pavilion, linking it widely with landscape. A magnificent timber clad cathedral ceiling arches over minimal contemporary furniture. An imposing fireplace juts out from the wall and supplies heat to both the lounge area as well as the adjacent kitchen.

Black and stainless steel appliances contrast the celery top pine timber cabinetry. Stainless steel bench tops accentuate the contemporary sensibility and provide a uniquely reflective surface that repeats the outlook through the abutting wall of operable glass doors.

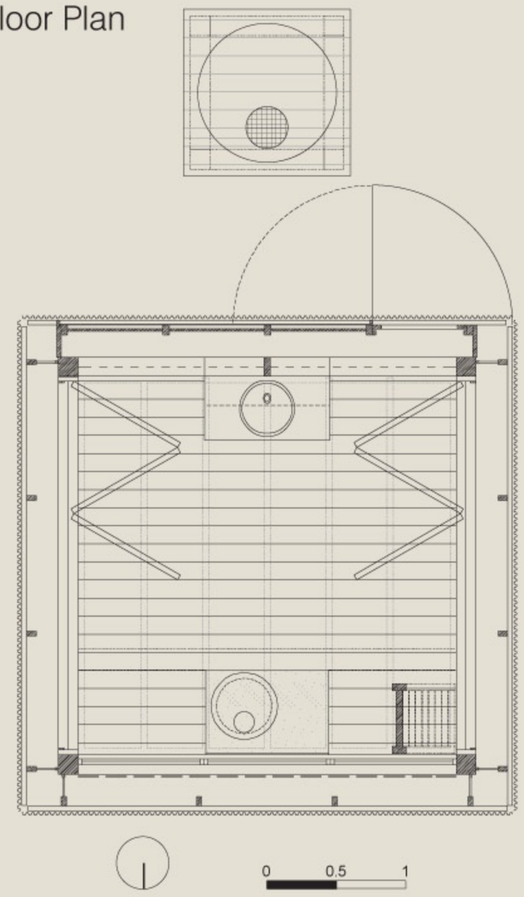
Throughout the house, double glazed sliding timber windows and doors combine with tiled floors, solar panels, solar hot water, cross ventilation and rainwater harvesting to achieve a high level of environmental performance.

James Jones
HBV Architects

E: james.jones@architectus.com.au
www.hbvarchitects.com.au

Photography by Ray Joyce
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of
Casey Brown Architecture

Designer Camping

Many projects claim to be unique, but how many express true individuality like this adorable country house.

Aptly named 'Permanent Camping', this house is the result of an extremely simple brief requesting a quaint cabin for occasional use by one or two people. It was imperative that the house be as close to nature as could be and due to the remote location, self sufficiency was key.

The cabin's design was driven by the site, the climate and of course by the simple nature of the brief. What resulted was a rather special country house that directly responds to its context.

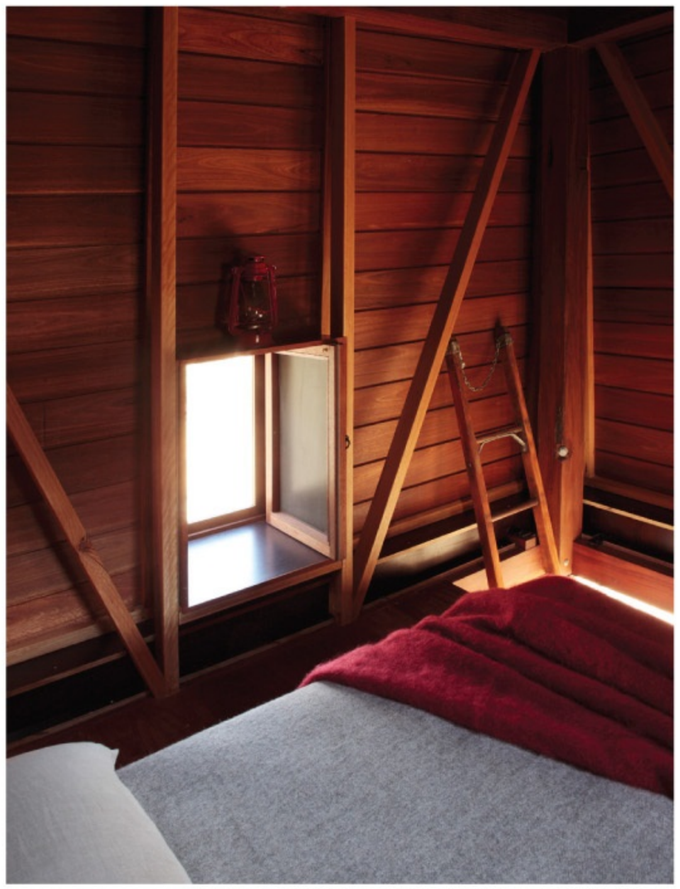
Blissfully remote, this country house is perched atop a mountain and is surrounded by granite boulders and ancient dead trees, enjoying panoramic views of the pristine landscape that stretch for hundreds of miles to the horizon.

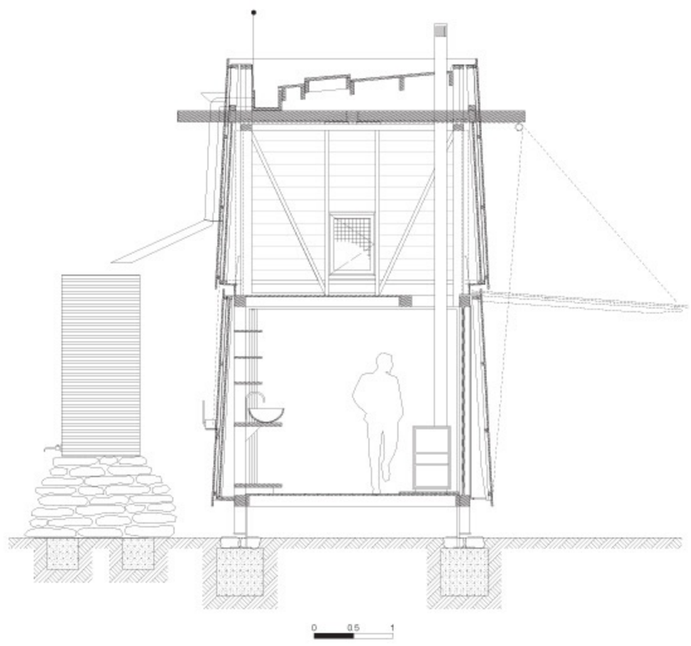
A simple palette of exterior materials was selected for its long-term potential to age and weather, matching the rocks on site. A timber frame - prefabricated off site for easy assembly - is enclosed by corrugated copper cladding that slopes down the sides of the house. Three sides of the lower level fold up to form verandah roofs, which are then closed again to protect the tower from the elements.

Inside, the cabin has a rustic but refined quality. The exposed timber frame adds character to the mere 3 x 3 metre living/ kitchen and sleeping spaces. Beautifully crafted, recycled ironbark expresses simplicity and the innate charm of back to basics living.

To the bottom floor, a simple timber bench top provides a place to sit a large pot to catch water from the rainwater tank. Above, timber shelves house the bare necessities. Two cowhide upholstered bench seats are warmed by the wood fire stove that makes for the coziest experience particularly when it snows in winter. When the weather is warm, bifolding doors and louver windows open the ground floor space out to the peaceful surrounds.

A ladder ascends to the second level, furnished with little but a bed and a view through the picture window. Heavy insulation protects the inhabitants against cold winds and also searing daytime temperatures.





Casey Brown Architects

Level 1, 63 William Street,
East Sydney NSW 2010
Australia
T: +61 2 9360 7977
www.caseybrown.com.au

Photography by Penny Clay
Words by Jade de Souza

Indian Inspiration

Having lived in India for a time, the owner of this unique house was inspired by the circular buildings he saw there. He therefore wanted to build for himself a round house that was as sustainable and eco-friendly as possible.

This beautiful site is nestled atop a knoll, giving it the sense of a forestry lookout with its spectacular panoramic view of the surrounding hills and valleys.

The design and style of the house has a strong Asian influence that carries with it a sense of both the new and old worlds. Modern finishes such as the stainless steel and polished concrete kitchen and the abundant natural lighting that floods the interior contrast with the curved shape and central column which reminds us of times gone by.

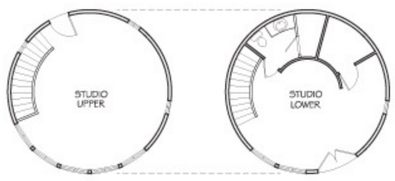
Architect Willard C. Dixon is himself impressed by the design. "I think it's remarkable that the concrete foundation walls, not to mention the exterior walls as well, are perfectly round. The sub-contractor used actual curved forms to achieve the 24 ft radius on the main house and the 12 ft radius on the detached studio," says Dixon. The clerestories of both buildings rise up above the conical roofs reminiscent of an Indian Pagoda and have operable windows for stack ventilation and cooling. The 3 ft eaves provide shade during the summer months, and a veranda-type overhang during the rainy season.

Inside, structural members emanate from centre of the towering roof, creating a stunning focal point particularly in the main house where a central Douglas Fir column from the Cascade Mountains appears to prop up the centre.

The house is flushed with natural wood finishes and together with the earth tone plaster walls invites you to bask in the warmth of the day. Points of transition are marked by arched, recessed niches that display such Indian deities as Ganesha, the goddess of success.

"Durability and sustainability were the driving forces behind every decision," says Dixon. This saw the use of FSC certified wood used everywhere. The house and studio are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certified. 100% of the wood, drywall and cardboard waste was diverted and recycled. 80% of all other waste was sent through Ecosort, a local material recovery facility.

A ground-source heat pump feeds the hydronic radiant floor system and hot water is solar heated. Native and drought tolerant landscaping fits perfectly with the natural surroundings, though the site does incorporate a 10 000 gallon rainwater catchment. Increased insulation and ventilation, energy economical appliances and light fixtures and natural, non-VOC finishes were used culminating in not only a gorgeous but also a highly sustainable design.



Plans remain © Copyright of
Willard C. Dixon Architect

The design and style of the house has a strong Asian influence that carries with it a sense of both the new and old worlds...

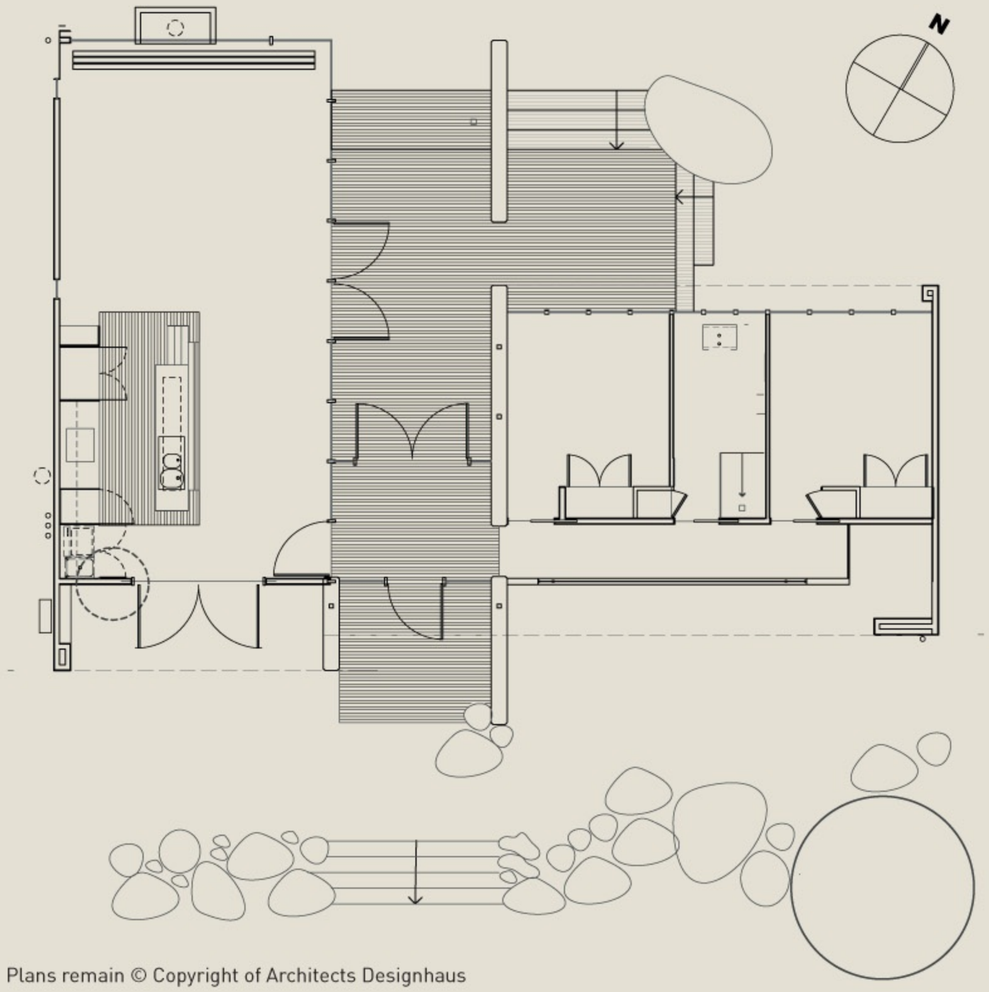
Willard C. Dixon Architect, AIA

300 Blair Boulevard,
Eugene OR 97402-4150
United States of America
T: +1 541 689 3548
www.willardcdixon.com

Built by Greenleaf Design | Build
www.greenleafdb.com

Photography by Mike Dean Photo
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan



Plans remain © Copyright of Architects Designhaus

Like Nowhere On Earth

There are few places in the world where mountains arise from the sea with such spectacular and glorious prominence as on the Freycinet Peninsula in Tasmania, Australia. Rarer still is a private property within a National Park known internationally for its scenic beauty and recreational diversity.

The Black Bach, as it was affectionately termed during the conceptual stage of its creation, finds beauty in its simplicity of form.

Used for holiday activities, the Black Bach brief called for a relaxed but contemporary thongs and bare feet environment – a modern shack that could be enjoyed by the owners and their guests without fuss or pretention.

This site, wedged between mountains and sea was to be minimally disturbed and inform the architecture of the house and be its tonal inspiration.

In this context, the Bach continues an architectural dialogue – an essay in black. The blackness of shadows occupy the space between lightness and dark.

As such, the Black Bach at the Fisheries within the Freycinet National Park by Andrew Shurman of Architects Designhaus is a continuation of an architectural theme from two earlier projects in this area, namely the Freycinet National Park Visitor Centre and his own holiday house.

Black, as all architects are informed, in architecture school, is not a colour, rather it is an agglomeration of hues which cancel the light giving properties of each hue. To indigenous cultures such as that of Australia, it is the visible time or space at the threshold of sunset and sunrise.

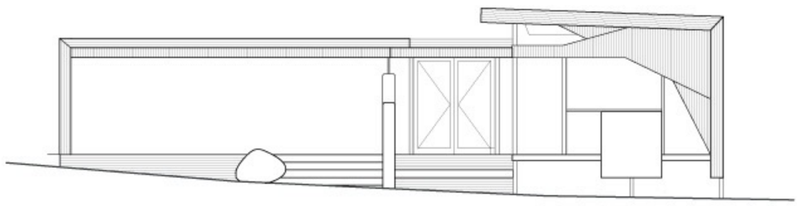
So it was that the clients Ursula and Christian – two young science based professionals in search of creating a place between the Tea Trees, Oyster Bay Pines and the pinky red granite of the Freycinet Hazard Mountains – briefed a humble holiday Bach which would 'disappear' into the landscape.

With a splash of red at the fire place signifying the perennial hearth and rammed earth walls solidifying its connection to the landscape, the bach is an attempt to insert a manmade object into a natural shaded landscape – minimising its visual impact.

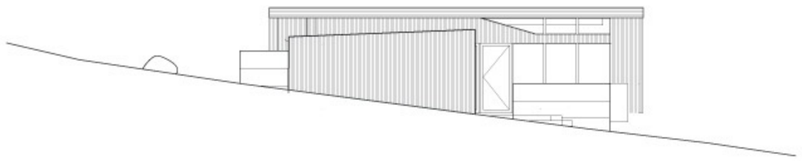
Internal spaces consist of a simple 'L' shaped plan with two bedrooms, bathroom and a walk through entry/deck, offset against a living area wing. This living area focuses at one end on a house size granite monolith whilst at the opposite end are views of two of the largest and oldest Oyster Bay Pines endemic to this area.

Externally, decks are used as platforms to extend the connection of living spaces for use when the climate permits.

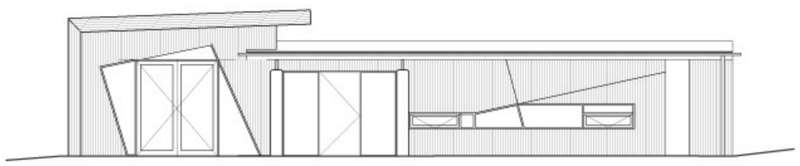
The Black Bach when not in use by its owners is utilised for holiday rental for those wishing to explore this relaxed and visually stunning area.



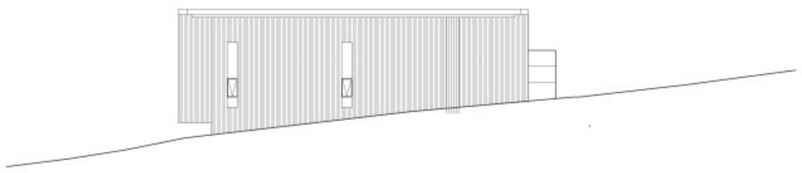
North Elevation



East Elevation



South Elevation



West Elevation

Architects Designhaus

293 Macquarie Street,
Hobart TAS 7000
Australia
T: +61 3 6234 5533
M: +61 418 373 804
www.architectsdesignhaus.com

Photography by Derek Swalwell

Rural Elegance

Built into an undulating hillside, this large, low profile property by Max Pritchard Architect affords breathtaking rural vistas from almost every room through floor-to-ceiling windows that span the front of the house.

From the garden and driveway, a timber boardwalk extends over a welcoming pond to one end of the home, leading up to the entrance where the glorious view is first evident.

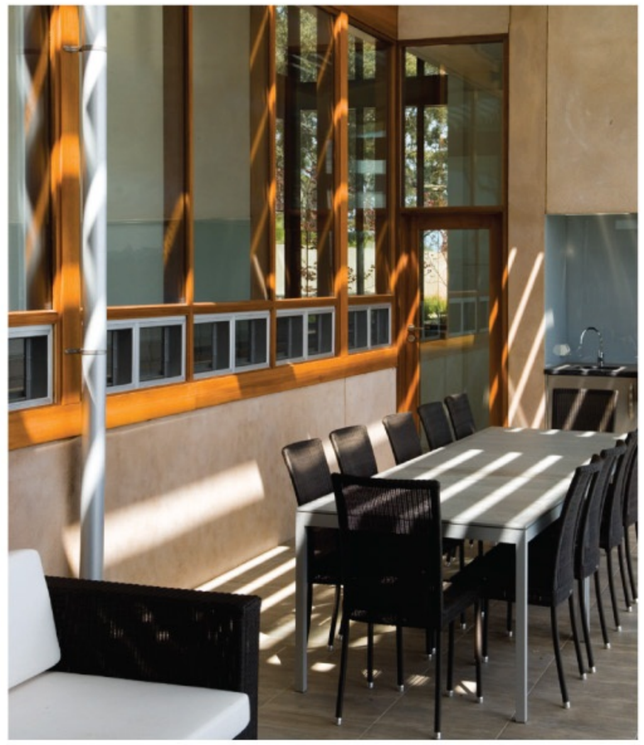
Upon entering the home, an air of light and space welcomes you with a crisp palette of whites and creams, blending naturally with rich timber floors that feature throughout. The main living and kitchen areas are set on split-levels, creating a rostrum on which the amazing outlook can be enjoyed.

The home has been thoughtfully oriented towards the north, capitalizing on winter sun and facilitating a sustainable approach to living. Solar hot water and photovoltaic cells are in use, minimizing energy usage. On the inside, clerestory windows and louvres are implemented to warm and cool the house naturally also allowing for cross ventilation.

The bathroom is one of the highlights of the home, with impressive double vanity basins set on a wall of mirror and juxtaposed with strip windows that allow a sense of depth and space to open the room. Elements of colour are also introduced here with a vibrant hue of blue chosen in the tiling that complements the bath and shower.

Flanking one side of the property is a large and brilliant lap pool with spacious spa. Also positioned to exploit the views, it complements the expansive deck and alfresco area in providing wonderful spaces to entertain friends and family.

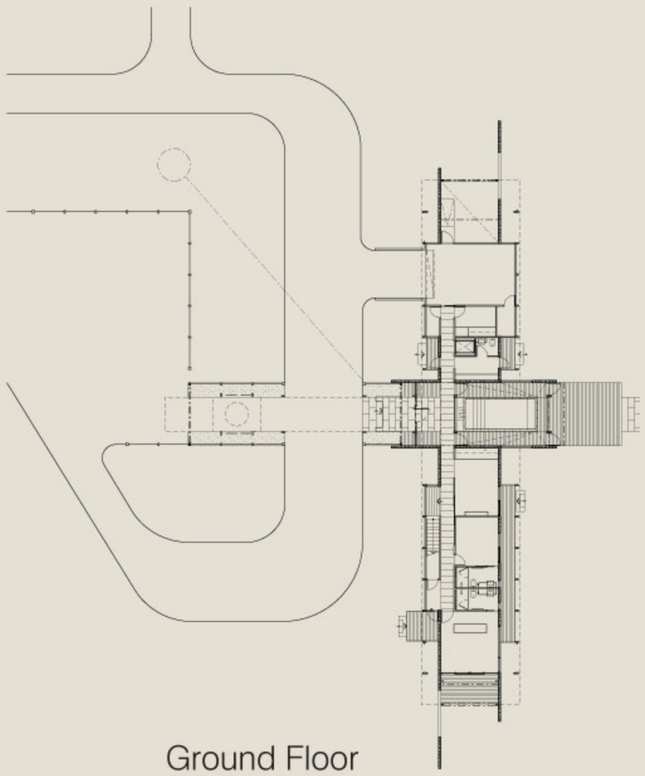
Large and accommodating, the home is a testament to careful planning and design, showcasing timeless style and exhibiting the utmost respect for the surrounding environment.



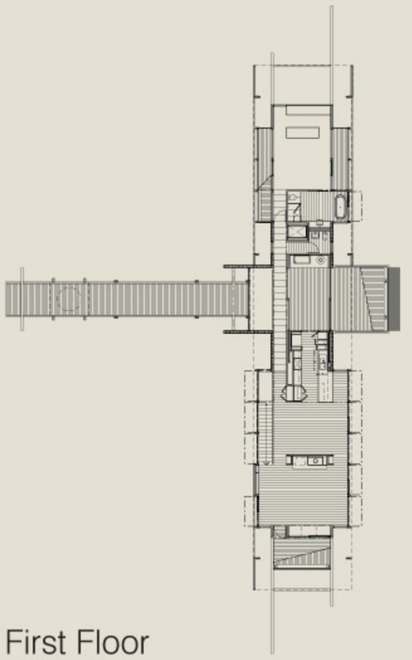
Max Pritchard Architect

PO Box 808,
Glenelg SA 5045
Australia
T: +61 8 8376 2314
www.maxpritchardarchitect.com.au

Photography by Sam Noonan
Words by Corey Thomas



Ground Floor

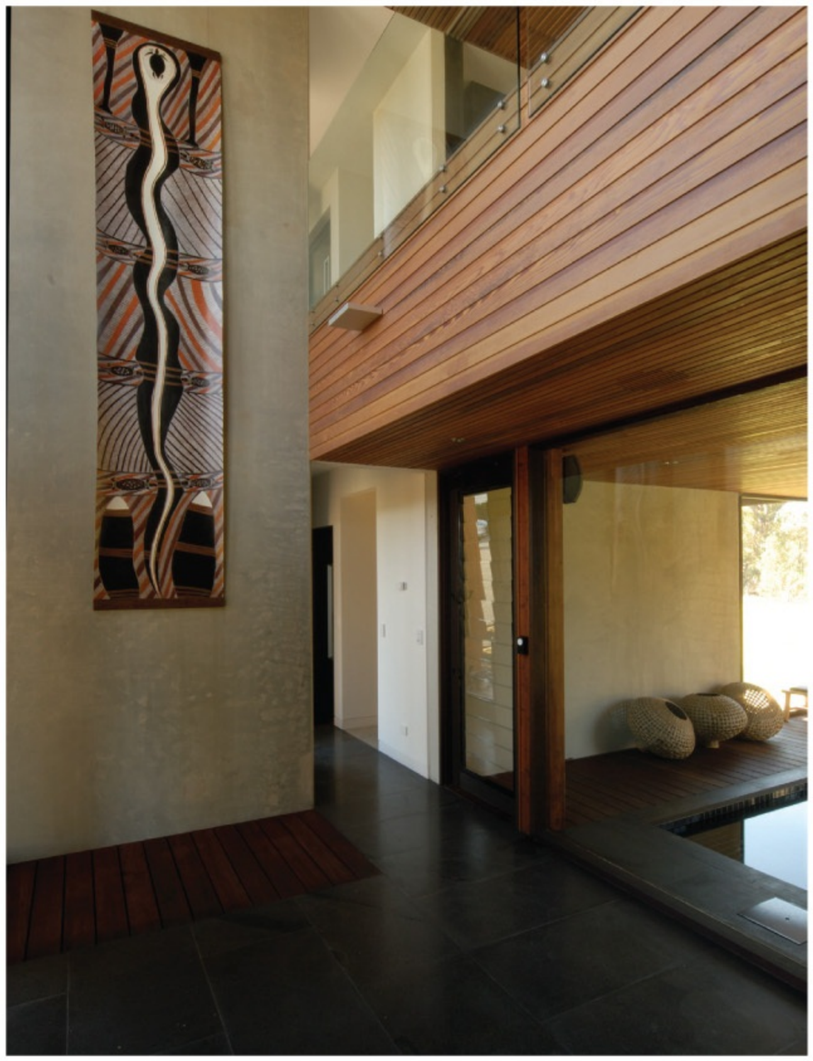


First Floor

Plans remain © Copyright of Jackson Clements Burrows

Wooden Wonder

This contemporary country house in Deniliquin reinterprets the traditional farmhouses of the area, forming a unique commentary on the surrounding rural landscape.



Sited on the banks of the Edward River nestled amongst majestic Red Gums, this two storey home by Melbourne architects Jackson Clements Burrows speaks a quintessential Australian vernacular through its use of timber and corrugated iron throughout its contemporary form.

Structural timber columns are expressed externally, referencing traditional construction methods with walls of corrugated iron in between evoking a sense of nostalgia. Together these materials foster engagement with the natural setting.

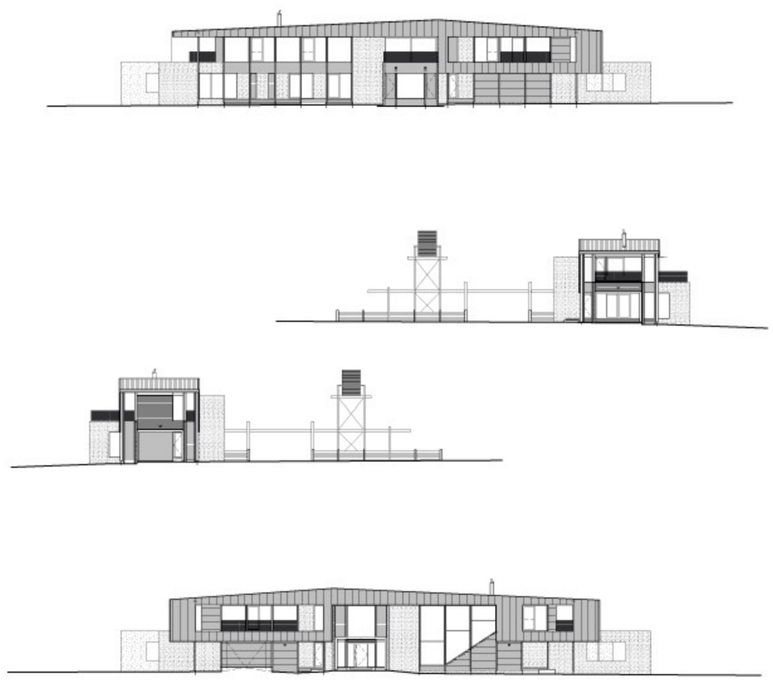
Extensive timber products have been used throughout the internal space, defining an aesthetic, which is complementary of the casual lifestyle associated with farming. Areas of Western Red Cedar cladding accentuate the contrast between concrete, steel and corrugated iron and provide a further level of interest and detail in the architectural expression. Ceilings lined with cedar battens in the main entry, the pool area and the outdoor meals area create a warm and inviting feel and blur the distinction between internal and external spaces.

A combination of Spotted Gum and Blackbutt flooring contrasts with honed bluestone paving and polished concrete to perpetuate the warm and contemporary palette. The joinery and cabinets throughout the house are finished in ebony stained Vic Ash timber veneer with solid Blackbutt Hardwood bench tops to all the bathrooms, mantle and barbeque bench. Such widespread use of timber compliments the surrounding landscape and defines an architectural aesthetic that is honest to its surrounding site context.

The house challenges traditional farmhouse planning with regards to the location of rooms. While like most country homes, the utility rooms are located on the ground floor; here the main living areas are located on the first floor. This allows light and airy spaces to take in gorgeous views of the river and the surrounding rolling paddocks. The spacious barbeque deck extends out from the second level and makes for a delightful place to enjoy summer sunsets over a meal with family and friends.

Striking in its modern design and engaging in its warm and comforting spaces, this rural home fits effortlessly in its environment and is a testament to the sensitive skills of the team at Jackson Clements Burrows.

The Edward River House engages with the immediate landscape context and provides an architectural solution which is fitting for its environment, and extends the relevance of traditional timber construction techniques.



Jackson Clements Burrows
Pty Ltd Architects

One Harwood Place,
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia
T: +61 3 9654 6227
www.jcba.com.au

Photography by Jon Clements
Words by Jade de Souza

Eco-Refit

In a fantastic remodelling of a dreary brick veneer home from the 70's, Ande Bunbury Architects made this house worthy of its wonderful bushland site with river views.

The result is an amazing eco-friendly home that makes use of its breathtaking views over the tree canopies of Lower Plenty in Melbourne's leafy north-east.

This project shows what can be done with adaptive reuse of an existing structure to improve energy efficiency, functionality and aesthetics. The original house had many problems, which included poor orientation, a front door which was harder to find than the holy grail, and dark rooms lined with brown exposed brick and timber – synonymous with 70's architecture.

Given that Ande Bunbury Architects specialize in sustainability and always look for what can be retained and improved, the decision was made not to demolish the original house but rather to modify it.

The site has absolute river frontage and amazing bushland views so the owner really wanted to open the house up to the views and nature. As such it was important to improve the standard of the house to suit the quality of the site

In order to do so, form was met with function and style. Extensions were added at either end of the building with an external decorative timber screen along the public side of the house to conceal everything in between. The new entry is visible from the street, while the living and bedroom spaces have been opened up. A new garage and studio were added to the south end of the house continuing the line of the original building form. In addition, the new external walls at the north and south end of the house were clad in Smartrock, a cement product, or radially sawn weatherboards. This allows the home to better assimilate with its surroundings and age with the landscape.

The basis of the design was to clarify entry to the house, access to the garden and views beyond and improve the passive solar performance of the space. The screen along the west façade of the house, as well as presenting a contemporary façade to the street, also protects the house from the hot west sun and prevailing winds. This also serves a pragmatic purpose, minimising the need for artificial heating and cooling, thus resulting in lower utility bills and a smaller carbon footprint. Large windows open out to cantilevered timber decks and the glorious view.

Custom designed furniture, joinery and artworks repeat an elongated rectangular motif at different scales throughout the project. Proportion has been carefully considered and detailed right down to the scale of integral cabinetry handles and highly detailed glazing mullions with occasional inset coloured glass. Bespoke timber bed head joinery and bedside tables in the main bedroom conceal all the clutter of life, with concealed reading lights and spaces for power connections, remote controls and rechargers. This detail is abstracted and repeated in white as a largely two-dimensional detail in bedroom two.

The water feature wall opposite the entry incorporates an oversized rainwater spout that creates a waterfall into the pond below when it rains, creating an interesting and attractive feature unique to this design. Inside the house, a concealed bookshelf door in the study gives secret entry to the workshop beyond and makes clever use of space.

In this project the drama is outside the house, in the superb view, the native landscaping and the abundant bird life. The interior design creates horizontal spaces that stretch out through the house to the landscape beyond. Occasional vertical elements such as freestanding walls and detailing on the joinery create a counterpoint to the horizontal spaces.

The design emphasises space and openness with spaces that flow one into the other. Freestanding folded screens catch the light to make a planar composition of greys and whites and cast strong and elaborate shadows across the floor.

Ande Bunbury Architects

Level 1 - 462 Smith Street,
Collingwood VIC 3066
Australia
T: +61 3 8682 8792
www.abarchitects.com.au

Photography by Ben Hosking

French Country by the Sea

Homes by the seaside need to evoke a sense of their surroundings, exuding a light-hearted character that epitomises casual, relaxed living. This luxury home – expertly crafted by Canny Builders – does just that.

The first thing to strike you about the house is its symmetry. Despite the site's rather extreme slope, Canny ensured that the home maintained a linear form. In elongating the house this way, the creation of wide, central living spaces both inside and out was made possible.

Stretching across the rear of the house is a spacious living area inclusive of kitchen, living and dining. Decorated in a French provincial style, whites and neutral taupes are the dominant colours, warmed by timber floors and homely touches like the stone feature wall around the fireplace, patterned and textured cushions, floor rugs and elaborate wrought iron chandeliers.

A huge, light filled kitchen makes for a practical space to prepare meals served up at the dining table, adorned with bamboo chairs that reflect a similar pattern to decorative white balustrades that protect the rear deck.

French doors open this living area out to the distressed timber deck, partially protected by protruding rooms on either side. A timber frame structure extends from the main doors and draws the eye out. After travelling its length you are brought to a set of divided stairs that provide access to the lush lawn. At night, the deck is illuminated by light shining down the walls of the home and up from the floor. Ornamental elements like potted plants and ceramic geese contribute to the relaxed feel.

Outdoor living enjoys high priority in this house. To one side of the main deck area is a unique inside/outside room, accessed through large wrought iron doors. This space allows for semi-outdoor entertaining even on chilly days. Extending from the side of the house is another deck for enjoying the summer sun on a timber sunlounge. The home is built around a central paved courtyard where one can relax atop cushioned cane chairs and ottomans and be protected from the prevailing winds. This area is accessed through a number of French doors, which if all are opened, give the home a glorious, breezy and seamlessly indoor/outdoor feeling.

Canny

9a Hall Street,
Hawthorn East VIC 3123
Australia
T: +61 3 8532 4444
www.canny.com.au

Photography by Gerard Warrener
Words by Jade de Souza

Byron Beauty

Overlooking Byron Bay is this gorgeous testimonial to the skill of Archimages Architecture, who have created an outstanding house that enjoys the highest level of appointments within a sensitively designed home.

The 180 degree views are extensive and spectacular to say the least, taking in mountain ranges, Cape Byron and stretching up the coast from Byron Bay.

The project team of John Gray, Daniel O'Brien and Matt Bull worked closely with the home's owner who requested a restrained, pavilion-style house using and featuring large structural timber members. What Archimages Architecture produced is a home that honestly presents large, recycled structural members offset by the refined showing of secondary members and infill. The home's raw but refined quality is reminiscent of rural structures of the North Coast area and very much fits into the rustic Australian aesthetic with a touch of class.

Three pavilions are strung together on the site, speaking a legible language of high, gabled roofs for the pavilions and lower flat roofs for the connecting ways. Two pavilions are designated for bedrooms with the other devoted to the living area, which is designed on a scale large enough to make sense of the impressive view that the space addresses. More intimate areas are captured alternating between internal and external space, bringing the occupant closer to nature in unexpected places. Views are available from pavilion to pavilion though privacy is maintained where necessary.

Spatially complex, the home is both light and heavy in its construction, with its relationship with the site itself part of what makes the whole project so incredibly unique and beautiful. The lightly projecting roofs, sturdy but embracing skeleton and integrated tropical gardens speak of the sophisticated natural vernacular the clients were hoping for.

A moat acts as a pool fence, which bridges across from the living areas to the pool deck. Maintaining one level from the inside to the outdoor areas creates a large living platform with sheltered internal areas from which one regards the view, a space of both prospect and refuge.

ESD and passive solar principles, recycled timber and other building components, a 250,000 litre water tank, solar power generator and high levels of insulation add up to a very environmentally sensitive house.

Archimages Architecture

Bangalow NSW 2479
Australia
T: +61 2 6687 0535
www.archimages-architecture.com.au
[Nominated Architect -
John Gray NSW 5827]

Photography by David Young
Words by Jade de Souza

Hinterland Holiday

A 16-hectare estate in a world heritage rainforest is home to an impressive sustainable country residence that provides an exclusive retreat for eco-tourists.

When one imagines the ultimate hinterland escape in Queensland's tropical north, they conjure up images of lush green rainforests, cooling blue waters and colourful reefs. A house residing in a place such as this would be expected to buck the conventional ideas of separating inside and out.

The Cassowary brings to life this dream holiday, and is one of the most 'green' escapes one could experience.

Nestled amidst pristine tropical rainforest just minutes form Port Douglas, The Cassowary strikes the perfect balance between rainforest, reef, rest and recreation. The house is sited on an elevated ridge in order to maximise the breathtaking rural views over the working sugar cane farm towards the Daintree National Park.

Designed by Charles Wright of Charles Wright Architects, the design philosophy was to produce an unconventional outcome from conventional criteria. To this end Charles explains, "the conceptual framework for the project embodies our practice's ongoing pre-occupation with experimentation."

The imaginative design that resulted redefines the possibilities of living. Walls are virtually non-existent, with outdoor living comprising much of the home. "The climate of the wet tropics enables you to think about buildings in an entirely unique manner; one can literally design an open outdoor room under a large roof canopy, due to the minor annual temperature fluctuation," Charles says.

The goal was to create a luxury home that was also sustainable, having a low impact on the surrounding environment but simultaneously making a statement in progressive tropical architecture.

Hence, the house comprises a series of bedroom and bathroom 'pavilions' that are separated by private lounge spaces and a main living area, all neatly spread under one continuous and impressive roof line that continues out to protect external living areas.

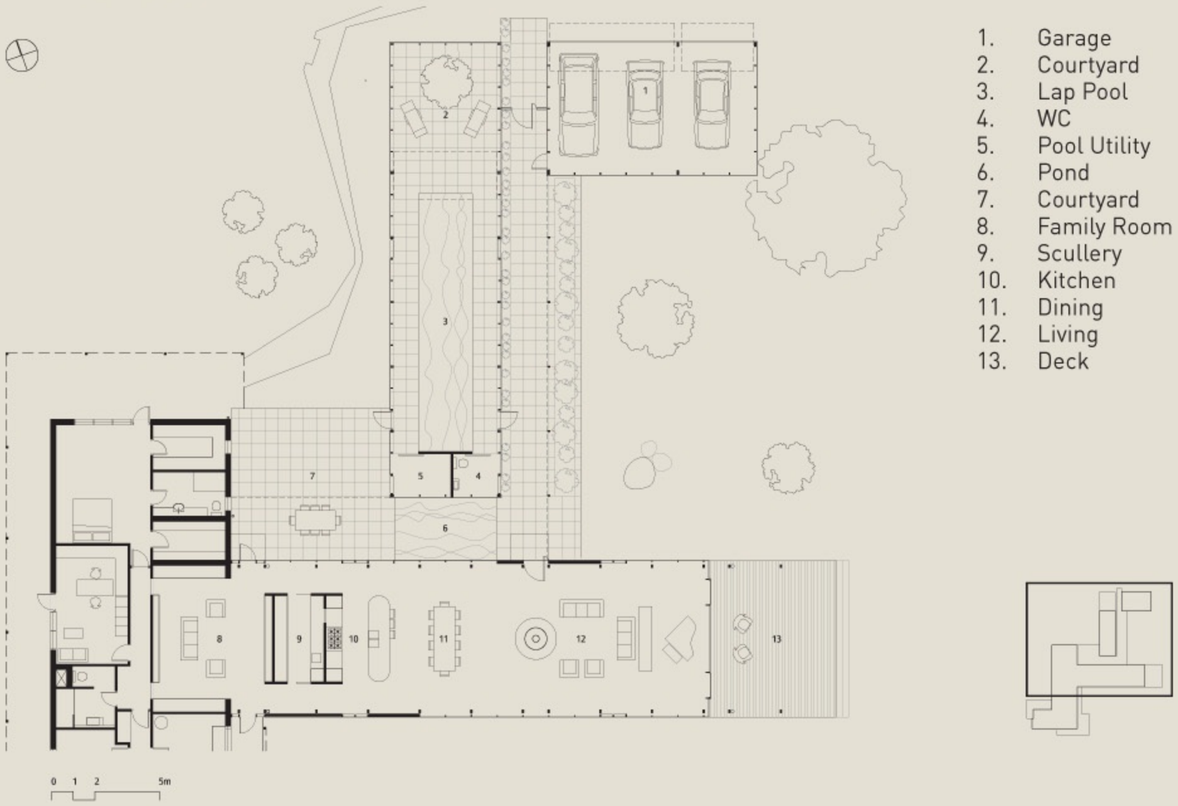
Sustainable initiatives include total rainwater harvesting, removing the reliance on mains water, an advanced tertiary sewerage treatment plant with recycled landscaping irrigation infrastructure, low energy fixtures and fittings throughout the property as well as passive ventilation systems and a long-term life cycle efficiency.

Charles Wright Architects

P.O. Box 492,
Port Douglas QLD 4877
Australia
T: +61 7 4099 4965
www.wrightarchitects.com.au

Photography by
Charles Wright and Colin Huber
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan



1. Garage
2. Courtyard
3. Lap Pool
4. WC
5. Pool Utility
6. Pond
7. Courtyard
8. Family Room
9. Scullery
10. Kitchen
11. Dining
12. Living
13. Deck

Plans remain © Copyright of Noxon Giffen

Sensitive Renovation

Home to a retired couple and accommodating a large extended family, the Orrong Farmhouse is an impressive rural dwelling on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

Here, the romantic appeal of rural living is personified – the peace and quite, the warmth and homeliness, all summed up visually by the swing suspended from the huge majestic tree.

The newly renovated property is a collection of long and low buildings, styled in the tradition of expansive, single-level rural buildings. A masterpiece unto itself, the home requires little to no landscaping, perpetuating the very natural and uncontrived sensibility felt throughout the area.

While the bedrooms and support spaces are tucked away in the original brick veneer house, the new living, dining and kitchen spaces are housed within a new expansive volume that projects toward the beautiful landscape from under its pitched roof.

Similarly, the new pool and garage pavilions stretch out over the site. Through a series of courtyards and pergolas, the resultant collection of built forms bring together old and new, inside and out, coalescing in a cohesive ensemble that fosters new engagements with the site.

The simple steel frame of the living space is wrapped in glazing, filling the interior with an abundance of light and providing a visual connection with nature. Outwardly, this sees the structure hover delicately over the landscape, rather than impede on it. Awash with natural daylight, the building becomes a glowing garden lantern at night.

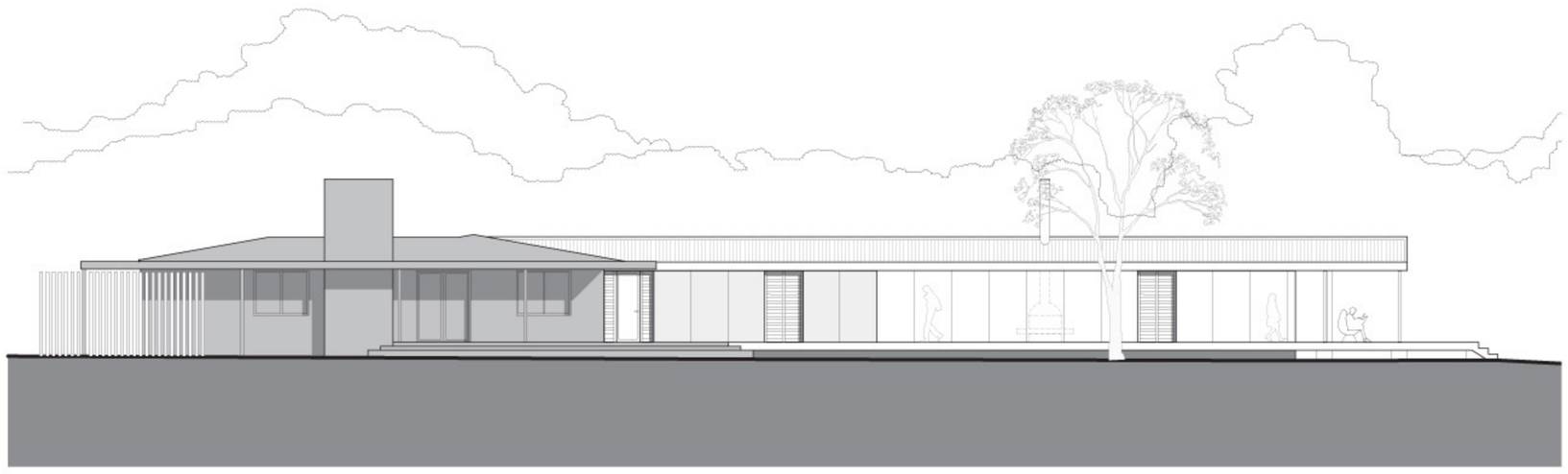
Inside, rich dark timber floors and white walls are brought together by coloured and textured design pieces that create warmth and depth. To the centre of the living space, a floating fireplace provides a focal point for the interior environment, whilst the kitchen and pantry pods add further spatial definition. However, detailing and materials throughout this space are kept restrained so that the palette of the ever-changing landscape is always dominant.

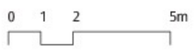
A timber deck continues out from the lounge with seamless transition, making for the perfect spot to unwind with a 'cuppa' and take in the afternoon sun,.

Water is a key feature of the house, with the nearby pavilion offering the luxury and convenience of an indoor pool. Vertical banks of louvres promote natural ventilation to the pool enclosure and mitigate the sun filtering in. This building adopts basic construction methods using steel and fiberglass - an abstract reference to the existing farm shed and construction adjacent. A tranquil water feature is wrapped by the arms of the house also, becoming a feature of the interior as much as the exterior.

The new works eschew an architectural sense of dominance and excess. Rather, the project offers a subtle and delicate engagement with the natural elements through spatial transitions and the dynamic play of light and reflections, which capture the many and varied moods of the site.

South Elevation





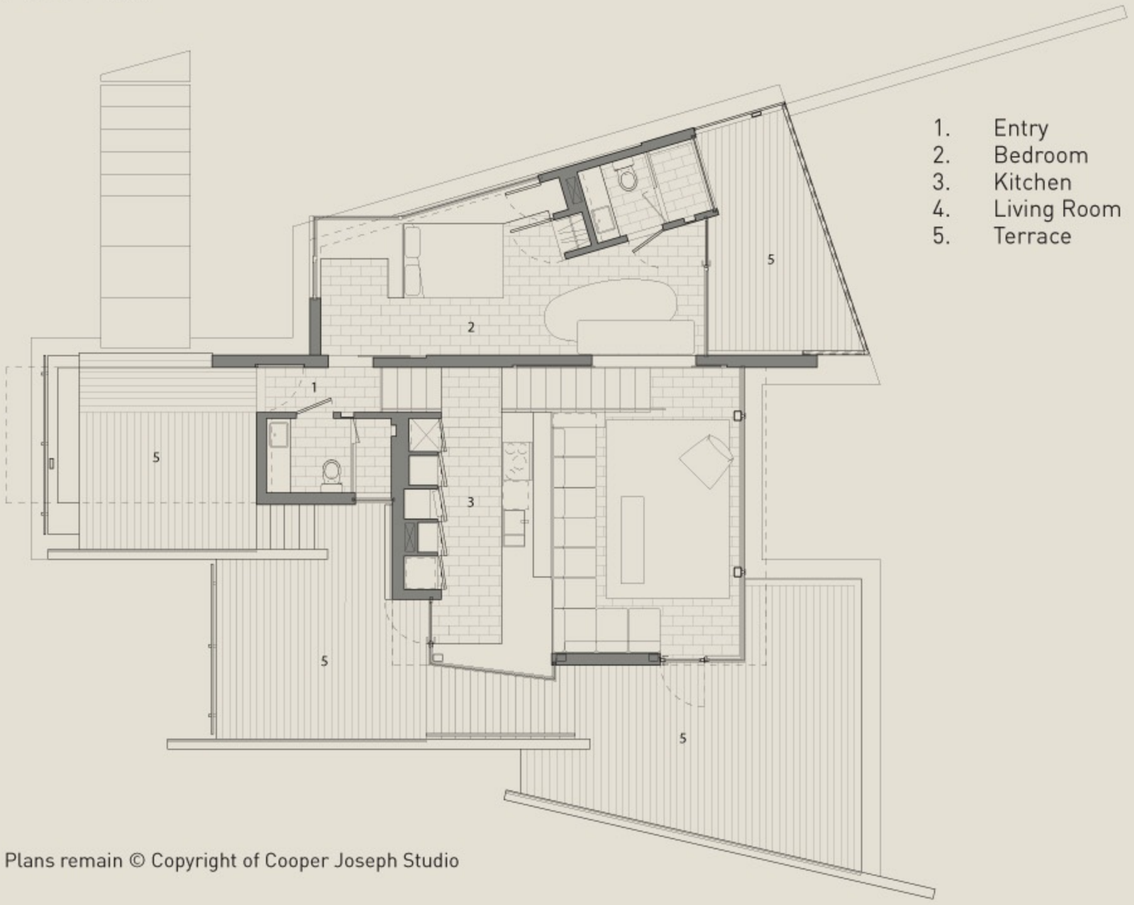
Noxon Giffen

Melbourne:
Level 4 - 125 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia
T: +61 3 9650 5889

Sydney:
Level 6 - 432 Kent Street,
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia
T: +61 2 9262 9066
www.noxongiffen.com

Photography by Shannon McGrath
Words by Jade de Souza

Floor Plan



1. Entry
2. Bedroom
3. Kitchen
4. Living Room
5. Terrace

Plans remain © Copyright of Cooper Joseph Studio

Reductive Modern

This weekend retreat by Cooper Joseph Studio is situated in agricultural Sonoma and, in addition to offering commanding views, boasts a range of sustainable features. Though small in size, it has an impressively strong presence.

Organised into three levels, the bedrooms, kitchen and living room are constructed using a reduced palette of materials including zinc, timber and grey-stained oak.

One of the striking features of the home is its open-glass corners and cantilevered windows, affording a luxurious view over the undulating hills of Sonoma. This not only gives the home a sense of depth and space, it also introduces and highlights the dynamic qualities a smaller house can consist of.

Sitting amongst a newly planted olive orchid, the 850 square feet (79m2) that makes up the home features many of the advantages usually seen in larger modern designs. In addition to having buried utilities and a large solar array capable of powering the entire property, the home is also oriented towards the north to take advantage of the breezes and shade, and carefully aligned with specific mountain peaks in the distance.

The design exploits as much space as possible, linking almost every room in the house with an outdoor area. Anchored both figuratively and literally to the hillside, it makes use of a series of retaining walls and cascading exterior decks to embrace the steep grade of the land and capture the gorgeous vistas.

Horizontal redwood slats for the bedroom and entry deck provide an element of privacy for occupants in a stylish manner, whilst visual barriers are minimised through the implementation of clever recesses. These recesses are precisely shaped to ensure windows and doors are obscured when opened.

French grey limestone is laid throughout the entire home, including the bathrooms and kitchen, allowing for easy maintenance and an integrated visual experience.

Cabinetry around the home is of stained oak, while an orange, eco-resin splash-back in the bathrooms adds vibrancy of colour.

Crafted to perfection, the home exhibits a vision that is all at once grand and intimate; humble and monolithic. Designed and planned with ambition, this compact home organically pervades modern design with the least intrusive impact possible on the natural topography.

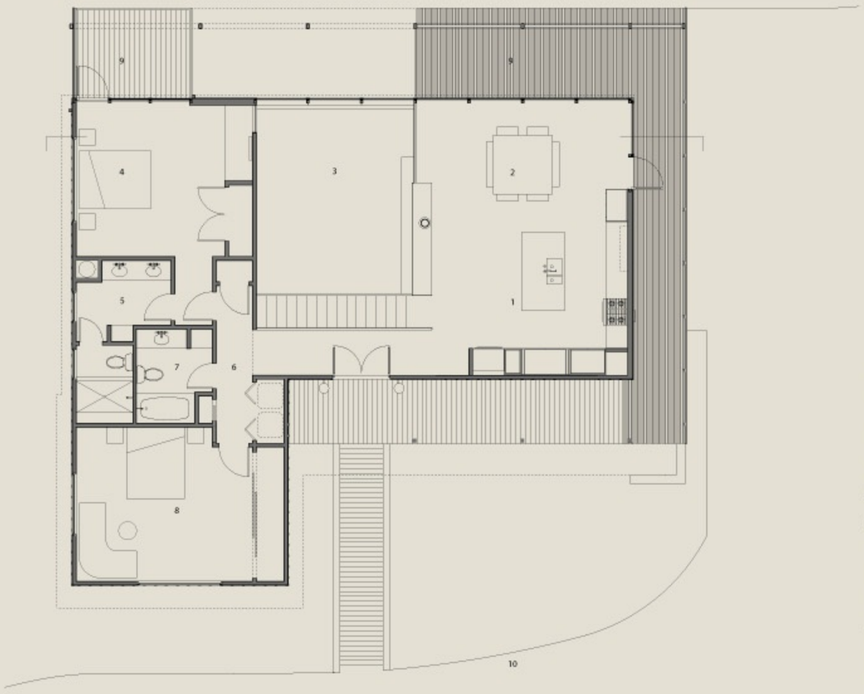
Cooper Joseph Studio

500 Park Avenue, Suite 16E,
New York NY 10022
United States of America
T: +1 212 935 3392
www.cooperjosephstudio.com

Photography by Elliott Kaufman
Words by Corey Thomas

Lower Floor

1. Hallway
2. Living Room
3. Bathroom
4. Mechanical
5. Storage
6. Wine Cellar
7. Crawl Space
8. Garage
9. Driveway



Entry Floor

1. Kitchen
2. Dining
3. Living Room Below
4. Master Bedroom
5. Bath
6. Hallway
7. Bathroom
8. Bedroom
9. Balcony
10. Driveway

Plans remain © Copyright of Cooper Joseph Studio

Vineyard Views

An extensive renovation saw a tired hillside house transformed into this modern home - one whose reduced, warm palette focuses attention on the beautiful views.

For the designers at Cooper Joseph Studio, the primary objective of this complete redesign was to create an engaging home that opened up to the outlook of Sonoma, California's sprawling vineyards.

The design principles were centred on the formation of modern but warm ambiance that both invites you into the house and simultaneously pushes your focus out to the view.

Strong in its identity but reductive in its architectural expression, the resulting house is unified by a contemporary sensibility and a respect for the unique landscape upon which it sits.

A new wooden porch structure to the main, northern façade is what redefines the home's image and comprises the primary focus of the house. Ipe, a sustainable hardwood, is used as both a screening and framing device, mitigating and adding warmth to the cool Californian light that filters through its apertures.

Elegantly detailed to integrate with the wooden slats of the porch, the railing fluidity encourages the view, sunlight and breezes to sweep through the outdoor spaces.

The porches have been specifically designed to create a more intimate scale in the outdoor area and focus the views to the landscape.

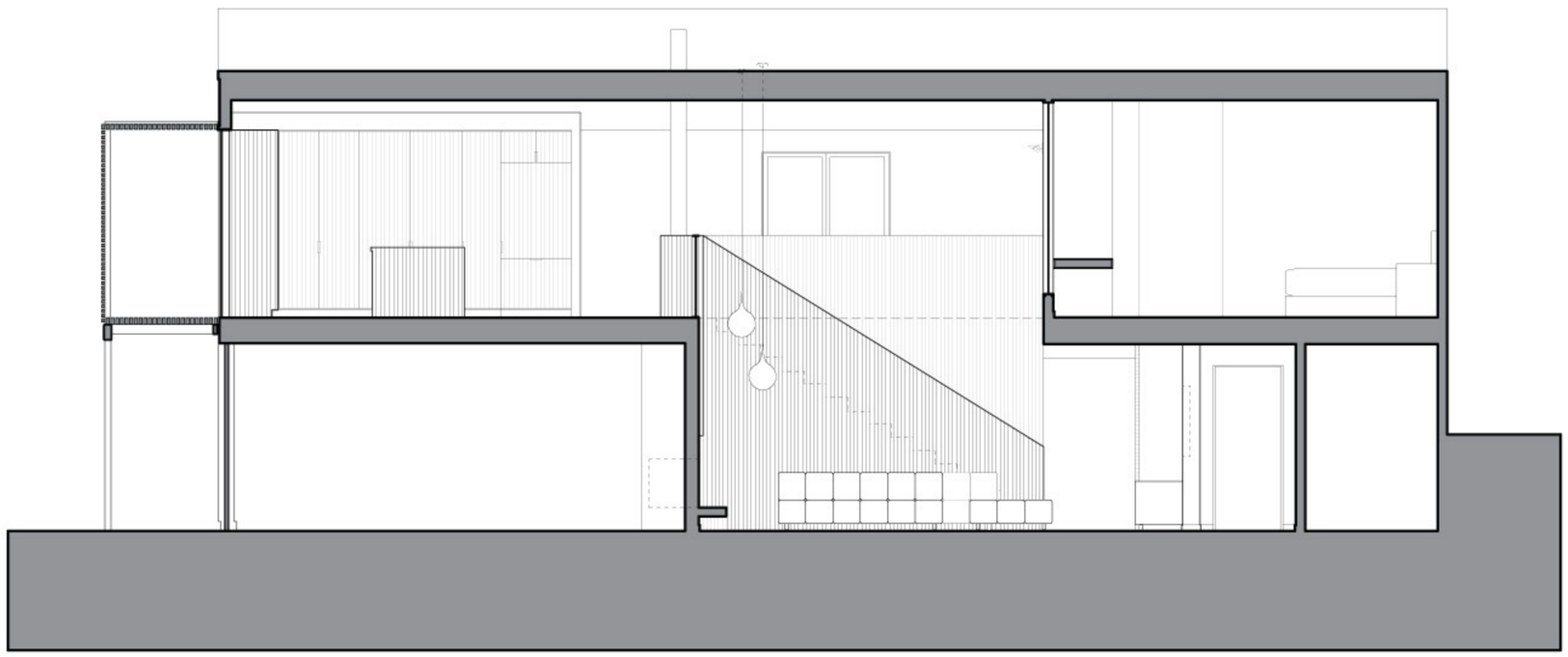
Upon approach to the house – moving past fragrant and beautiful mass plantings of lavender – glass front doors permit an unimpeded view straight through to the hills and valleys beyond. Inside, it is all about the creation of a complex spatial experience. In this house, it is the proportion rather than the scale of the rooms that provides the real sense of luxury.

An upstairs living room was removed so that the lower level den could be opened to the full height volume above. Low and abstract furniture positioned within this area permits comfort and a clear view to both the media wall and the fireplace. Large format brown porcelain tiles below are softened by a white wool and silk rug.

Orange accents pop against white elements, with the larger cabinetry featuring sliding metal doors, each with artistic, laser-cut hexagon patterns that were inspired by the honeycombs of the owner's beehives.

Continuity throughout the interior was created by natural oak, applied liberally to the floor, kitchen cabinetry, wall panels and even the stairs and railings. The richness of the Golden Oak interior is visible from all areas and its versatility allows the use of so many elements and surfaces.

Secluded and peaceful, simple yet striking, this enviable rural home is an idyllic retreat with expertly designed features defining its quiet elegance.



Cooper Joseph Studio

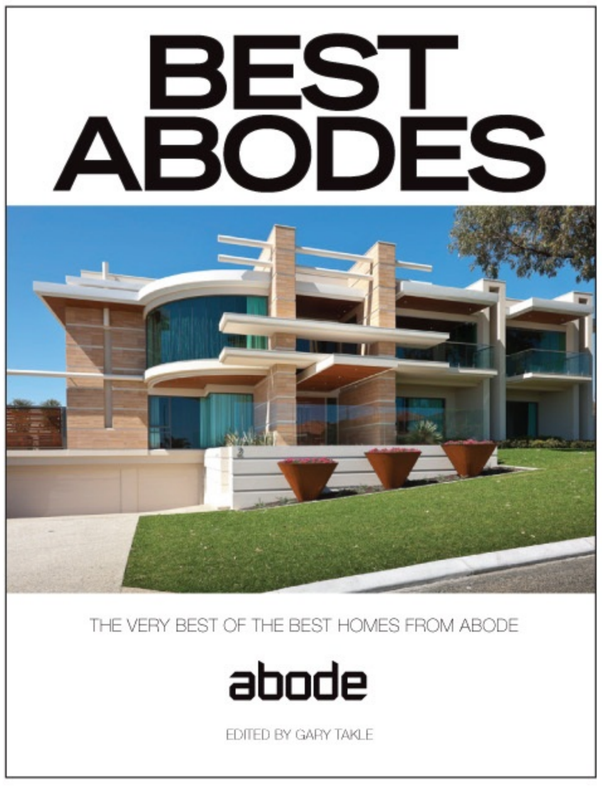
500 Park Avenue, Suite 16E,
New York NY 10022
United States of America
T: +1 212 935 3392
www.cooperjosephstudio.com

Photography by Elliott Kaufman
Words by Jade de Souza

think store MAGAZINES

Available now for purchase at www.thinkstore.com.au

Collect the entire set



Best Abodes
224 pages : $19.95

Continuing the huge success of the' Best Abodes' series, Think Publishing has published the third volume. The book will again showcase the very best Australia has to offer in architectural, interior and design ideas.

From the publishers of the popular magazine titles Abode, Winning Design and Best Outdoors, 'Best Abodes' is an inspirational pictorial book filled with what is 'now' in Australian architecture and interior design. This book will grab the reader's attention and walk them through a selection of Australia's best homes.
People within the design industry and high end consumers alike will love this publication.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Best Outdoors
Pagination Varies : $19.95

What is it about the Australian backyard?
What is it about the idea of spending quality time in our outdoor areas? These days we are willing to go to great lengths to make sure our little outdoor patch of Australia is the perfect space to spend time in.

In Best Outdoors we have showcased a vast mix of the finest Australian backyards we could find. You will find many ideas within these pages that will help you when creating your own special paradise.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Best Kitchens And Bathrooms
192 pages : $19.95

After the huge success of the 'Best Abodes' series, Think Publishing has published Best Kitchens and Bathrooms Part One. The book showcases the very best Australia has to offer in high-end kitchen and bathroom design ideas.

From the publishers of the popular magazine titles Abode, Winning Design and Best Outdoors, 'Best Kitchens and Bathrooms' is an inspirational pictorial book filled with what is 'now' in Australian cabinetry design. This book will grab the reader's attention and will walk them through a selection of Australia's best kitchen and bathroom designs.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Abode Magazine
Pagination Varies : $9.95

Abode Magazine is the flagship publication that celebrates modern living for what it is. Modern living is about warmth, family and home. It's about creating comfortable spaces to dwell in that are inspirational, dispelling the myth that modern is about cold and open forms that are bland and isolating.

Purchase the current issue or complete your whole collection by purchasing previous issues.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Winning Design Victoria
128 pages : $9.95

WINNING DESIGN Magazine is an annual home title published for the Building Designers Association of Victoria and is created to have coffee table appeal.

The magazine has appeal to homebuilding consumers and BDAV Members alike.

The magazine, with its strategic emphasis on design, will help readers to create a home that says `wow'.

Purchase the current issue or complete your whole collection by purchasing previous issues.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Award Winning Design New South Wales
128 pages : $9.95

WINNING DESIGNS Magazine is an annual home title published for the Building Designers Association of Queensland and is created to have coffee table appeal.

Within the pages, readers will find homes that everyone wants to live in and living spaces where all can comfortably relax.

The pages are packed full of information on what's happening in Australian design and how our homes are becoming our sanctuaries. Contents also feature the extraordinary new design of commercial buildings.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

think store BOOKS

The Best Series

What is it about curling up on the couch with a magazine or book? As you browse through the pages, allow the inspiration to flow through you! Perhaps the appeal is in the serenity of getting away from the busyness of life, providing you the luxury of dreaming of a new living space or dream home?

With you in mind we have gone about carefully crafting our 'Best Of Australian' series. Within these pages we have diligently sought out what we considered to be the best in Australian living. You will find in these fully illustrative books that 'best' is not always palatial. We have catered for the change in times, where smaller footprints and environmental considerations are now an integral part of the best design and construction practices.

Best Australian Architecture
ISBN: 978-0-646-52982-0
224 pages RRP: $39.95
Size: 270mm x 210mm wide

In this book we have scoured the Australian architectural landscape to discover some of the homes that have been individually tailored to meet the owners individual living needs, and homes that have a distinctive 'best' factor.

Created for both industry specialists and for those who appreciate good design, this book is pitched at designer savvy readers who are looking beyond the mainstream to establish new rules and trends to create living spaces that illustrate who they are.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Best Australian Interiors
ISBN: 978-0-9808314-0-5
224 pages DIGITAL ONLY Price: $19.95
Size: 270mm x 210mm wide

In these modern times, our homes are becoming our sanctuaries and Australians are spending more time and money on their personal dwelling spaces. Featuring informative editorial, this book instructs the reader on how they can achieve a result that says 'wow'.

People within the architectural and design industry and consumers alike will love this book. Edited by the publisher, Gary Takle has an eye for finding a design that has that certain 'Best Of' appeal.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Best Australian Gardens and Landscapes
ISBN: 978-0-9808314-1-2
224 pages RRP: $39.95
Size: 270mm x 210mm wide

'Best Australian Gardens and Landscapes' is a part of the 'Best Of' series and is an inspirational pictorial book filled with what is 'now' in Australian garden design. The book will grab the reader's attention and will walk them through a selection of Australia's best backyards and gardens.

Featuring informative editorial, this book instructs the reader on how they can achieve a result that says 'wow' in their outdoors area.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

www.thinkstore.com.au

Australia's Best Beach Houses
ISBN: 978-0-9808314-2-9
Hardcover, 224 pages. RRP: $49.95 Size: 250mm x 250mm wide

Owning your own piece of paradise is something that many Australians strive for. From Victoria's Great Ocean Road to Queensland's Gold Coast, to Western Australia's Cottesloe Beach, the Aussie homeland is a veritable seaside haven.

Within Australia's Best Beach Houses we have endeavored to show you what we consider to be some of the country's most outstanding coastal homes, featuring dwellings from some of the premiere architects and building designers in Australia.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Australia's Best Winery Experiences
ISBN: 978-0-9808314-4-3
Soft cover, 224 pages. RRP: $39.95
Size: 270mm x 230mm wide

This book takes a comprehensive approach to visiting wineries in Australia. We consider the location, architecture, food and even the views to be just as important as the wine. This book provides all the important details for Australian wineries including opening times, contact details, vineyard sizes and web addresses. In addition to detailed illustrations, descriptions and maps on each, information about the wine makers will also be covered. This is an indispensable reference for all enthusiasts of Australian wine and those with no wine experience alike.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Australia's Best Houses (Available July 2011)
ISBN: 978-0-9808314-6-7
224 pages RRP: $39.95
Size: 270mm x 230mm wide

Following on from the success of Best Australian Architecture, Australia's Best Houses is a tour-de-force of Aussie home design. Within this book we exhibit some of the finest contemporary homes from around the country, each with their own unique twist on the modern lifestyle.

This book has been crafted to appeal to readers from all walks of life; from couples looking to renovate, to new home developers who are after that extra dab of luxury in their new design, to industry professionals keen for new inspiration.

Purchase online at www.thinkstore.com.au

Norman Richards building design + interiors - Conondale Farm House
Photography by Christopher Frederick Jones

In these modern times, if someone asked you to imagine a 'country house', what would be the first thing that springs to mind? Perhaps a little stone cottage situated on rolling hills and vast pastures or possibly a small, squat log cabin, sitting beneath the rocky outcroppings of a rising valley wall. This romantic imagery, while quaint, no longer represents the true nature of country homes across the world. As the suburban architectural landscape has changed over the past few years, so too has the rural home, moving from the rustic qualities of yesteryear to the cutting edge modern forms of today.

Best Contemporary Country Houses showcases some of the finest creations from around the world, featuring works from some of the most acclaimed designers in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. While each nation has its own unique flavour, they all share a common bond of brilliance and innovation, providing inspiration and exaltation for all those who love and appreciate good design and the country setting.

think Publishing

www.thinkstore.com.au

ISBN 978-0-9808314-3-6

9 780980 831436