



Home stretch

Hilltop home reaches out
to the coast below

Following an impressive extension, this house at Buderim on the Sunshine Coast fulfils its owners' ambitions for a home close to the beach for their retirement. North Queensland couple Ann and Doug decided on Buderim after holidays there with family, and found this modern, mid-century house with views of the Maroochy River and Mt Coolum.

"We bought the original house because of its great aspect and feel, with the intention of extending," Ann says.

The couple engaged Brisbane architect Paul Hotston of Phorm Architecture and Design for the redesign, after seeing his work up north. The aim was "to make every room a pleasure to be in, to bring the outside in [and] to feel part of the environment as opposed to simply viewing it".

Paul's affection for the Sunshine Coast as well as his appreciation of the surrounding landscape informed his early ideas about the site and home.

"There's this wonderful gum tree but also this axis which drives this line out towards Mt Coolum," Paul says.

"Our thoughts about the house were to throw all the plan on to the western edge of the site and basically walk the plan off the hill.

"We wanted to set up a larger sense of the backyard with a courtyard that is looking out to the view and to the coast."

with
**MICHELLE
BAILEY**



The new spaces are perpendicular to the house proper, stretching out towards the coastline like a jetty. They comprise a new kitchen and dining space connected to an outdoor deck and master bedroom that juts out like a peninsula. Each space is on a new level, stepping down parallel to the sloped backyard. The interesting thing about the sequence of these new spaces is the positioning of the deck between two indoor rooms.

“Our thinking was to make the outdoor space not so much an applied deck that is on the edge but rather something that is surrounded by the plan and within the building,” Paul says. “It is drawn like a deck but it is conceived of as kind of an aerial courtyard.”

This simple but deliberate move creates a cosiness when gathering outside because the space is partly contained by walls. Having the outdoor space between kitchen and bedroom makes it feel like a less formal part of the house and more like a “retreat”.

The ensuite, an integral part of the master bedroom, is enclosed, not by walls, but by banks of shutters which slide open to take in views of the coastal landscape. A corner bathtub has prime position a few steps above the bedroom floor level, which amplifies the sense of elevation.

“Our bedroom has come out to meet the big

gum tree ... [it] feels as though we are in the treetops with the kookaburras,” Ann says.

“From the shower recess we can almost touch the greenery... and [we] have great views while showering or using the bath.”

Recycled hardwood timber is used as floor and decking, which reflect the red tones of the new colour palette of materials. Ochre-coloured, corrugated metal sheeting is used as cladding to the master bedroom as a nod to the famed Red Ferrosol soil of the region. The effect of sun hitting its red surface is registered inside the building .

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“In subdued light it (the ochre colour) darkens because the shadow brings down the contrast. In early morning light it really gets colour against the sky,” Paul says.

For Ann and Doug, creating a bespoke home has been rewarding.

“Before the build we had one great view with minimal space to enjoy it, now this house has additional picture frame views whichever way we turn,” Ann says. “The space to enjoy these is far more practical and spacious.”

ARCHITECT • Phorm Architecture and Design,
ph: 3255 2732

BUILDER • Greg Thornton Constructions,
ph: 3846 0079



BIG REACH ... The house is part of the landscape.
PHOTOGRAPHS • Christopher Frederick Jones