



- 
- 

This was a difficult sloping site adjoining the rainforest that encouraged a "tread lightly on the earth principal" (careful site works protect the environment and often cost less). Designing with light weight construction and a minimal flat platform ensured interaction with this spectacular rainforest site at all times.

The house is long and narrow which enabled the principals of passive tropical design and making the most of the natural features of the site. Recycled timbers were used extensively throughout the project and the unnecessary use of materials was taken seriously. Soffit lining, fascias, trims etc are all eliminated.

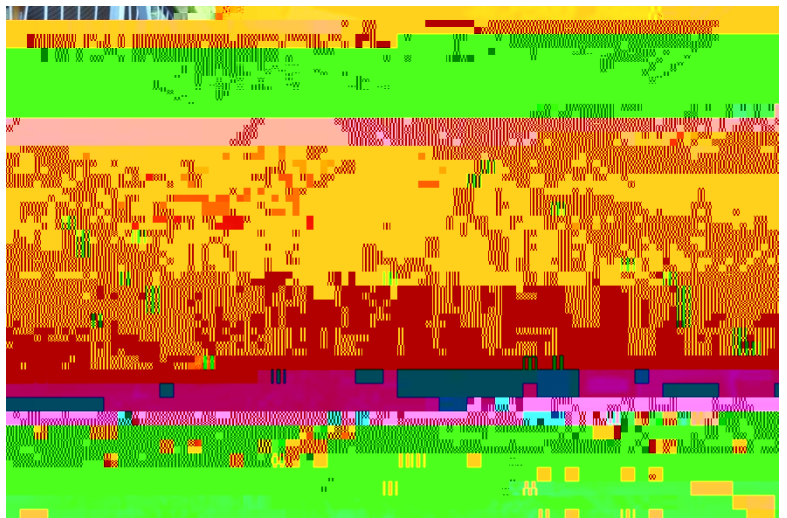
The owners were keen to build a compact home for two people with no wasted space and minimal maintenance. It was to rely on natural light and ventilation and

minimised. As part of a suburban development standards services were available and used.

Construction was managed by the owners but predominantly carried out by a local builder using the owner's help. It was expected to take a year or so and considered working through the wet season as eliminating erosion was important.

This was a difficult steep sloping site, although this is overcome using light weight construction. The minimal flat platform hangs over the edge, and the home forms part of the rainforest canopy. Perimeter decks were built early and made safe which gave the builders more time and saved a fortune on scaffolding. A roof was also quickly built over the platform enabling work to proceed during the wet season.

The access road is very steep and narrow with a blind bend half way up and no street parking. To eliminate earthworks the front part of the building platform accommodates car parking, visitors and vehicle reversing to permit safe entry back onto the access road. The rear part provides an essential yard for the dog and a lawn area.



The level building platform is long and narrow with a very steep excavation cut on one side and a steep slope drop off on the other side. The house is long and narrow which caters for the principals of passive tropical design and the natural features of the site.

A very low retaining wall was constructed from recycled timbers allowing site skimmings and spoil from footings to form a level bench for safe construction purposes. Likewise spoil from drilled footing holes created level access paths. All of this was protected from rain by the building and no spoil was allowed to be discarded downhill which would wash away in the first rain. Land below the building footprint was untouched. A little thought and care during site works goes a long way to help the environment.

The walls are fully adjustable on both sides of the building using glass panels and folding doors to maximise natural lighting and air flow. This allows for total control of the elements and also allows maximum flexibility by turning a room into an open verandah. This also saves duplicating spaces which requires more resources and energy consumption.

An elevated loft utilizes roof space and assists in allowing hot air to rise and purge the building. Utilizing

open decking within the building assists this venturi action by drawing cool air from under the building.

The shower area has reinforced

This design optimises the use of natural light and ventilation. With glass panel doors on both sides of this narrow house artificial lighting is minimised. Ceilings curving up to a central loft space promote a rising air flow. This is boosted by drawing cool air through gaps in the floor and ceiling fans so a natural cooling of the whole body is achieved.

An air conditioner is used in one bed room for a shift worker to get some sleep during the hottest times of the year.

Hot water was researched and a small instantaneous gas unit for 2 people was chosen as well as gas cooking.

The most energy efficient lighting available several years ago was used sparingly.

The toilets have basic dual flush. 0003 T224 TD <00031 Tf .246 0 TD