

SITE

The site is situated in the foothills of the Whitfield range and is elevated with a benched area and sloping banks to its perimeter. Panoramic views are situated to the North and the Western sun has a harsh impact although there is opportunity to bring about south easterly prevailing breezes from the south east.

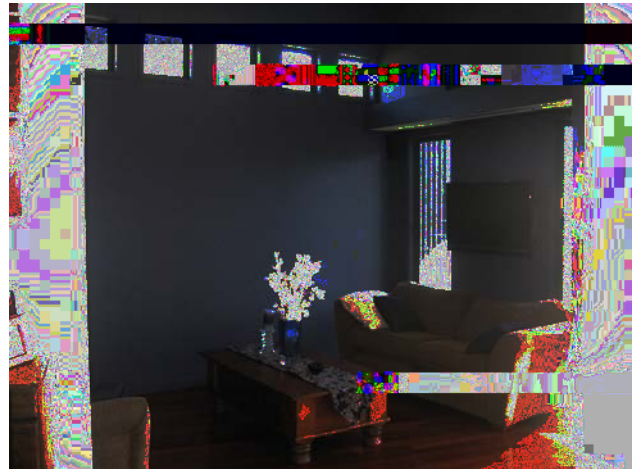
DESIGN

The design of the house aims to accommodate an active young family. The level benched area is set aside primarily as an active play area for the children and the home is designed like a horse shoe circling a courtyard area.

The horse shoe shape is created by lightweight pavilions that skirt around the perimeter of the site and maintain the maximum usable area for the landscaped courtyard.

Many benefits come with planning a design that specifies lightweight construction and building materials.

The elevated pavillions allows breezes to move both under and over the sitehe sitehe s so7(h e)9(a)2.117(T)1(h)-21.1C9 as



MATERIALS

Materials are selected to suit light weight construction using experience and knowledge of their suitability and durability in tropical conditions.

The main frame is steel that is fully recyclable and infill framing is timber sourced from plantation growth and is a natural carbon store.

Custom orb steel sheeting is widely used as a cladding and light colours are used on the roof. Weathertex weatherboards have a smooth millwood profile with timber content they are a carbon store and highly durable for a tropical climate.



Timber screens and balustrading are a feature along with louvre systems. Quality hardwood timbers sourced from plantation forests are used in the decking and timber floors.

ENERGY

The air conditioner that was initially installed is hardly used, maybe three to four short bursts during the hot humid wet season. Power usage is also minimised due to natural lighting prevailing throughout the house. A solar hot water system is also installed.

WATER

Water saving devices are installed to comply with the codes and standards at the time including shower heads and dual flush toilet cisterns.

OWNERS/USERS STATEMENT

‘Most importantly, the house is lovely to be in; the verandah leads you around from space to space and the harsh light from the tropical sun is softened as it shines inside. I just can’t imagine ever moving out. It is the liveability that is just as fabulous a few years later.’ *The family’s mum*

PROJECT TEAM

Base building architect/ designer: Gordon Beath
 Interior designer: Amrita Kambo - Interior Documentation
 Julia Fulford Kirby - Colour Consultant

Photographs courtesy of Bruce Clarke

For more information visit: www.jcu.edu.au/tsd
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