

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010

Domain

NEW HOMES

BUILDING AND RENOVATIONS

A new angle

Bent Architecture reinvents
the classic Aussie
beach house



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NEW HOMES ON SHOW

Out & About

Different perspectives

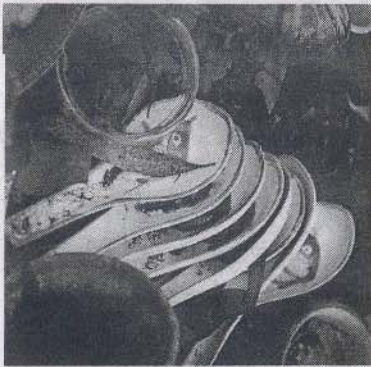


Fantasy by Amber Baiguerra.

STAR Abstraction is the Gilligan Grant Gallery's opening show for 2010. Artists include Alice Lang, Amber Baiguerra, Cat Rabbit, Christine Polowyj and Elyss McCleary, whose treatments on the concept of abstraction are presented in paintings, lightboxes and soft sculpture.

Until March 6 at Gilligan Grant Gallery, 1B Stanley Street, Collingwood. Phone 94177 422. gilligangrantgallery.com.au

Fires in the frame



Reclaimed 5 by Silvi Glattauer.

OBSCURA Gallery's first exhibition for 2010, *Delicate Responses to Black Saturday, One Year On ...*, presents digital and handmade photographs by Kara Rasmanis, Wendy Currie, Karena Goldfinch and Silvi Glattauer.

Until March 18 at Obscura Gallery, first floor, 285 Carlisle Street, East St Kilda. Phone 9525 9377. obscuragallery.com.au

Time to turn your back on convention

This reworking of the classic Aussie beach house has a new angle on year-round functionality, writes **Kerrie O'Brien**.

THE conventional wisdom that a house should face the street is simply that — a convention. When architect Paul Porjazoski of Bent Architecture was commissioned to design a house at 17 Tuckey Street, Sorrento, he considered various traditional approaches and dispensed with them. He decided to let the sun determine the position of the house, running it on an east-west diagonal across the block so all the living rooms faced north.

Beyond requirements for three bedrooms, a study and two living spaces, the client's brief was fairly broad. Commissioning owner Stephen Gough says he and his partner Christine Connor wanted a visually striking house that had a strong solar orientation, natural breezeways and zoned spaces.

They were keen on a place that felt secluded, even though several houses abutted the site, and they wanted to be able to use it as either a primary residence or a holiday house. But because it ended up as a spec house, the budget was not enormous.

Mr Gough says they were thrilled with the result. "We thought it was a luxurious house and we were spoilt to be living there for a while," he says. "You get a real sense that you're up among the treetops. It has great 270-300-degree views and looks over the sand dunes of the back beach and the tea-trees and moonah in front."

Spotted-gum cladding on the upstairs facade is a rich, orange-brown and contrasts nicely with the light grey of the rough-sawn cypress



pine downstairs. Both pick up on the colours of the surrounding environment.

The house appears to be two rectangular boxes on top of each other, with angular, pointed ends. It is a narrow design, just one room deep, which helps with the airflow and passive cooling. Particularly on the first floor, the rooms are hollowed out through extensive use of glass to allow the sun to shine through.

Inside, the palette is fairly neutral and natural, with the timber of the floors and ceilings extending the finishes used on the decks on either side and providing a nice continuity.

Splashes of colour, such as the green tiles in the kitchen, weave in well with the more vibrant colours of the tiles in the main bathroom. The fabulous coloured stripes in the bathroom were inspired by the designs of 1950s deckchairs.

"We were a bit gobsmacked when Paul suggested that but we trusted that it would work and it did," Mr Gough says.

The house's form mirrors something of the surrounding beach houses of that era. Although not a deliberate reference, the front of the house appears to be rather like the

bow of a ship, which is fitting, given its coastal location.

Sizeable living areas on both the ground and first floors give children and parents separate spaces, while the four decks mean there is always an outdoor option that works, regardless of the weather.

The covered outdoor area in front of the kitchen was designed as a meals area; Mr Gough says it was inspired by American houses that have a veranda all the way around. The roof and location buffer the space from the more extreme weather, allowing it to be used year-round. Bi-fold doors open to create a flowing indoor-outdoor area, while the glass surrounding the kitchen ensures the views are uninterrupted.

Front yards are generally spaces to look at rather than use. Here again, conventional wisdom has been turned on its head; Porjazoski's design places the north-facing front yard at centre stage. The children's room downstairs opens to both the front and back of the house and, consequently, has a strong connection with the yard.

With subtle influences from its surrounding environment and 1950s Australian architecture, this is a smart, interesting house that



Vibrant tiles in the main bathroom contrast against the mainly neutral palette used elsewhere.

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NEW HOMES



Details

Architect: Bent Architecture
Phone: 9388 9033
Builder: Elliot Homes
Address: 17 Tuckey Street, Sorrento
House size: 250 square metres
Price of house to build: \$550,000
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2
Parking: double carport
Features: site layout

In addition to the dining space (left), the deck off the kitchen (below) was designed as a meals area.
 PICTURES: MARK MUNRO PHOTOGRAPHY



Out & About Screen star

CENTOR Architectural's screen and blind system is the first horizontal retractable screen for windows and doors that offers natural light and fresh air, along with insect protection and solar and thermal control. Ingeniously, it doubles as a projection screen from either inside or outside when used on the blind option. The S1E Eco-Screen, which will be showcased at the trade event Form & Function in Sydney from April 22-24, can be built to specifications up to 7.6 metres wide and 3.2 metres high, and is available in a range of finishes and colours. formandfunction.com.au



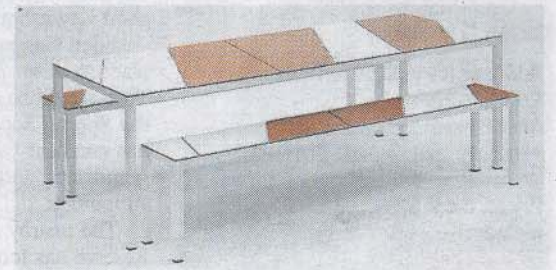
Rugs go free-range

THE Rug Collection has joined forces with landscaping designer Jamie Durie to create a collection of outdoor rugs. Eight designs, made from recycled polypropylene, are waterproof and fade-resistant, and can be placed on the lawn, deck, paving or balcony. The Groundcover collection is available from Harvey Norman stores. From \$150 to \$465. Phone 8555 0169. therugcollection.com.au



Best seats in the house

PATCH, a fabulous new design from Tait, has a laminated top and either a stainless steel or powder-coated frame. The setting is suitable for indoors or outdoors and sizes can be customised. The 2100 x 900 millimetre table and two benches are \$5270. Tait has been designing and making furniture in Melbourne for more than 15 years and has a stylish new showroom at 176 Johnston Street, Fitzroy. Phone 9419 7484. tait.biz



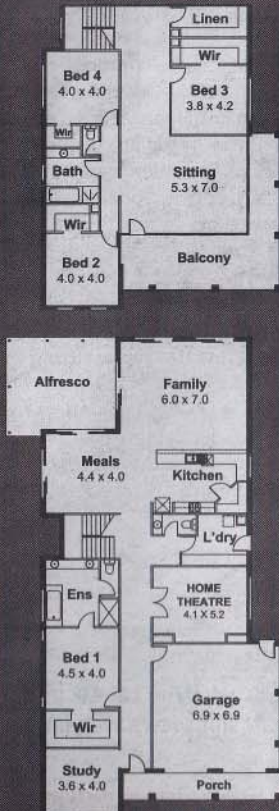
responds to the seasons. Porjazoski says it is a reinterpretation of the classic Aussie beach house.

Bent Architecture, founded in 2003, is based in Brunswick, with Paul and his wife Merran as directors.

The couple works predominantly

on residential projects, with a smattering of institutional. One such project is a design for public housing in Dandenong that won a competition in 2008, with building to start this year. Another is a rooftop garden, part of the Growing Up project.

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