



HAMILTON HARBOUR HOUSE

location: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
project architect: Shaun Lockyer, Arkhefield
interior design / lighting: Arkhefield
landscape: JW Concepts / Arkhefield
photography: Shaun Lockyer

THIS RESIDENCE IN HAMILTON, A SUBURB OF BRISBANE ON THE EAST COAST OF AUSTRALIA, WAS COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 2006 AND HAS A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF 900M². CONTEMPORARY IN CONCEPT AND ECO-FRIENDLY IN ETHOS, IT WAS LARGELY DESIGNED BY SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECT SHAUN LOCKYER, LATE OF CAPE TOWN-BASED STEFAN ANTONI & ASSOCIATES. >

previous page & these pages: Say the architects: 'This house does not initially present as an ESD design (ecologically sustainable development). It is not overt in its sustainability initiatives and is not cloaked in often superfluous devices used to brand a 'green building'. Underpinning its complex planning and expressive architecture, are a series of environmental design principals that allow the building's internal climate to passively perform.' ▶



Say the architects: 'The conceptual framework was to design a family home that explored the opportunities within architecture. We were challenged by a very public realm within which to build a house, while trying to reconcile the idiosyncratic issues of view, privacy, security and sanctuary.'

The house presents a heavily articulated and screened façade to the north and west while peeling back to the city views over the river to the south. Solid, playful zinc-walled elements juxtapose the light weathering timber 'follies' which serve different programmatic needs within the structure. The clearly

extroverted pool, conspicuously cantilevered over the entry, is the interior focal point for life, play and drama.

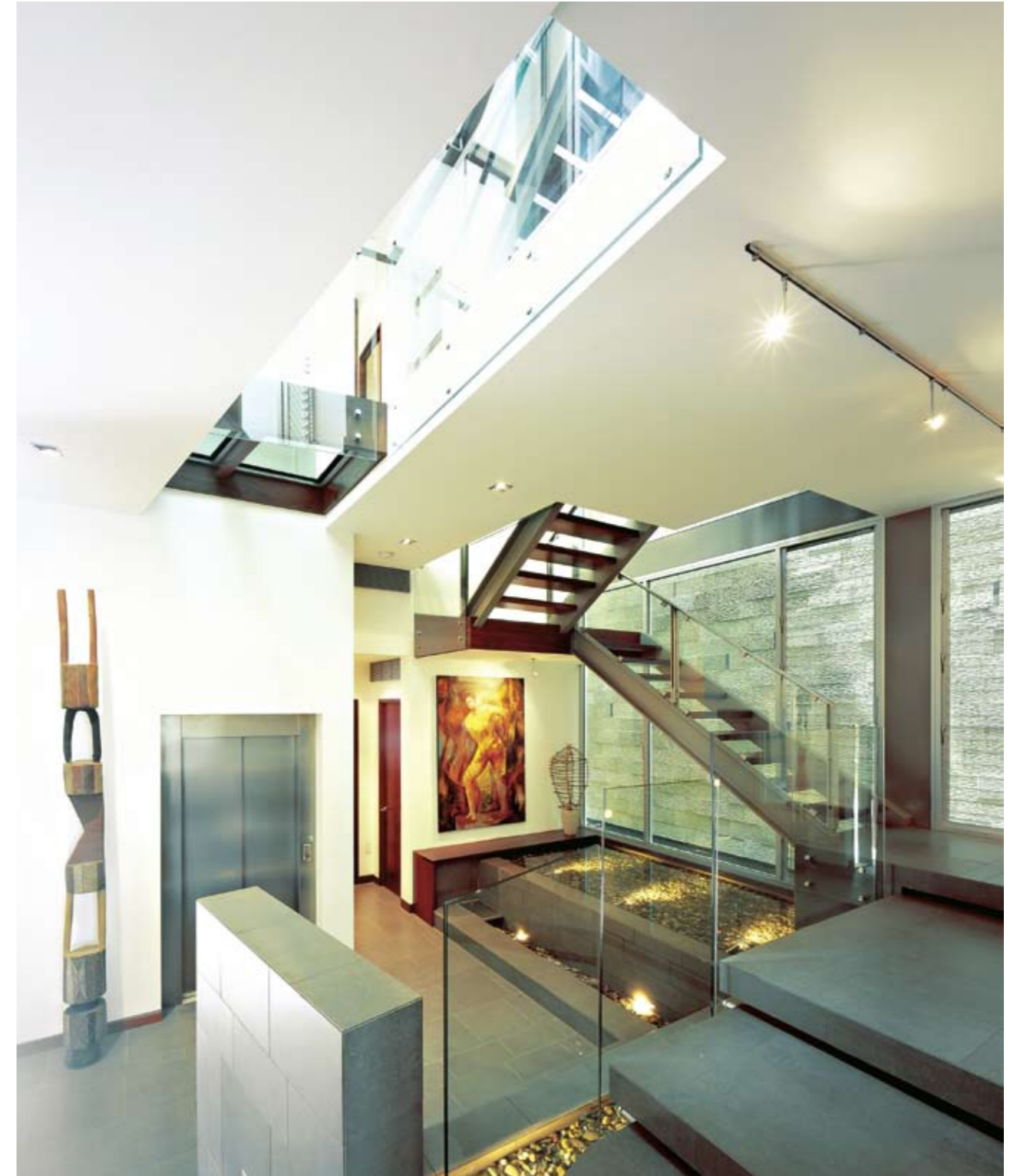
Says Shaun Lockyer: 'Buildings should contribute to the public realm that they occupy. We believe this house animates the street, the river boardwalk – both with form and sculpture' ▶



– and is hopefully part of a broadening dialogue of residential architecture in Brisbane and abroad.’

The form is a manifestation of the needs of the house and the constraints of the site. Multiple levels within the design accommodate the needs of children, parents and entertainment.

these pages: The building orientates to maximise controlled north sun through a series of articulated ‘armatures’ that also allow for a ‘room-deep’ flow through ventilation strategy. Sun shading mitigates solar gain; appropriate eaves, awnings and screening respond differently on each façade.



above: A series of cleverly located vents, louvres and sky vents allow the building to passively breathe and ventilate when the house is closed. This, combined with the thermal mass, means that the house is always cool, even when it has been closed.

The house is zoned, such that the often discordant needs of a large growing family can be accommodated in a complementary and considered way. This gives human scale to the structure and allows one to feel ownership of space. The first floor level accommodates the bulk of living needs including the outdoor ▶



these pages: This house uses intelligent design to achieve climatic performance before relying on technological devices that can distract designers from getting the basics right. The architect saw this as an opportunity to illustrate that sustainability does not have a 'look' and that it is meant to be inherent in the design, not something added once the design is complete.



this page: The en suite bathroom to the main bedroom is classically contemporary and features a large shower, rectangular tub and dressing table / make-up corner.



living and pool.

The residence involved a significant amount of input from consultants and services. The seamless integration of air-conditioning, extraction, ventilation, home automation and security implicated several individuals and strategies. The intention behind these systems was to simplify the use of the house through technology rather than complicate it.

Substantial effort was made to rationalise structure, finishes, processes and mechanisms to contain costs and limit expense on maintenance in the future. The outlay involved the employment of systems that improve living conditions and control environmental impacts.

While the house may not fit strict eco-friendly constraints, a number of considerations were made, namely: rain water harvesting, solar hot water, passive 'heat stack' cross ventilation strategy, solar control glass, operable louvres and shutters and blinds on solar clocks to limit use of air-conditioning. Thermal mass and low-maintenance recycled materials were all appointed.

Says Shaun Lockyer: 'Our client wanted a unique piece of architecture that would enhance family life and not pose as too precious. The feedback from the client is that the house has achieved this aspiration while providing privacy and sanctuary from an otherwise urban and public environment.' □