



A shore thing

Couple drops anchor at dream home by the sea

When Brisbane couple Wade and Claire started a family they determined to quit the city and build a house at the beach. The lure of good surf and an established circle of friends led them to Sunshine Beach on the Sunshine Coast, within walking distance of the sand.

"There is very much a sense of the ocean from here," Wade says. "There's the constant breeze, you can smell it and you can hear it. It's all part of the experience of living here."

In creating the home, Wade, who owns Bev Jenner Constructions, drew on his long working relationship with Shaun Lockyer and Jen Negline of Shaun Lockyer Architects.

Early discussions focused on building a house that would enable indoor and outdoor living and

for children to roam freely between the house, the pool and the garden. The result was a two-storey building enclosing a central courtyard and pool. The house is planned around these, with courtyards north and south.

"We wanted the pool to be the focal point of the house, to make a U-shape where the pool sits in the centre so we could see our children from anywhere in the home," Wade says.

Wade and Claire made the unconventional decision to place the pool on the cooler, southern side of the building, with living areas on the sun-saturated northern side.

The ground floor is dedicated to living, entertaining and play, with a pool and barbecue terrace next to the kitchen and dining room at the centre of the house.

"While the dining table is in the middle of the house, there is a void above the kitchen and big windows and [semi-opaque] walls to let in lots of

light," Shaun says. "We wanted the space to be as open as possible."

Prioritising space for children's play meant establishing strong connections between the interior of the home and two outdoor spaces: the front lawn on the northeastern corner of the site, and the pool and deck at the home's heart.

A diagonal, visual axis between those zones helps connect lounge room, kitchen, dining room and barbecue terrace in between.

"The house has a constant flow," Wade says. "You open the front doors and it flows all the way to the back. It becomes one space."

Natural floor finishes, including stone, burnished concrete and polished timber, combine with floor-to-ceiling sliding doors to give a sense of cohesion to the various ground level spaces.

Changing floor and ceiling finishes delineate three zones: the front entrance, the double-height dining room, and the terrace outside, intensifying the sense of movement through the building.

"Moving from one space to another is only a material change, not a level change, so there is a seamlessness to the spaces," Shaun says.

Upstairs, bedrooms follow the same U-shaped plan with the children's rooms looking to the pool below and beyond to the sea.

The parents' retreat at the front of the house reserves the best north-easterly aspect for the bathroom, with the ocean visible from the bathtub.

The master bedroom opens onto a full-width deck which allows for views of the neighbourhood and glimpses of the sea. The deck sits behind a beautifully crafted timber battened screen which maintains privacy for the interior spaces and creates a memorable facade to the street.

"The combination of shadow and solidity of the house belies what is inside," Shaun says. "You see it from outside as a fortress but from inside it is very light and delicate."

The facade and screen are made from ironbark timber, which has silvered through the natural process of age and sun exposure, and work as an expression of the coastal aesthetic. A subtle kink in the facade and the roofline gives a dynamism to the form.

Wade describes the carpentry as "grassroots timber work" and a credit to carpenter Brad Anderson.

"I like the ageing timber. The grey ironbark is very durable and ages very well," Wade says. "It gives privacy to the outside but it also lets a lot of breeze and light in."

You see it from outside as a fortress but from inside it is very light and delicate



ARCHITECT • Shaun Lockyer Architects, ph: 3257 7288.
BUILDER • Bev Jenner Constructions, ph: 3245 3701.

with
MICHELLE BAILEY



SAFE HARBOUR ... Design captures the essence beach life. **PHOTOGRAPHS** • Scott Burrows