

SEALED WITH *Cypress*

With only a small footprint, a four-level coastal family home was created by employing vertical architecture

WORDS KARSHA GREEN **PHOTOGRAPHY** BROCK BEAZLEY



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Owner/builders Jasmin and Andrew, of Merico Construction, wanted a home that captured the coastal lifestyle — a family home for their two children and dogs, as well as a project that would push Andrew’s own abilities and create an “architectural statement”. Jasmin and Andrew had recently built a second dwelling at the rear of the property, so the brief for the Cypress project was to re-envision the “weekend cottage” at the front. With a limited ground-floor footprint to work with, Andrew, as well as Shane and Jorden from Shane Denman Architects, explored the use of vertical architecture.

“Left with a small plot on the site to build on, we explored the use of vertical architecture,” explains Jorden. “Looking around, there were views/outlooks in nearly all directions once we could get above ground level. We started this by elevating the backyard/living and dining to podium level.”

DETAILS
HOUSE Cypress
LOCATION Bilinga, Qld
INITIAL BUDGET \$1.4 million
FINAL COST \$1.85 million
DATE COMMENCED April 2020
DATE COMPLETED Jan 2022



“THE RESTRAINED
MATERIAL PALETTE
THROUGHOUT
FRAMES A COASTAL
HOME ILLUMINATED
BY NATURAL LIGHT”
– JORDEN PAYNE-
COOPER

By vertically stacking Cypress over four floors, private spaces were formed and connected via a central circulation core, which is surrounded by glazing and floods the levels with natural light. Its structure resembles a “chimney stack”, also ventilating each level and encouraging natural cooling. Landscaping on the ground level of this circular core offers access to natural elements within the compact space. “The simple stacked form of Cypress has produced an elegant and sculptural building that challenges the idea of traditional ground-floor living spaces,” says Jorden.

The entrance to the building is on the ground floor, with the living, dining and kitchen elevated to the first floor with coastal and hinterland views. External living spaces are also incorporated into the first level to capture coastal breezes that would otherwise be absent at ground level.

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The main bedrooms suite is on the second level, with a clever layout that removed internal walls but maintains a sense of privacy. The floors above podium level juxtapose the massing of brick and concrete below, adopting a “lightweight, opulent form”.

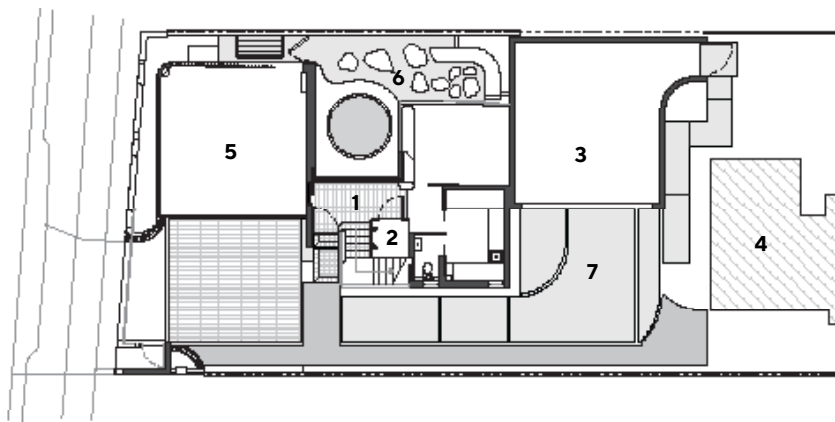
The internal and external material palettes explore a natural, contemporary vision of coastal living. Light-oak flooring and joinery is used throughout the internal spaces, complementing the mid tones of the external, ageing Cypress cladding. Allowed to weather over time, the Cypress cladding provides a constantly evolving colour palette and makes a statement among the surrounding white weatherboards, fibro shacks and paint-rendered towers.

“The restrained material palette throughout frames a coastal home illuminated by natural

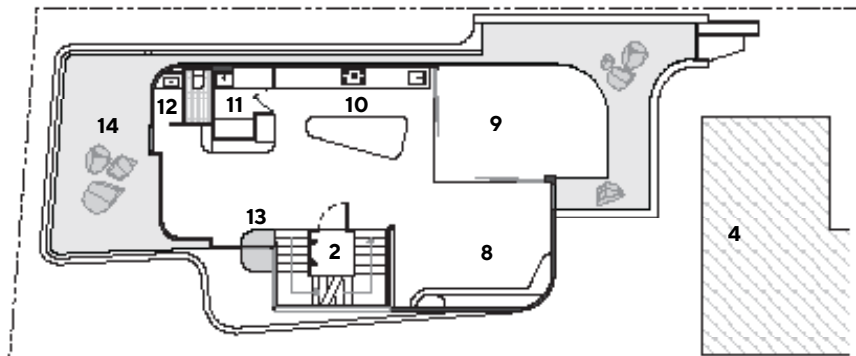
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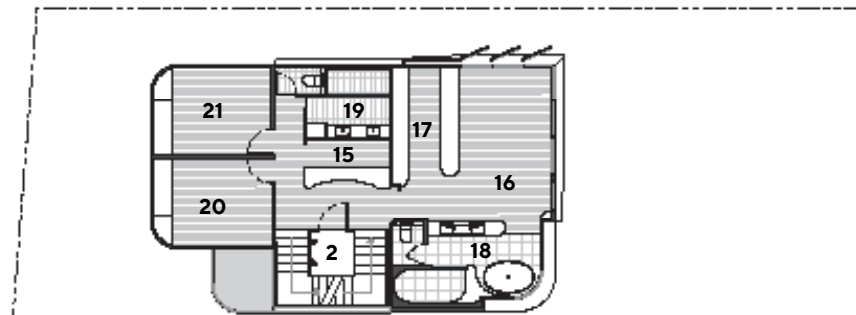
WE LOVE
THE NATURAL
WEATHERING
OF THE AGEING
CYPRESS
CLADDING



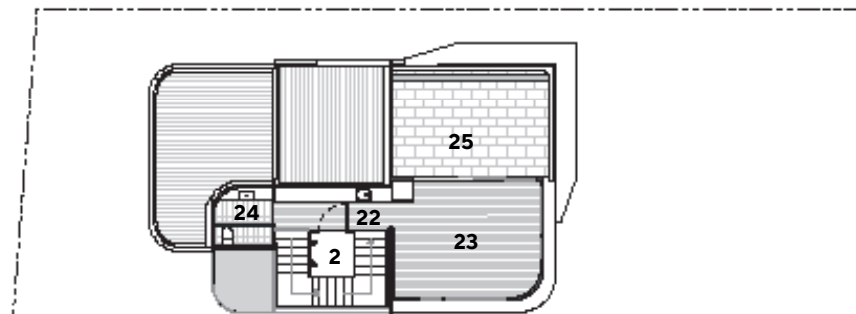
GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Entry | 12 Powder room |
| Lift | 13 Dining |
| Sitting room | 14 Elevated front yard |
| Garage and rear of property | 15 Study |
| Carport | 16 Master bed |
| Existing rear home | 17 Walk in robe |
| Laundry/wetroom | 18 Ensuite |
| Living | 19 Bathroom |
| Outdoor court/sitting | 20 Bedroom 2 |
| Kitchen | 21 Bedroom 3 |
| Walk in pantry | 22 Bar |
| | 23 Lounge/guest |
| | 24 Ensuite |
| | 25 Roof top sitting |

PROJECT TEAM

ARCHITECT Shane Denman Architects, shanedenmandesigns.com

BUILDER Merico Constructions, @mericoconstructions

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Reserve Landscape Architecture & Construction, reservelandscape.com.au

STRUCTURAL

Engineer Westra Partners
Hydraulic engineer Logic Water Solutions
Rendering All Rendering Solutions
Steel fabrication Bowden

SERVICES

Certifier Axis Certification
Plumbing Borderline Plumbing

FIXTURES & FITTINGS

Cabinetry and joinery Ambition
Kitchens and Joinery
Tapware Astra Walker
Cookware and gas burner Pitt Cooking
Bricks Brickworks Bowral
Stone and tiles Artedomus
Terrazzo tiles Fibonacci Stone
Mosaic tiles INAX – Japanese Tile World
Lighting The Lighting Collective Byron Bay
Flooring Tongue & Groove Flooring

FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS

Furniture supplier Kira & Kira
Artwork Adam Leng
Window furnishing A Curtains & Blinds



EDITOR'S FAVOURITE

THE HIDDEN JUNGLE WITH PLUNGE-STYLE POOL AT THE CENTRAL CORE OF THE HOME



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