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PRODUCTS / PROJECTS / TECHNOLOGY

## COBE Architects

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# BASE ARCHITECTURE

## STONEHAWKE HOUSE

architectural+interior review

# 326

### ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

Base Architecture

### PROJECT

Stonehawke House

### AWARDS

2010 AIA Brisbane Regional House of the Year; 2010 AIA Brisbane Regional Commendation – Residential Architecture – Houses; 2010 AIA State Housing Award, QLD

### PRACTICE PROFILE

Base Architecture is a multi-award winning firm committed to producing the highest quality design through innovation and collaboration. Base develops solutions that exceed client expectations. Aimed at producing designs that enrich not just the lives of occupants, but also the surrounding environment, Base explore a wide range of concepts and ideas, with a passion to produce unique projects to which others aspire.

### PROJECT ARCHITECT

Shawn Godwin

### DESIGN ARCHITECT

Shawn Godwin

### PROJECT TEAM

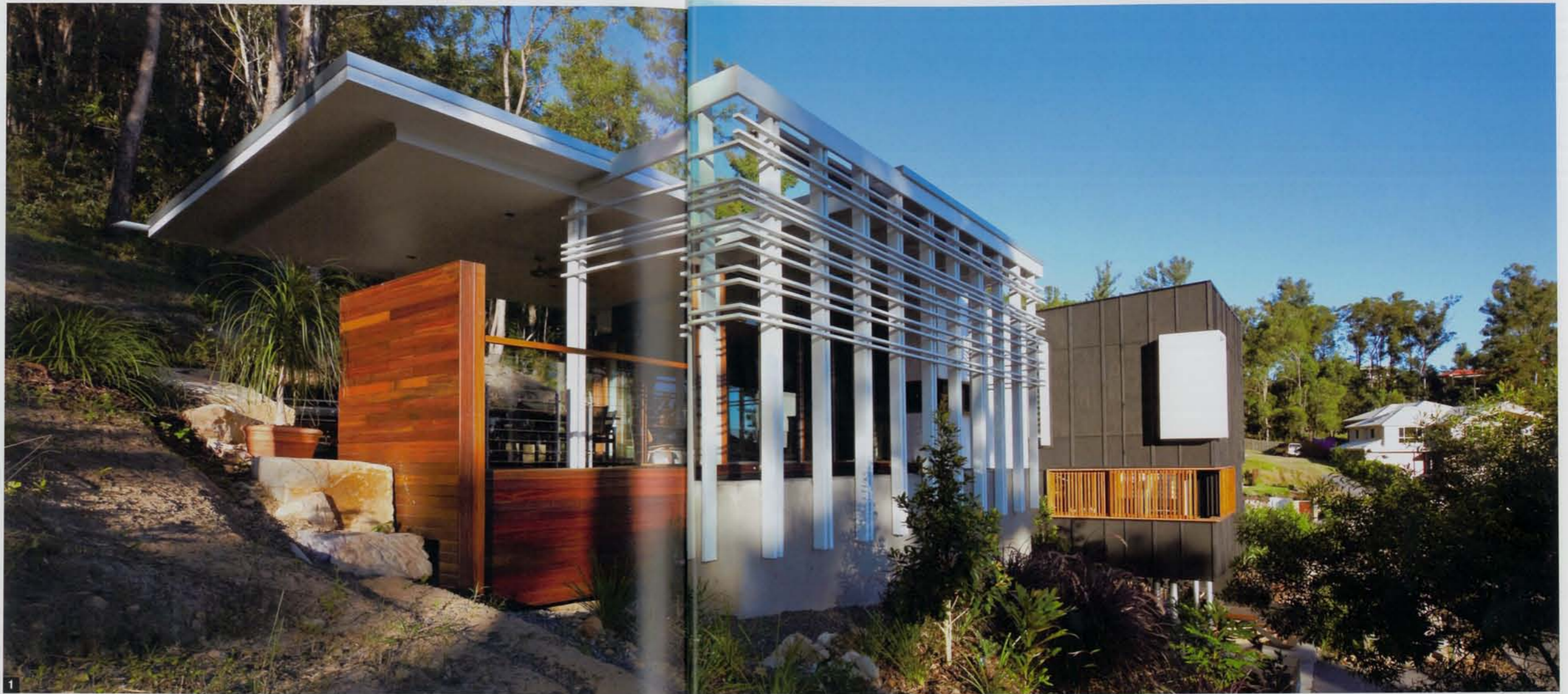
Natalie Godwin

### BUILDER

Mclvor Constructions

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Christopher Frederick Jones



There's something quite romantic about building on the fall of the land, a poetic intervention that nestles structure within and around nature – this is truly architecture.

Stonehawke House, located in Brisbane, Queensland, grew from a challenging steep site that needed established ground levels before an inspiring design was to unfold. Architect Shawn Godwin and interior designer wife Natalie of Base Architecture concocted a design resolution that unravelled stunning views with

interesting elevations and varying degrees of openness, inviting the beauty of the surrounding landscape in. At street level, the building gives off an illusion of a 3-storey house, yet functionally the fall dictates 90 per cent of the programme to occur on its top level, a level that evens out with the slope's natural ground.

A sensitive, thoughtful approach was needed for many of the constraints aimed at protecting the site's microclimate. From natural stormwater control and overland flow to flora and fauna-

friendly fencing, Stonehawke House is a home with minimal site footprint. Developed over 29 lots of land, a charred box on Lot 16 horizontally emerges from the earth like fallen lumber, bunkered in a parcel of heavily wooded, protected land. Grounded strongly within the site, the rest of the building's volume wraps around an embedded off-form concrete pool.

The abundance of landscape surrounding the house revealed and highlighted the organic sense of nature, with broken sandstone on site and a

1. Bunkered into a hill, the house interacts with the natural surrounds and protects the site's microclimate.
2. Living spaces open to the surrounding landscape with sliding glass walls and counterbalanced glazing systems.





sweeping array of tall, native trees, calling for materiality and form to reflect this. The architectural expression on the exterior accordingly used roughly sawn stained plywood, galvanised steel, and horizontal and vertical detail sections as a reflection and biomimicry of its natural surroundings.

With such an impressive play of form and materiality on the exterior, it was important to soften and refine the detailing within. The abundance of surrounding native timbers made it an obvious choice to bring the warmth and tactility of Australian Spotted Gum internally, used for flooring, joinery, windows and doors. Admirably, the operability of Stonehawke House

facilitates both a visual and physical experience of crossing interior to exterior, as counter balanced glazing systems and sliding external glass walls open up the building once occupants are formally inside.

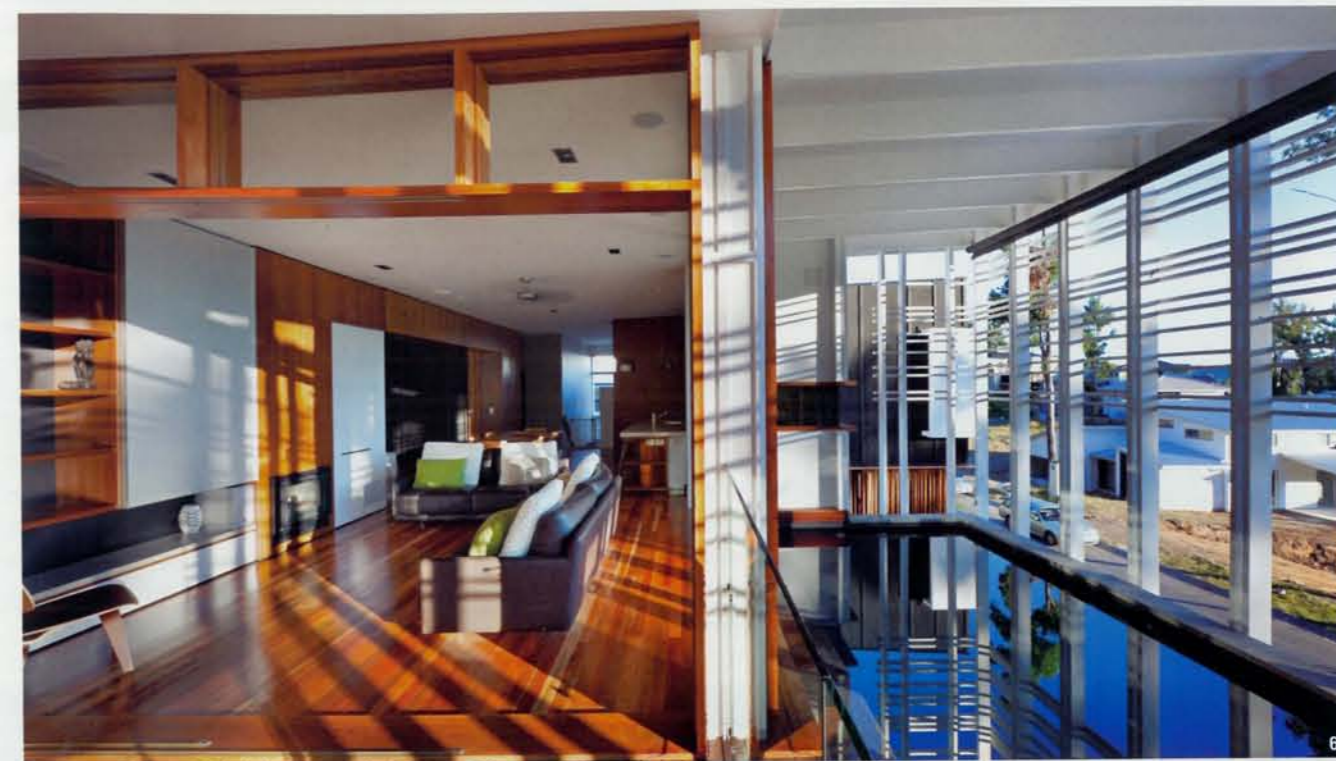
The central entry is marked off a car space that leads to the first level entry point (where visitors are greeted), and a voided space then either leads to the parents' retreat or up to the main body and functions of the house above.

As Stonehawke House has caused very little disturbance to the natural fall of the land, the building's main programmatic volume that coincides with the natural ground has created a

protected, secluded grassy area for the designer duo's kids to play and explore in nature's playground of intriguing, wondrous landscape.

At face value, Stonehawke House holds a strong, robust form of its own, with heroic volumes that protrude out from the surrounding bushland. Yet what Shawn and Natalie Godwin have designed is not just any other building for their practice, they have created their own family home. And as the natural materials, colours and textures twist, buckle and age gracefully over time, their family life within is sure to grow and evolve as well, with an adored sense for the architecture in which they both live in, and inspired. +

3. Sandstone rockwork and native flora surround the site, informing the building's materiality and structure.
4. A charred box protrudes from the hillside like fallen lumber.
5. Interior detailing is softened with Australian Spotted Gum timber and contemporary furnishings.
6. Most of the building's programme is wrapped around an off-form concrete pool.
7. A small opening in circulation space washes light across a wall.
8. Raw, earthy tones bring a pleasant warmth to a bathroom with sleek, elegant fixtures.



#### PRODUCTS

**Walls** Timber from Wilson Timbers **Roof** Hyne timber from Wilson Timbers **Windows and Doors** Aluminium and timber joinery from Bradnam's Windows & Doors **Floor Finishes** Spotted Gum Lifestone timber tiles from Moxon Timbers **Wall and Ceiling Linings** Plasterboard from Boral **Paint** Dulux Wash & Wear **Sanitaryware** Fixtures by Grohe and Hansa from Reece **Wall and Ceiling Insulation** Rockwool Insulation **Furniture** Jordan Australia contemporary furniture **Hardware** Lockwood Lighting **Light Fixtures** Beacon Lighting **Artwork** Simon Degroot **Fabrics** Mokum Textiles