



21st Century Architecture

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DESIGNER HOUSES

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Base Architecture

STONEHAWKE

The Gap, Queensland, Australia

The steep, difficult site is wedged into the side of a hill and nestled into a large parcel of heavily wooded environmentally protected land. The charred box protrudes horizontally like fallen lumber. Solidly grounded into the site, the body of the house wraps itself around an above-ground off-form concrete pool that also reflects the charred timber in its internal finish.

Raw and organic materials were used to blend with the natural surrounds of sandstone rockwork and various species of native tall trees. With this language, the cladding and structure are represented accordingly with rough sawn stained plywood, galvanised steel, and combinations of horizontal and vertical sections mimicking the tree forms.

From this point it was critical to both soften and refine the palette to the interior detailing while being mindful of the importance of the cohesion and notion of interior to exterior. Once formally inside, the occupants are transferred both visually and physically between this notion as the house opens up with counterbalanced glazing systems and sliding external glass walls.

Photography Christopher Frederick Jones

A central entry from the garage leads to the first-level entry point and voided space that leads either off to the parents' retreat or, further ascending, to the centre of the main body of the house. Although from the street it appears to be a three-storey house, 90 per cent of the programme is confined to the top level, which happens to be level with natural ground due to the slope of the site.



