

## SUNSHINE COAST . HINTERLAND

MARGIE FRASER



A beautiful 20ha property of undulating hills punctuated by a creek, waterfalls and bands of rainforest was an inspiring starting point for this new home in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Architect David Teeland was struck by the great natural beauty of the site, and by the strong connection to the land felt by his clients, who are retired farmers. "We all felt it was important for the house to become part of the landscape rather than dominate it," Teeland says.

The plan was to select a building site not at the property's highest point but further down the slope that backed onto rainforest and a nearby creek, and make use of an existing giant bunya pine to one side as a visual anchor. The house has views to the highrises

of Mooloolaba and Old Woman Island to the east, and south to Caloundra. The four-bedroom, three-bathroom configuration was also required to accommodate visiting adult children.

The house cantilevers over the steeply sloping land, with the projecting deck and living areas surrounded in glass to capture the views and create thermal mass. At the rear, the house is wedged into the hillside where insulated walls of bonded EcoFoam (a Styrofoam panel rendered in concrete) are painted black to further blend into the background. "The house is like one big Esky," says Teeland, noting that the sun penetrates in winter and heats the concrete floors, while the insulated walls keep interior temperatures low in summer. The self-sufficient house uses recycled water and produces all solar energy onsite.

**OPPOSITE PAGE ...**

THE HOUSE IS POSITIONED AT A POINT ON THE SLOPE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VIEWS AND THE NEARBY RAINFOREST AND CREEK.

**THIS PAGE ...** (ABOVE) THE PROXIMITY TO FOLIAGE AND (LEFT) CANTILEVERED CONSTRUCTION HELP ACCENTUATE ITS SYNERGY WITH THE LANDSCAPE.

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