



SHADOW HOUSE: The long lines of the ultra-modern house's grooved surface throw intriguing shadows as the sun moves across the sky.

Melding into the BUSH

THE emerging contemporary house in temperate Tasmania and sub-tropical Queensland is being explored at an exciting exhibition being held at the Bond Store, Tasmanian Museum, to celebrate National Architecture Week.

Organised by the Tasmanian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the exhibition is open until next weekend and includes more than 30 striking houses, with displays presented on A1-size panels by both local and interstate architects.

One of the houses featured at the exhibition is the ultra-modern Gorringer family residence, carved into a rugged pocket of bush on Tolmans Hill high above the Derwent estuary and Hobart. Designed by architect firm



house

BRIGITTE KOLBE

Terroir, the house, which boasts a rear courtyard, fits snugly into the contour of the hillside on a gently sloping internal block invisible from the street.

Director in charge of this project, Scott Balmforth, explains Terroir was keen to work with the natural curves of the block.

"The house cranks around the contour, offering little resistance to the natural landform," he says.

Slate-grey metal decking has been used extensively to meld into the bush.

The long lines of the grooved surface (commonly used as roofing) throw intriguing shadows as the



STYLE: The pin-sharp, clean lines of the ultra-modern living room remain uncompromised.

sun moves languidly across the sky. In a neighbourhood littered with designer houses, all exhibiting their own "expressions" and "noise", Scott said the Terroir team looked at designing a "house as a shadow".

"We responded to the hillside development with the simplest formal response and colour palette possible."

The home, which is underlined by a key wall that runs the length of the house, is stunning in its simplicity.

Which is exactly what Sam and Samantha Gorringer were hoping to achieve.

"We wanted a design and colour that would blend

naturally with the bush," explains Sam, who owns a farm in the Huon Valley and

appreciates living so close to unscathed bush land and walking tracks.

The couple's brief to Scott was to design a house that could be built in two stages.

"With Ollie [their three-year-old son] we only need three bedrooms, a bathroom and living room now," he says. "But there's space

downstairs to build another bedroom, bathroom and rumpus room when we need to."

An expansive hallway, lined on the one side by built-in cupboards and a hideaway laundry, plays a key role in the design.

While ushering guests inside and the family to their bedrooms, it is also a unique extension to the wide-open living room.

Lime-washed timber floorboards contrast magnificently with the deep brown walls and doors.

The inky-brown colour is called Spanish Eyes, a fitting name for such a sexy hue that can appear to be slate-black, chocolate-brown or silver, depending on the light.

Uplights and a sculptural lamp, which sits on the low-lying built-in drawers in the lounge area, create an ambient space for the family to relax at night.

Sliding glass doors in the dining area open to a partially enclosed balcony.

Protected from the elements, this inviting space is used regularly.

"We didn't want a huge exposed deck which we'd never use," says Sam.

A great advantage of



MODERN: The neighbourhood is littered with designer houses.

building their own house has been incorporating lots of built-in storage space.

Even the handsome kitchen, with wide angled stainless-steel breakfast bar and seamless bank of overhead cabinets, is filled with silent-sliding mini panels that hide clutter from view.

A particularly ingenious design idea is the incorporation of a playroom for Ollie, behind deep-brown sliding multi-fold doors in the lounge area.

The pin-sharp, clean lines of the ultra-modern living room remain uncompromised, while Ollie is encouraged to let loose in his own space.

There are no plans to crowd the living room with extra pieces of furniture, although Sam is keen to add more art to the living area, which already displays a stunning piece by her sister Gaby Falconer. The beauty of their new home is more than fine aesthetics.

"It just works so well," says Sam as he gazes inside from the sheltered decking.

"The sun hits the dark colours at the back of the living room early in the morning and quickly warms up the house."

"And the deck creates shading on a hot day. It functions perfectly and is just so easy to live in."

● The exhibition sets out to compare and contrast contemporary house design and the influence of climactic conditions.

Themes include: sustainable design versus fashion, and the long-term cost and benefits of environmentally sustainable design.

Sponsored by the RAIA and Hobart City Council, the event includes two lunchtime public forums, and is open to the public from 10am-4pm daily until October 10.

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FAMILY HOME: Sam, Ollie and Samantha Gorringer.