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The striking home of the Addison's in Traralgon provides modern shapes on the horizon. OPPOSITE The green feature wall offers dramatic impact in the kitchen. Essa stone bench tops offer a sleek contemporary vibe.



Future Proof

WHEN TRARALGON COUPLE TAMARA AND MATTHEW ADDISON BEGAN PLANNING TO BUILD THEIR HOME, THE IDEA WAS TO COME UP WITH A DESIGN THAT WAS FUTURE PROOF TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR GROWING FAMILY.

PHOTOS www.colinpage.com

Tamara and Matthew Addison had been living in a double fronted Victorian cottage - an original home moved from Waihalla, and the contrast with what they have created could not have been sharper. "Once kids came along you re-assess things," said Tamara. "We wanted a home that once the kids left home, or went to university it wasn't going to be too big and that when they grew we could still have our own space."

The house cuts a striking form on a regular sized block on the edge of Traralgon. Across the road is an open reserve offering green views from the upper level of the contemporary architecturally designed residence.

"When we decided to build we decided to go to an architect, and a cousin recommended Bower Architecture." Using passive solar principles and signature contemporary design, with clean lines and functionality, the architects

created a streamlined family home with balance and simplicity.

"The north sun really drove the design," said Project Architect Jade Vidal. "And, the outlook looking east also was an influence. Tamara and Matthew were really clear about what they wanted and that makes a huge difference. They described their living spaces and imagined living areas for the children and themselves with a central communal area."

"I wanted to make a big external frame, with parallel external materials. It is important to use materials like timber - it adds a softness to the exterior," said Jade.

Walter Furlan, Tamara's brother was engaged as the building contractor and despite the potential for conflict Tamara said the detailed plans and specs provided by the architect meant the project ran smoothly.

This room has an ever-present view of the greenery of the reserve and a cleverly placed window means they can watch the sun rise from their pillows.



The impressive polished concrete staircase leads to the couple's upper level bedroom retreat.

LONDON
PICCADILLY CIRCUS
PARK LANE
LEXHAM GARDENS
CHEZ PATRICK
TADMOR STREET
VIA P.PALLEY
PORTOBELLO ROAD
HUMMINGBIRD CAFE
NOTTING HILL
VIA MELT
HYDE PARK
MAYFAIR



Blackbutt timber was used to balance with the modern linea board on the exterior. The outdoor entertaining area faces north and flows seamlessly out from the central living zone.

chairs she found in a shop in Sale that take pride of place in the parent's lounge.

"It was more that I knew what I didn't like. I knew we wanted a good ensuite with the space to get dressed without banging in to walls and lots of windows to keep the ensuite bright."

The couple's ornaments gathered from overseas trips are contained on a single shelf in the reading room. Books and family pictures add warmth to the contemporary spaces and the muted grey tones of the interior are boosted by the green views found through the enormous picture windows.

Exiting from the snug is a private patio with a table for two bathed in morning sunlight with a view over the reserve.

The walls are simply and elegantly covered with paintings by Matthew's brother Jason Addison an arts teacher at Lowanna College.

The utility rooms such as the laundry and the double garage are on the ground level.

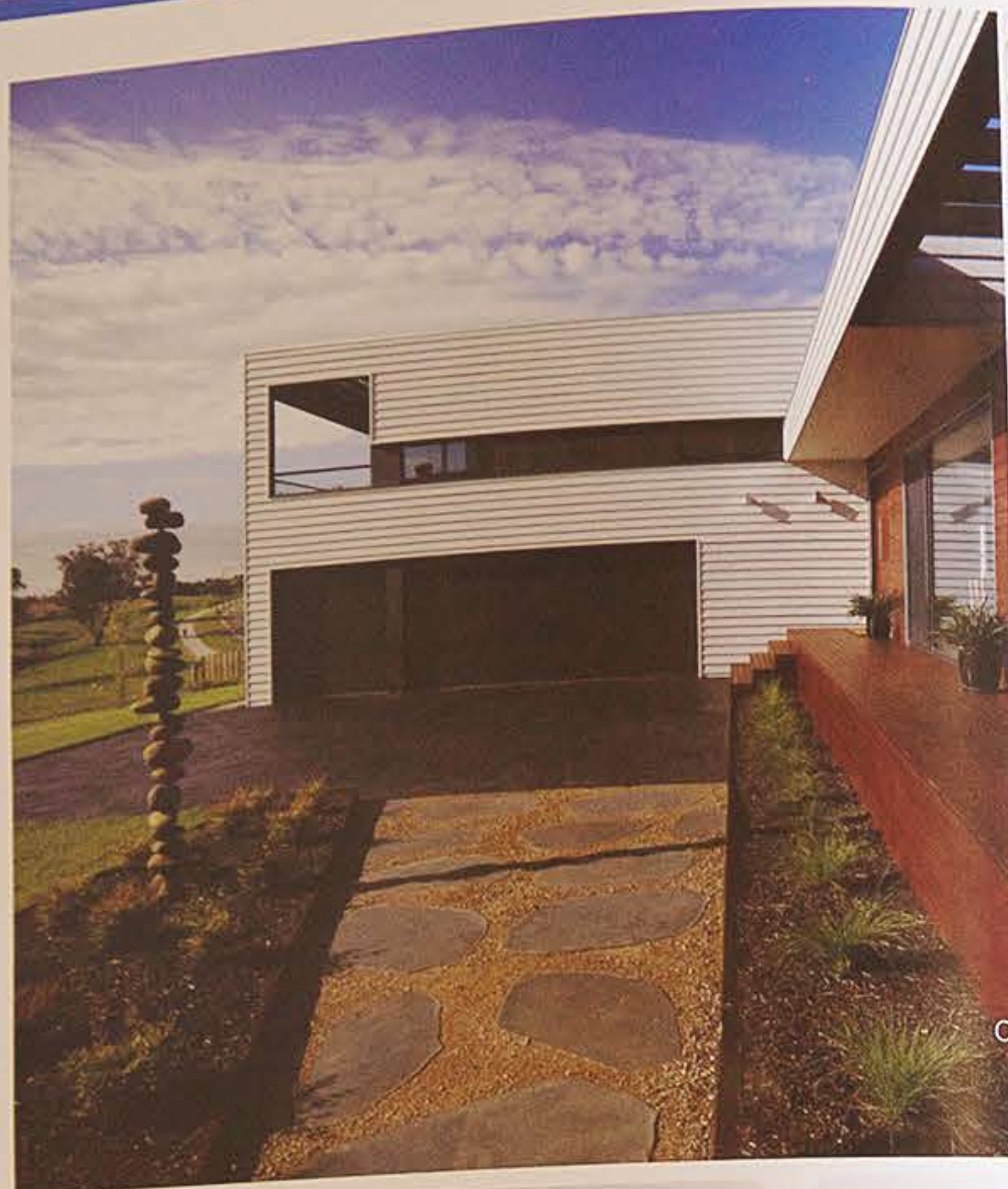
It is a testament to the architects and the home owner relationship that there is nothing Tamara and Matthew

would change about the house now they have been living in it for nearly 12 months. For the Prahran based architects it was a pleasant surprise working with a larger space. "This was our first project in the country. In the city we are used to working with sites where it comes down to millimetres. Here we had an empty site to start with and a good set back. We really loved the process and to work with clients who knew who was going to build it right from the beginning helped. The team dynamic was good from the beginning," said Jade.

The family including children Eli, three and Noah six, have now been living in their home for about one year and feel right at home. "We'd only been here for a month but it felt like we had lived here forever," said Tamara.

Architects Jade Vidal, Anna Dutton, and Chema Bould
Project team members Rose Heeley and Ben Shields.
www.boworarchitecture.com.au

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One of the challenges was to fill the four metre high living room. Tamara's industrial sized palette



Warm winter sun streams into the cosy parent's retreat, and into the kitchen which is the hub of the home.



Inside the floorplan flows seamlessly from room to room and spans two levels. The décor reflects modern style, but finishes such as the polished concrete floor have the dual purpose of being practical for everyday life. Hydronic slab heating keeps it warm under foot and floods of light enter every corner meaning no lights need to be on during the day.

Rather than following the trend in new builds that 'biggest is best', the couple planned their house to be of 'adequate size'.

Going from one extreme to the other, traditional to contemporary, meant that they also had to do a rethink on their furniture. "We hardly took anything with us from the old house," Tamara sourced the complimentary furniture at local stores and also trawled Bridge Road in Richmond for just the right items. "I had been collecting ideas into a scrapbook. It was like a scrapbook of dreams really," said Tamara. The document is packed with clippings, swatches and samples that became the basis for the design and the décor.

There were elements of green in Tamara's scrapbook, which the architects included in the preliminary drawings to become a dramatic highlight in the mainly neutral colour scheme.

The striking exterior cladding is also a step outside the norm. "We didn't want to go with a typical render," said Matthew. "We had come from a weatherboard and loved that look." So, they chose Linea board, a James Hardie product.

In the cooler months of the year the sun hangs low

in the sky and beams directly into the central living area warming the concrete slab. The high summer sun is kept off the slab by a strategically placed overhang. Sliding doors open fully from this area to integrate the indoors with the timber entertaining deck.

High coloured louvre windows flush out the hot air as it rises to help maintain consistent airflow through this central zone.

Square set cornice and higher than average internal doors give an extra sense of space and height throughout.

Tamara admits that some of the locals were amused by the concrete staircase that was poured first with the concrete slab. It was one of the major expenses in the build. "Some people said it was like a stairway to heaven." The staircase is another dramatic accent and it leads to the couple's main bedroom.

This room has an ever-present view of the greenery of the reserve, and a cleverly placed window means they can watch the sunrise from their pillows. Double sliding doors open to an elevated and covered balcony.

"We really wanted a place to retreat to if the children were playing loud music for instance. And Jade designed it so that when we are lying in bed we can watch the sun rise."

The house is zoned with a children's rumpus room off the central communal area in the wing with the minor bedrooms, and a further sitting room or parent's snug is at the opposite end.

Tamara approached the interior furnishings with a clear direction in mind and searched for items relentlessly until she found the exact match, such as the pair of striped

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