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Surrounded by water, with a river on one side and a swimming pool at its heart, this monumental home has a zen-like serenity.



These pages, from left This impressive house at Noosa Heads offers the perfect retreat – surrounded by water, the home’s massive concrete walls and protected outdoor spaces shelter the owners from experiencing the harsh afternoon heat during the warmer months of the year aided by a ‘Haiku’ outdoor fan from Big Ass Fans. ‘Loop’ easy chairs from Harbour. ‘Garonne’ limestone pavers from Eco Outdoor. The swimming pool is clad in dark-grey tiles from The Pool Tile Company. Custom dining table from Mast Furniture with ‘Chee’ chairs from Space. Wever & Ducré can lights from Caribou. Ceiling in board-form concrete by builder JW Constructions. Landscape architect Marc Conlon devised cascading plantings to soften the angles and add dappled light play.



# LIVE STREAMING

**This page** Concrete ceilings and stone floors in the main kitchen are complemented by timber joinery and furniture. Oak veneer cabinetry by Minka Joinery. Splashback and kitchen island in Elba marble from Artedomus. Stools from The Woodroom. Topware from Rogerseller. Appliances from Miele and Sub-Zero. Ay Illuminate 'Nama' pendant lights from Spence & Lyda. 'Garonne' tumbled limestone floor tiles from Eco Outdoor. 'Pillar' dining table from The Wood Room with dining chairs from Jordan, all on a rug from Armadillo. **Opposite page, from top** The indoors and outdoors are blurred to create continuous and fluid spaces. Outdoor lounge, armchairs and coffee table from Harbour. River views add serenity to the living areas.



**T**here are few more idyllic settings than this one. Located on the Noosa River and bushland beyond, the new-build, three-level house by Shaun Lockyer Architects seems to have it all. Designed as a holiday escape for a Sydney couple with three children, it's one of the key houses from the practice that makes the architect's chest puff out and rightly so. "We're extremely proud of the result, in part because it was such a linear process, with the initial idea not being compromised in either idea or finish," says architect Shaun Lockyer, who worked closely with landscape architect Marc Conlon. Interior designer Hong Henwood assisted with the decor.

While the Noosa Heads house, on a 550-square-metre site, embraces the river and bushland to the south, the street elevation, oriented to the north, is zen-like, offering little of what can be expected past the threshold, a concrete portal. Charred timber battens screen the three children's bedrooms on the first floor, while the garage door is also in charred timber, a Japanese technique. The concrete portal and parapet, the latter dissecting the timber facade, adds to the simplicity and sense of restraint. "The owners came to us because of our use of concrete, even in tropical climates such as this one," says Shaun, who used a limited palette of materials: concrete, stone and timber, some charred for the exterior and oak joinery within.

Given the orientation (north to the street and south to the views of the river and bushland), Shaun Lockyer Architects designed the house based on a C-shaped plan in order to attract the northern light. And at the rear of the home, where the views take hold, there's a wall of glass sliding doors that completely blurs the division between inside and out. The generous alfresco dining and lounge area bordering the open-plan kitchen, dining and living areas means this spectacular vista can be enjoyed all year round. >



These pages, clockwise from top left The sophisticated outdoor kitchen comes with an in-built fridge, wine cabinet and barbeque. Custom dining table from Mast Furniture with 'Chee' chairs from Space. Wever & Ducré can lights from Caribou. Ceiling in board-form concrete by builder JW Constructions. 'Alpine Dry Stone' wall cladding mixed with 'Howqua Freeform' natural stone, both from Eco Outdoor. 'Haiku' fan from Big Ass Fans. 'Garonne' limestone floor tiles from Eco Outdoor. Artwork by Paul Davies in the living area. 'Sunny' modular sofas and 'Wilfred' armchair from Jordan, 'Kit Kat' hand-carved limestone coffee table from denHolm and 'Freddie' side table from Sarah Ellison, all on a rug from Armadillo. Wever & Ducré sconce from Caribou. Illuminated by light flooding in via the glass-sided swimming pool, the games room looks through to the well-stocked wine cellar with oak veneer cabinetry by Minka Joinery.

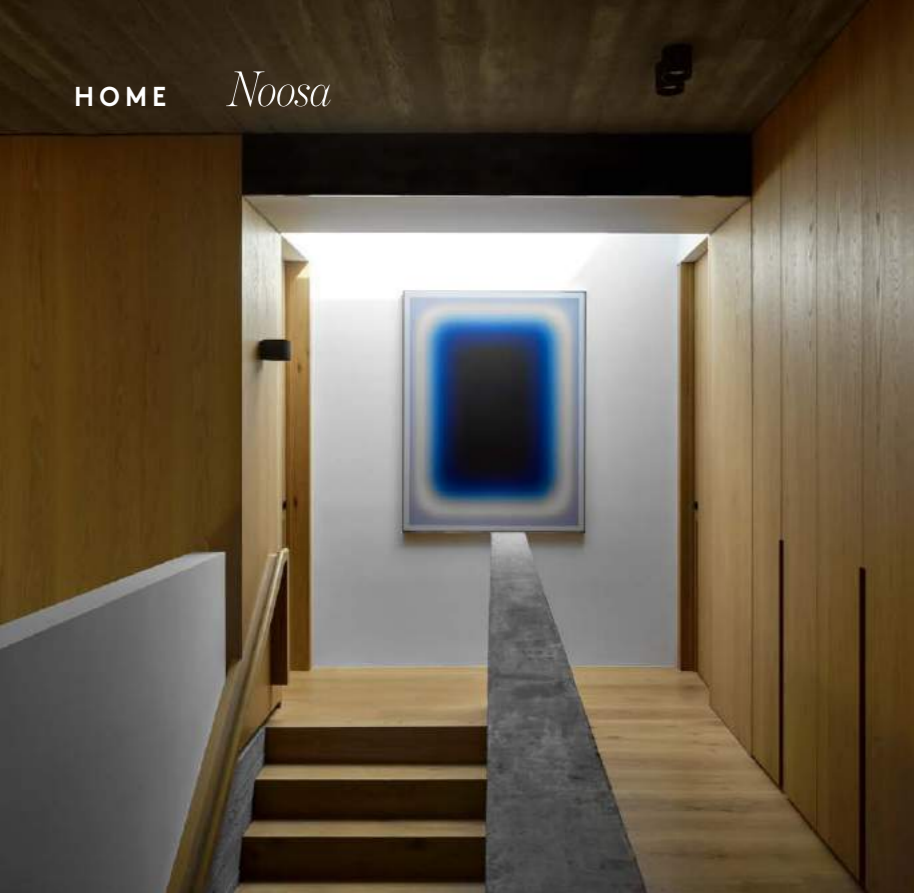


« To ensure the finest in outdoor dining, there's a sophisticated built-in kitchen, complete with a fridge, wine cabinet, barbeque and even a television. Given this is a holiday house, Shaun was also mindful of providing a robust lining, with stone tiles on the floor and an off-form boarded concrete ceiling. The kitchen's wide marble island bench allows for the entire family to take part in preparing, serving or sitting down for meals.

Pivotal to the design is the thoughtful separation of spaces throughout. There's a rumpus room located at the front of the house for the children, far enough away that the television doesn't have to be heard by everyone else. There's also a games room with billiards table in the basement where they can make as much noise as they want. Those using the swimming pool, with its glass side abutting the games room, can certainly see in, and vice versa. "The light that permeates through the swimming pool, located in the central courtyard and benefiting from the northern aspect, is the only illumination source for the basement," says Shaun, who enjoys seeing the ethereal glow wash through the lower level.

Having the swimming pool at the core of the floor plan, separating the children's rumpus room at the front and the living areas to the rear, also makes the presence of water pivotal to the design. Whether you're walking along the central passage, with its large picture window immediately »





**SPEED READ**  
» Located at Noosa Heads and bordering the Noosa River, this three-level house (which appears as two storeys from the street) is the ideal holiday escape. » Designed for a couple with three children who have their permanent home in Sydney, the monumental concrete house is almost the antithesis of the lightweight holiday homes seen along this coast. » The home's concrete ceilings and walls provide a cool and reflective environment, with the outdoor and indoor spaces treated as one.

**This page, clockwise from top left** On the first floor landing strategically placed skylights bring natural light into the core. Artwork by Jonny Niesche. Builder JW Constructions created the board-form concrete walls. An Ali McNabney-Stevens artwork grounds the master bedroom with 'Sunny' bed from Jordan, bed linen from Sheridan and Country Road, and cushions from Lucy Montgomery. Cosmos Collection 'Ren Weaver' pendant light from Pop & Scott. Custom side table from Mast Furniture with vase from Marmoset Found. Walls in Dulux 'Lexicon'. 'Mina Studio' chair from Jordan in the study off the bedroom. **Opposite page** A bedroom is screened with timber battens to diffuse light and create privacy. Cushion from CLO Studios, side table from GlobeWest and 'Line' wall light from Snelling. 'Joy' ottoman from Jordan and vases from Marmoset Found.





This page, clockwise from top left A photographic work by Annelie Vandendael is found in the guest bedroom, which includes a side table from Mast Furniture with a vase from Marmoset Found. Mix of bed linen from Bemboka and Country Road. Sconce from Snelling. The generous ensuite for the main bedroom features double basins, tapware and towel rail, all from Rogerseller. Towels from Country Road. Artemide 'Castore' pendant lights from Image Lighting. 'Stanley' stool from Jordan. Each of the five bedrooms is furnished with an ensuite. Opposite page The guest bedroom enjoys leafy views over the bush reserve.



« abutting the pool, enjoying the sound of water when passing by from the kitchen and living areas (both indoor and out), soaking in these views from the main bedroom suite on the first floor, or from down below at the pool, both the sight and sound add a soothing quality to the ambience.

A view of the pool is also provided from the built-in study nook adjacent to the main bedroom. The large terrace framing the main bedroom ensuite also benefits from this idyllic setting.

“You’re always mindful of water, even when you’re descending the stairs,” says Shaun. And to dispense with any criticism that concrete can produce dark and cavernous houses, here there are strategically placed skylights that not only outline Noosa’s crisp blue skies, but also allow the sunlight to create magical dappled brushstrokes on the home’s concrete walls and stone floors.

The clever use of planting, referred to by Shaun as ‘fringes’, creates a cascading effect and provides an additional verdant layer to this home. “The vines certainly soften the concrete, but in some ways the play of light on the concrete already achieves this. Our clients, who are now friends, came to us because we’re known for our use of concrete as well as our bold forms. Concrete certainly doesn’t have to appear heavy and only the domain of those architects working in colder climates,” adds Shaun. [lockyerarchitects.com.au](http://lockyerarchitects.com.au)