



It is just such a beautiful liveable house. It's not designed to be flashy

CASUAL AMBIENCE ... Bespoke craftsmanship and timeless materials create modern luxury.

PHOTOGRAPHS - Scott Burrows



Rock & soul

There's a lot to be said for the simplicity and beauty of stone and concrete. For Chelmer couple Gary and Kerensa, deciding to build a new home with a feeling of solidity has resulted in something out of the ordinary.

"It's like I read the story, *The Three Little Pigs*, too many times," Gary says. "I wanted a house that didn't blow over, one that was made from stone."

For that reason, architect Shaun Lockyer proposed walls in off-form concrete and stone-clad concrete blockwork.

The concrete walls remain unfinished while blue stone walls add character and variety outside. Inside, the blue stone creates a backdrop to focal points such as the fireplace.

"The stone grounds the house and makes it seem like it has been here for ages," Gary says. "What to me is really special is when the stone is lit up (at night)."

The blue stone gives the impression that the house was

quarried from the hillside on the site that climbs and then falls steeply to the Brisbane River. "The house is set high on a ridge," Shaun says. "You would be forgiven for assuming that you walk up to the upper floor, but you actually walk up two flights of stairs and arrive at the ground floor."

A double height void inside creates incredible light and shadow play. The kitchen, dining and living space is defined by a travertine floor extending to the terrace outside.

"The travertine stone is a material that is on the floor of the Pantheon," Shaun says. "So we are using materials here that have been used for hundreds and hundreds of years."

In contrast to the timeless quality of the stone, the blade walls in off-form concrete appear cool and contemporary.

A concrete portal frame creates a striking monolithic form on the edge of the terrace.

"We were conscious of the northern sun coming too far into this threshold," Shaun says. "So we thought about this

(concrete portal frame) as a device to control that sun but also to frame that view out to the river."

Viewed from the back yard, the concrete portal frame defines the area of the terrace dedicated to sun deck and pool.

The pool extends like a jetty beyond the concrete portal frame towards the river, with the water surface level with the floor level inside. "When the kids are swimming we can see them from the kitchen," Kerensa says.

A barbecue terrace has views of the river and pool. A fixed seating nook in timber and vertical shutters in black introduce more bespoke craftsmanship.

"It is just such a beautiful liveable house," Gary says.

"It's not designed to be flashy. The luxury is in the space and the beautiful materials we used."

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