

RESTLESS LIVING

... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."



RIDGE ROAD RESIDENCE

Mornington Peninsula, Australia

Within the Moonah Links golf course on Mornington Peninsula lies the Ridge Road Residence beautifully on a steep slope surrounded by dramatic vegetation. The Founding Partner of Studiofour, Annabelle Berryman, has been kind to take us behind the project.

“The brief for this project was to create a balance between the expansiveness of the site while providing a sense of enclosure required for a dwelling; particularly in what can be a harsh, exposed environment”, Annabelle says and continues: “We focused on the natural elements; of the materials selected and the surrounding landscape, which was achieved through the use of pared back forms and detailing. A restrained material palette combined with simple interior elements enable the views of the landscape to become part of the interior.” The house has a strong sense of contrasts bouncing between privacy and transparency – from the all-black exterior to the bright interior. As Annabelle nicely explains: “It is difficult to gain more than a glimpse of the dwelling through the surrounding vegetation. Where the house is visible, it blends within the landscape. The black timber cladding and dark reflective glass selected help to dematerialize the building form from its natural surroundings.”

With a great understanding of the site, Annabelle and her team wanted to take advantage of the steep slope and came up with an interesting idea. “In stark contrast to the surrounding houses, which attempt to cancel out the sloping topography by creating a podium level at which the outdoor areas sit exposed high above ground level, the design for this house adopted a gentler strategy, with the building form spilling down the slope to terminate in a series of terraced decks. These low lying decks provide privacy from the golf course below whilst the surrounding native landscape shelters the outdoor areas from harsh prevailing winds”, Annabelle says. These terraces or decks created a variation of interaction and connection with the landscape; from the channeled views of the horizon upon entry, through to the double height picture framed window that captures the full proportion of the tea tree. “Our challenge was to demonstrate that a custom architectural solution could achieve our client’s budget whilst responding directly to the essence of the site and its location. The house demonstrates that we could not only capture the sense of place, but we could also deliver a competitive cost effective solution”, Annabelle concludes.

The Ridge Road Residence is therefore not only an attractive home; it is also proof to the saying that «less is more». This is a home where all the unnecessary elements have been left out and where the essence of site has instead been prioritized to enhance the living experience. Here, the residents can enjoy the privacy while being close to what really matters in this context: nature.



“The double height picture window captures the full proportion of the tea tree.”

– Annabelle Berryman, Studiofour





MD HOUSE

Bariloche, Argentina

With views towards the Gutierrez Lake, the Catedral, Ventana and Otto Hills, the MD House has been carefully placed on a subtle slope to create a great relation between the house and the landscape. We had the chance to talk to the owners of Alric Galindez Arquitectos about the project; Federico Lloveras, Santiago Alric and Carlos Galindez.

“At the beginning, the clients presented us with their wishes to have a house with a large surface but small spaces. From this perspective, the idea of a segmented house quickly rose”, Federico begins. The segmentation of the house has created an interesting structure layout, where the house almost feels »village-like«. “We tried to divide the house into volumes creating a feeling of shelter. The prisms are linked by glazed connectors, that is, constructed voids. So, access to any of the modules involves entering-leaving the house and the landscape. Expose yourself to the landscape and take refuge in the house”, Santiago says and continues: “As the terrain is located in one of the most singular and expressive landscapes of Argentina, we decided that the house had to be deeply related with it. Also, while being very careful with nature by respecting and preserving it, we solved the morphology of the house through an abstract geometry that contrasts the human presence with the landscape and, also, enhances nature.” Throughout the design process, there was a set of regulation that ultimately shaped the design of the home. “The regula-



tion of the place forced us to have sloping roofs, so it seemed like a great idea to make them and the volume a single object that rotated from its axis and formed a unique abstract element”, Carlos explains. The rotation of the five prisms along with the various connectors – stairs, hallways and bridges – have created a sense of rhythm and dynamism, which itself add a unique touch to the house. “We tried to achieve the feeling of coziness through the separation of the volumes. Smaller spaces become appropriate more easily. The distance of each volume from one another, enable them to be inhabited independently”, Federico says and concludes: “We are very pleased with the results as all our expectations and those of the client were met. Even though the clients are from a different country, the communication and all instances of the project were carried out perfectly. The owners are very proud of it and we can see – day by day – how they enjoy the space and every detail.”

Architecture by **Alric Galindez Arquitectos** Photography by **Albano Garcia**



"... the notion of a traditional front yard and backyard disappears, and the inhabitants are free to extend their living experience to the entire site."

– David Thompson, Assembledge+



PHELPS RESIDENCE

Huntington Beach, California, United States

The Phelps Residence is a remodel of a regional mid-century house that was originally developed in the 1960s along with the rest of the Huntington Harbor neighborhood. We have talked about the renovation with the Principal and Founder of Assembledge+, David Thompson.

“The inspiration for the Phelps Residence was rooted in the mid-century bones of the existing structure. The goal of the renovation was to take the initial intent of the sensibility and raise it to the next level. From our perspective, we were helping to find the true intent of the design. The project makes its connection to the true Southern California lifestyle by opening the building to embrace the entire site. By opening the living room on both sides, the notion of a traditional front yard and backyard disappears, and the inhabitants are free to extend their living experience”, David says. In this regard, the wall-to-wall, full height sliding doors really create an impression by enabling a true indoor-outdoor experience while creating a great effect of framing the views to the rear backyard; almost picture-like. The decision of opening up the spaces is of course further encouraged by the warm Californian climate. “The



Architecture by **Assembledge+**

Photography by **Paul Vu**

climate of the Harbor provides an ideal environment to open the space up to the yards year-round, thereby expanding the footprint of the house and allowing for an uninterrupted flow between rooms and indoor and outdoor areas”, David explains. Due to this climate, the yards became an important part of the project – yet imposed a challenge: “The greatest challenge on the project was determining the final location for the pool cabana. The shape of the site widens in the rear, and our initial thought was that the cabana should be placed on the north side of the rear yard. However, after the construction began, we realized that locating the cabana on the south side created a better solution. It not only had a better relationship with the pool, but it also helped to protect the rear yard from the street”, David says.

The volume of the house is a two-story stucco façade structure with vertical cedar and black metal accents, while the interior is bright and flooded with sunlight. It is therefore safe to say that the ground-up renovation has completely transformed the original home from the 1960’s, made it contemporary, and infused it with new life – ready to provide a great living experience.



SUBURBAN WOODS

Moscow, Russia

Tugged between trees of a Russian forest in the suburbs of Moscow, the Suburban Woods is a large house project that seeks to mimic the landscape throughout its design. The architect behind the project, Olga Freimann, has been kind to share her insights about the project.

“This is a quite big house in the Moscow suburb. The entire floor space is about 3500 m². The house was built in the forest, and one of our main goals was to save as many trees as possible. That is why the house has a quite unusual configuration”, Olga says. The architectural style used for the project conceptualization was the one of minimalism. However, the client thought it was too laconic or boring. Olga and her team were therefore tasked to add a more daring touch to the house. “It was a quite difficult task to combine the constructivists’ style of architecture which dictates a minimalistic style of the interior with luxury – in some sense more classical details. To fulfill this task we decided to use natural luxurious materials; stones like marble, onyx, granite; and wood like Indian apple tree, teak wood, and oak. The combination of these materials creates two types of contrasts. The contrast of textures; cold stone and warm wood, and the contrast of colors; grey, black, green colors of stones disputes to golden, yellow colors of wood. This range of colors perfectly corresponds with the view outside the windows”, Olga explains. In the living room, one of the central walls is made of glass to let the forest behind »enter« the room. This way, the exterior seems to continue through to the interior. “To accent



this idea, we created a wall in the living room with a huge panel picture which is made from an extended photo of the wood trees”, Olga mentions. Besides the massive picture wall, all the luxurious materials, e.g. the marble, are used in a constellation that seeks to imitate the landscape; to ensure that the context will not be forgotten. “We are really proud of this idea and its concrete realization”, Olga concludes.

Architecture by **Freimann Gallery**

Photography by **Sergei Morgounov**





VILLA MISTRAL

The modern home Villa Mistral is widely known for its conceptual idea. The house is named after the seasonal strong north-westerly wind »Mistral« that blows across the Mediterranean. We had the opportunity to talk to the CEO and Managing Director of Mercurio Design Lab, Massimo Mercurio, to understand the idea behind the project.

“Villa Mistral is like a sleek cruise ship. Its design was sculpted with the spirit of ocean, a speedboat with cabin and flying bridge in a clear attempt to break free from the rigid shape of a straight struc-

ture and four walls”, Massimo says. In order to reference a boat and communicate the speed and forward thrust, the villa is painted in a hint of metallic white while the structural elements are strongly expressed internally as well as externally. As Massimo puts it: “The house exploits the angularity of outward-leaning structural elements and similarly angled glazed walls to fashion an almost vertiginous experience both inside and outside of a powerful vessel sailing through the sea.” The angular shape of the facade did, however, become a challenge due to regulation. “A part of the challenge is Singapore’s re-

strictive guidelines which calls for a 30° pitched roof if an attic is required which, invariably is, because of the desire to maximize floor space while conforming to height regulations”, Massimo explains. In addition to these regulatory challenges, the clients also had a strong desire to integrate certain feng shui elements. “Since feng shui is of great interest to the client, he asked for his Fengshui Master to approve the design and layout planning”, Massimo says. In Massimo’s early life, he fortunately explored Buddhism and had therefore gotten a broad understanding of Chinese philosophy. Massimo used this know-

ledge to create a smooth communication between architectural principles and feng shui theories. “The design was favored by the Fengshui Master as it accommodates the client’s preoccupation with feng shui, harmonizing wind and water. There is total integration, just as the project as a whole is assimilated with Mercurio Design Lab’s building design, interior, architecture, decoration, furnishings and art works”, Massimo continues. From the outside, one really notices the massive windows that are fully integrated into the curved facades – presenting the contractors

with a very demanding task. At the same time, the windows also represent an aesthetic challenge. “I love symbology and Mistral has a story to tell that begins on the outside where its forms and its landscaping blend together to generate an integrated whole which extends to the interiors. Here, the interior architecture, the materials and the planning – not to mention the customize artworks and other decorative elements – all work together to generate unique narratives. The structure of Mistral sets the tone for defying the monotone box. It is not supposed to look

exactly like all the other buildings. Designers must be open to do unusual work; to inspire and mimic other objects, and create things that go literally beyond the box”, Massimo concludes. Villa Mistral is over four levels, including a large entertainment room in the basement. Dining, dry kitchen and living are on the entry level, while the second level consists of bedrooms and a roof terrace overlooking the canal.

Architecture by **Mercurio Design Lab**

Photography by **CI&A Photography**



Words of the Week



“

What is contemporary architecture? As you may already know, our motto is to be »restlessly dedicated to contemporary living«. But, what does it actually mean? Some of you may also know that contemporary architecture is defined as the architecture of the 21st century. However, it is very difficult to point towards a specific architectural style, since contemporary architecture can be expressed in various ways. Personally, I most of all consider the type of lifestyle and the thoughts put into the house. I usually ask myself: Is the house responding to current and near-future trends and needs? Does the house challenge the norms and propose innovation? By reading through this week's issue, you may have noticed that there is no real consistency in terms of the visual aesthetic between the projects. They are different – they look different. This is the point I wanted to show and celebrate; that contemporary architecture is diverse. I sincerely believe it is the diversity in ideas – in visual expression and technology – that can innovate the way we live.

I really hope you enjoyed this week's e-Magazine, and I really appreciate that you support our work. With your support, we will be able to offer even more. So thank you! Have a great weekend and see you again next Friday!



CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

