

Celebrating the best of the best
Interior Design Awards special edition

bellie

Romantic
Rebellious
gardens

FRENCH
DISPATCH
*The Paris fair's
top 40*

STATESIDE
STYLE

Kelly Wearstler
MARTYN
LAWRENCE
BULLARD
Jonathan Adler

The
beauty
of home

REVEALING OUR MOST SPECTACULAR RESIDENCES

This page Despite the use of robust materials throughout the home, the interiors exude an undeniable warmth. In the sitting room, a vintage Planet floor lamp stands next to a 'Söderhamn' sofa from Ikea, while full-height translucent curtains soften the material palette providing privacy and allowing natural light to flood the space. "By reducing the footprint to what is necessary rather than creating large expanses of lightweight cladding and plasterboard, the budget could be redirected towards the creation of a passive home. Authentic materials and construction techniques meant budgets were not spent on trends and illusions," says Sarah.



RUXTON RISE

Studiofour

PURSUING A MINIMALIST aesthetic, Studiofour created a sense of "simplicity, openness and honesty" in this home with quality materials all selected to age beautifully. *What was the brief?* Sarah Henry (right): When it came time to build a house for my family, as a director of Studiofour it was an opportunity to realise many of the concepts, materials and details Annabelle (co-director) and I have been developing as a design studio. We were able to use a raw and honest palette, and test different materials such as the tadelakt to the wet areas. Essentially, we wanted to create a little bit of something precious rather than a lot of something mediocre. *What were the challenges and how did you resolve them?* Annabelle Berryman: On this relatively small site, our challenge was to design a home that achieves a high level of built program, a strong landscape presence and privacy. Descending from the street front down a narrow stair, the internal garden is unveiled as you enter the building. The house envelops the central garden, connecting all internal living spaces, and turning the experience of the home from inside to out. The deep fascia to the courtyard blocks out neighbouring houses while maintaining views to the significant cedar trees beyond. At an intimate scale, the building form is notched out next to the main living space, to incorporate the existing Himalayan cedar tree, its

vast size a key contrast to the scale of the home. SH: By reducing the footprint to what is necessary and by relying on authentic, honest materials and construction techniques, the budget could be redirected towards the creation of a passive home, minimising ongoing costs, both environmental and financial. *How would you describe the completed interior?* AB: The home isn't over-scaled or ostentatious, but instead focuses on the private, unpretentious and sustainable. This house highlights what you can achieve on a small site, without compromising space. The result is an uncomplicated design that embraces honesty, simplicity, privacy, warmth, clean air and an abundance of natural light. *What are some of your favourite elements?* AB: The internal garden is not only the heart and focus of the building but allows its inhabitants to synchronise themselves with their surrounding natural environment, and reconnect with the undulation of the day and the restorative power of sunlight. The landscape, and its movement and shadows, provides a calming effect that permeates the whole house. *How do you use the space?* SH: The planning of the home was designed to lead to longer conversations, more intimate memories and closer relationships. Staying at home during the recent lockdown has proven that it is restorative, healthy and mindful, and a beautiful place to 'just be'. studiofour.net.au

Photography SHANNON McGRATH

These pages Sliding doors open on to the internal garden, creating a seamless connection between inside and out. In the living room, a custom oregon timber coffee table by Mark Tuckey sits in front of an Objekto 'Paulistano' armchair from Hub. "Our challenge was to design an interior that reflects the integrity of the built fabric, and possesses a level of humility. The focus is on the experience rather than the form, and all importance is placed on this quality of experience rather than any visual statement. Materials and building techniques were selected for their honesty, as well as their ability to patinate over time, as it is important a house gets more beautiful as it ages. The house exemplifies the absence of what is not necessary, in both building form and detail," says Sarah.





This page All living spaces are connected to the central courtyard, demonstrating a union of interior design, architecture and landscape design. Opposite page, from top In the kitchen CH20 'Elbow' chairs by Hans Wegner from Cult are tucked under a custom table by Studiofour and made by Mark Tuckey. Ceramics from HK Living, bowls by Mark Tuckey and a linen tea towel from Abode. On the bench sits a 'Frankie' linen bag from Cultiver. Topos 'Line' series wall light by Giannis Topizapoulos from Hub. "Early in the design phase, it was decided that my existing coffee table, made from solid oregon, would inform the combined island bench and dining table, to provide extra warmth and contrast to the grey concrete floors and walls throughout. Additional furniture pieces were then chosen to offset this language," says Sarah.





This page "The house envelops the central garden, a space that connects all internal living spaces and the design enables everyone to enjoy the house together, while providing subtle layers of separation and privacy," says Annabelle. In the master bedroom, a custom larch timber bed by Studiofour is positioned beneath a generous window that frames a picturesque floral display in the garden. On the bedside table and windowsill sit sculptures by David Umemoto. Opposite page, clockwise from top The exterior of the house sets the scene for the materials palette used throughout the home. Staying on theme with the understated colour scheme, tadelakt has been applied to the walls of the bathroom offering an organic, textural counterpoint to the room's otherwise sleek and minimal lines. A linen towel from Made & More hangs on a custom steel shelf.

