

enki

FOR
MODERN
LIVING

THE HOME OF DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE

SUSTAINABLE
LIVING



new adventures





MIND OVER
MATTER

The family home of this architect explores how considered design can incite mindful and minimal living

Photography Shannon McGrath





It would be naive to suggest that the architectural world doesn't sometimes fall prey to the pressures of social media trends, as this powerful movement continues to gather momentum. However, it is distinctly probable that the buildings which will make the deepest impression, and the homes that will spark the most joy, are those that look beyond the physical. The architects at Melbourne-based Studiofour pride themselves on their philosophy – one favours a holistic approach to design with a focus on creating spaces that promote minimal and mindful living. No better is this illustrated than in the new home of the firm's co-director Sarah Henry. "This was an opportunity to realise many of the concepts, materials and details that we have been developing as a studio over the past few years," she explains. Rather than layering the home with design experiments, there was a strict commitment to paring back and honing in on the essentials. There is a purposeful exploration of the boundary between what we want, and what we need. "By reducing the footprint to what is necessary, the budget could be redirected towards the creation of a Passive home," Sarah explains. Paying close attention to sustainability and healthy living throughout the design process was crucial to the formation of a mindful space. No detail went amiss, even the wiring was meticulously planned to minimise electromagnetic fields. The raw, concrete-heavy material palette was left exposed to create a grey-washed setting that is warmed only by wooden accents that draw a connection to the central outdoor courtyard. Translating the metaphysical is no easy feat, but this home does just that as it showcases the ethos of Studiofour with eloquence and a persuasive ease.

"THE REALISATION OF THIS HOME GAVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARE BACK TO THE ESSENTIALS"



A modern interior space with large windows, a wooden coffee table, and olive trees in the foreground. The room features a minimalist aesthetic with light-colored walls and a white floor. A large window with sheer curtains allows natural light to fill the space. In the foreground, several olive trees with green leaves and small dark olives are planted in a gravel bed. The overall atmosphere is bright and airy.

HOME PROFILE

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

A contemporary take on the Beaumaris mid-century home is centred around a tranquil courtyard that connects to all internal spaces via a stackable sliding glass door system that lines its perimeter. Internally, the concrete covered spaces are open to encourage social interaction and community.

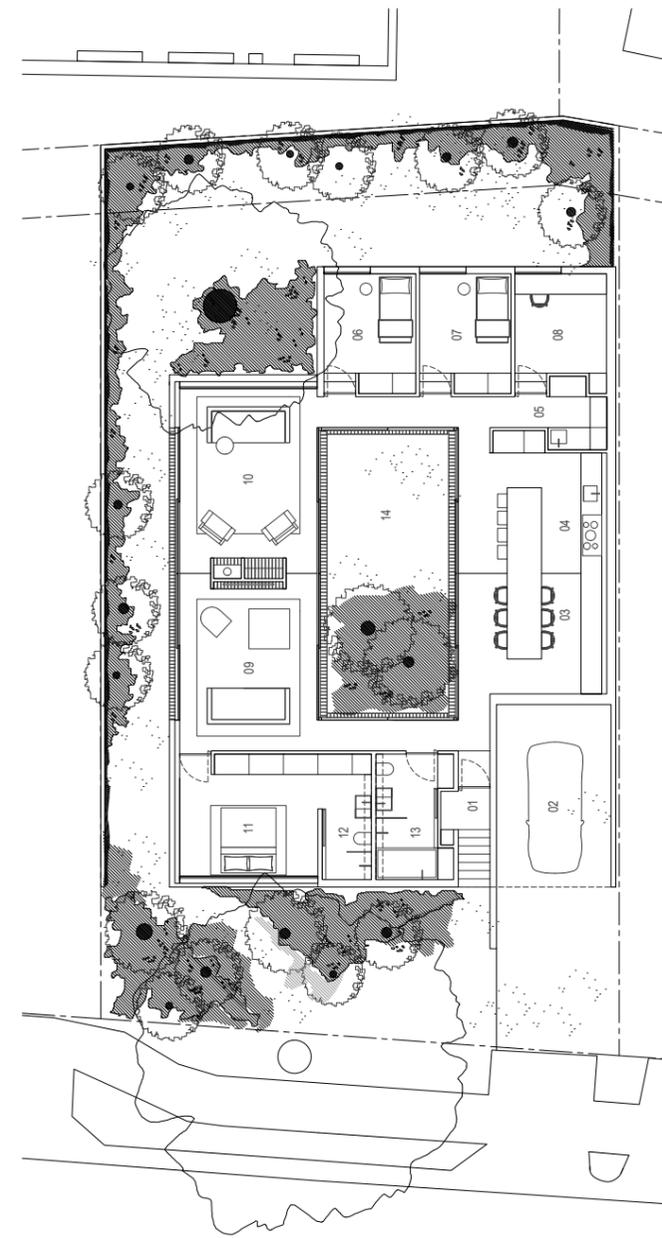
LOCATION

Melbourne's bayside
Beaumaris, Australia

BUILD TIME

10 months





"MINIMALISM WAS AN OUTCOME OF OUR STANCE ON SUSTAINABILITY"

Passive design principles helped to inform design decisions that would create a healthy living space for Sarah and her family. This house has no VOC emission thanks to the use of natural materials, honest construction and considered light and ventilation. While these costs may seem big upfront, in the long run, financial and environmental costs will be significantly minimised



"THE FOCUS WAS ON THE EXPERIENCE
RATHER THAN THE FORM"

MEET THE ARCHITECT

Studiofour
Sarah Henry and Annabelle Berryman
are co-directors at Studiofour

How did you integrate your core values into the design?

AB The focus was on the experience rather than the form and all importance was placed on this rather than any visual statement. Minimalism was not directly pursued as an aesthetic, but rather as an outcome to our stance on sustainability. Our strategy is to always ensure only the essential spaces are provided and in this project our goal was to utilise minimal materials and energy in both the construction and life span of the home.

What role did the courtyard play?

SH The internal garden is not only the heart and focus of the building, but it allows us to synchronise ourselves with the surrounding natural environment and reconnect with the undulation of the day and restorative power of sunlight.

Was it important to leave structural elements of the home exposed?

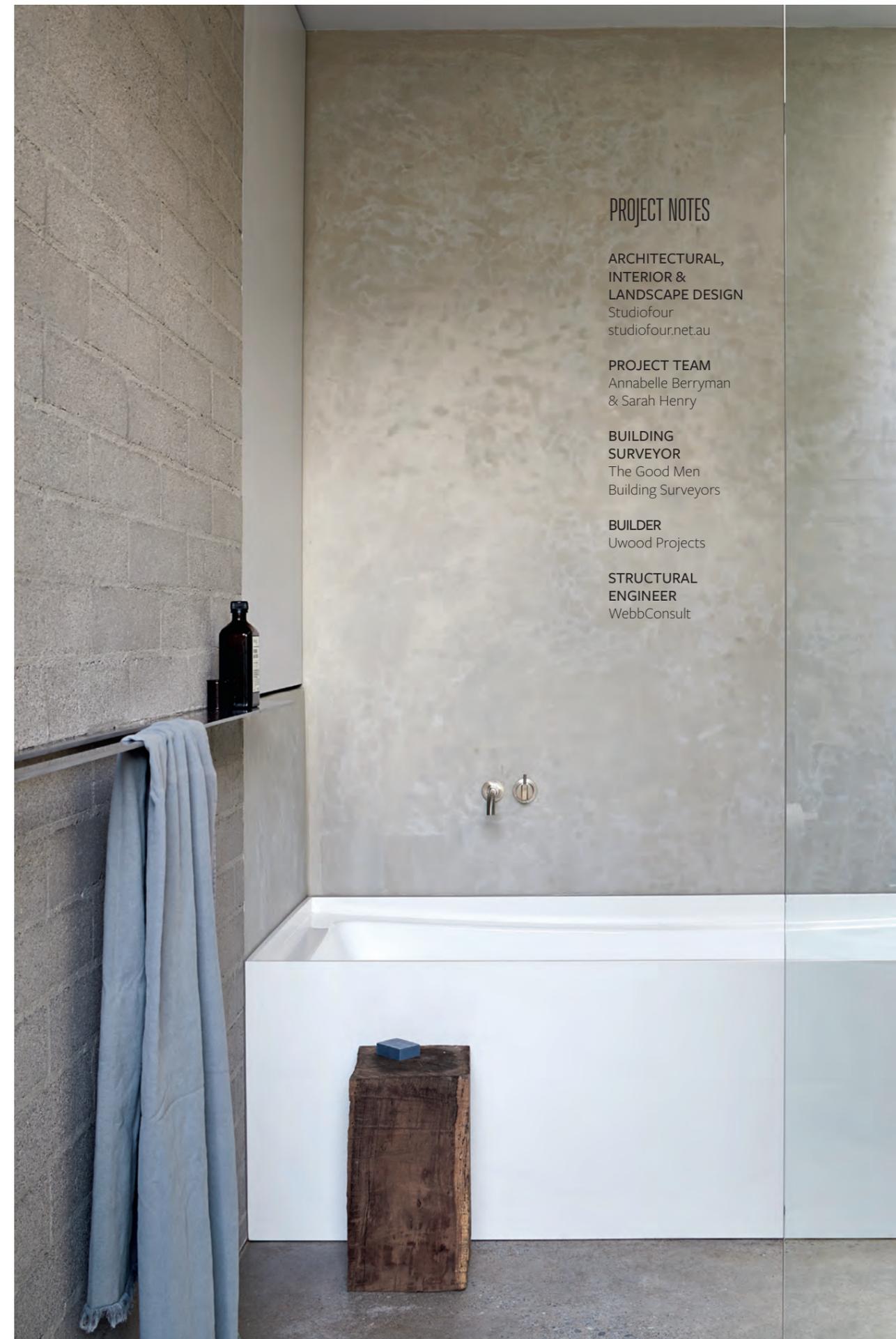
AB The simplicity of the structure was mindfully exposed and the natural materials such as the concrete floors and bricks became the backdrop to create a sense of openness, simplicity and honesty.

What inspired your material palette?

AB Concrete bricks were selected as the key building material, not only could they provide the structural retention required, but they could be carried inside to provide the texture and subtlety required for an otherwise monochrome palette.

SH Early in the design phase we decided that our existing coffee table made from solid oregon would inform the combined island and dining table and help provide extra warmth and texture to the grey concrete floors and walls throughout.

The bathrooms presented another opportunity for enquiry as the studio experimented with the use of tadelakt which is a waterproof plaster with origins in Moroccan architecture



PROJECT NOTES

**ARCHITECTURAL,
INTERIOR &
LANDSCAPE DESIGN**
Studiofour
studiofour.net.au

PROJECT TEAM
Annabelle Berryman
& Sarah Henry

**BUILDING
SURVEYOR**
The Good Men
Building Surveyors

BUILDER
Uwood Projects

**STRUCTURAL
ENGINEER**
WebbConsult