

CENTRE STAGE

Life at this lovely Sunshine Coast home revolves around a central courtyard, which guarantees light, a sense of spaciousness and privacy too.

STORY & STYLING KATE NIXON | PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER

Vertical plantings make a feature alongside the pool. Pool by Baldwin Pools. Butterfly chair from Add+ Noosa. **OPPOSITE** The sitting room opens onto the internal courtyard, extending the living space. Rattan chairs and Thai rain drums (used as side tables), cushions made from African mud cloth, small ottomans covered in African mud cloth, sofa covered in Westbury Textiles Benelux Belgian Linen, coffee table/ottoman covered in Nique Fabrics waxed linen, and rug, all from Add+ Noosa. Le Corbusier chaise longue. For Where to Buy, see page 220.



Inspired ideas

The building materials used in this home are simple and pure. The exterior is constructed from western red cedar, as is the wall cladding and screens. "We stayed very restrained and subtle as our planning strategy," says architect Richard Kirk. "All the finishes, including the timber, zinc and self-finished oxide render will weather naturally and improve their appearance over time, allowing the house to merge with the landscape."



If you could conjure up an ideal home, simple yet appealing to a range of buyers, what would it look like? Just like this, according to the happy owners of this property, part of a boutique subdivision at Noosa on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

Designed by Richard Kirk, one of several high-profile architects asked to devise a three-bedroom freestanding dwelling for the ambitious Elysium Noosa development, this home embodies easy living. It was snapped up soon after completion by a well-travelled couple who had lived in Asia and appreciated the easy flow of the home.

"The whole house works from front to back," says one of the owners. "We use both courtyards – the entertaining area with banquette at the rear is great for dining, and the central courtyard for quiet contemplation with a scotch or a cup of tea."

The home is situated on a ridge along the western edge of the development and fronts onto a landscaped strip with views to a golf course beyond. With no brief other than to "produce a three-bedroom design that was flexible and readily occupiable by a range of prospective owners," the architects enjoyed a great sense of freedom. ➤



ABOVE A high-sided island bench separates the galley-style kitchen from the living area. Joinery in New Guinea rosewood. Rug from Add+ Noosa. **BELOW** Amy the lurcher chills out in the shade of the internal courtyard. Traditional Thai rain drums are used as side tables and matched with contemporary rattan chairs and a cushion made from African mud cloth, all from Add+ Noosa. **OPPOSITE** In the dining area, the clean lines of modern-designer furniture reflect the geometry of the architecture. Eero Saarinen dining table, Bruno dining chairs, hurricane lanterns and table lamp, all from Add+ Noosa. **For Where to Buy, see page 220.**



‘Rather than discrete rooms, I wanted the whole ground plane to be a series of living spaces that linked visually and physically.’ RICHARD KIRK

This is the life

Individual living areas might seem a little old fashioned in design terms, but sliding walls create ultimate flexibility and an ultra modern context. “The house works from front to back in six distinct areas, four internally and two externally,” says Warren. “The guest accommodation being so self contained makes it easy when friends and family come to stay, and for outdoor entertaining, there’s the rear terrace with the barbecue, banquette seating and pool deck, and the central courtyard which is used more for pre-dinner drinks and chilling out.”

< “We basically looked at the attributes of the site and designed a central outdoor courtyard space that the house would surround,” says Richard. “It had to be simple, flexible. My idea of what an ideal house would be.”

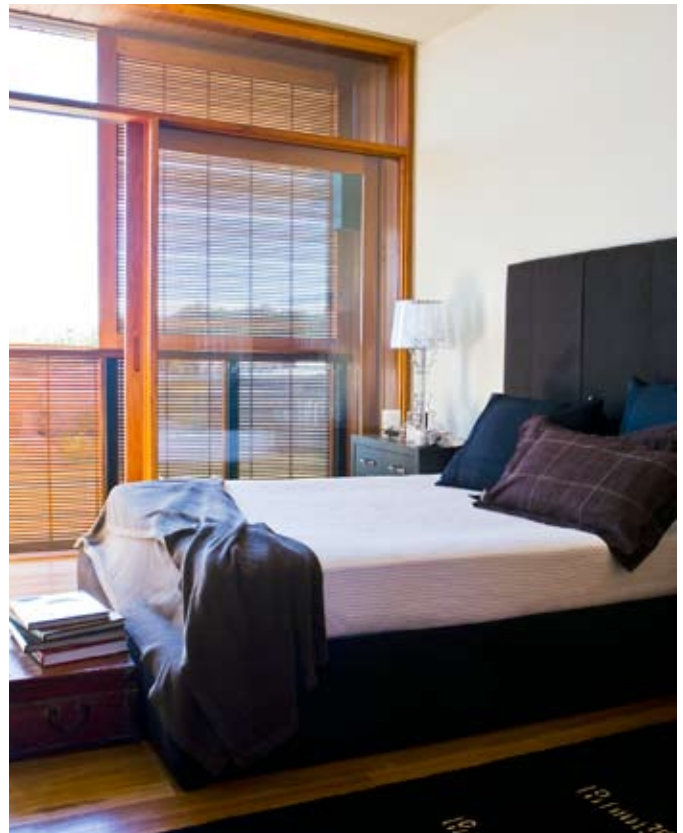
A restrained palette of largely natural and self-finishing materials was selected – timber, stone and zinc – while great rigour was applied to the planning, to ensure depth was brought to the internal spaces. A home that engaged with the outdoors while maintaining privacy was also essential.

The entire house was built around a double-height internal courtyard, which directs light and ventilation through all of the internal spaces. With the garage situated below ground level, all of the ground-floor living spaces connect easily, enjoying clear sightlines and abundant natural light.

To the left of the entrance lies a breezy sitting room with banks of windows and a sliding cavity door that opens onto the courtyard. “We designed an operable fabric roof over the central courtyard so that, although clearly an outdoor space, it also has the quality of being an interior environment,” says Richard. >



ABOVE A 19th-century Japanese *kura* door was converted into a coffee table for the living room. Sofa and rug from Add+ Noosa. Vintage armchairs. Stools and bust from Africa. White-framed artworks by John Stansfield, unframed artworks by unknown artist. **BELOW LEFT** Bali the Irish wolfhound lounges in the study nook. Chair in Brunswick & Fils Decortex Metropolita. Rug and lamp from Add+ Noosa. Sculptures from Africa. **BELOW RIGHT** The first-floor rooms, including the guestroom, are screened to allow views without compromising privacy. Bed and bedlinen from Add+ Noosa. Lamp from Kartell. **OPPOSITE** The striking main bedroom. Bedhead, coverlet and ottoman in in Westbury Textiles Luxembourg Linen in Midnight. Bed, ottoman, bedside table and lamp, all from Add+ Noosa. **For Where to Buy, see page 220.**



H&G houses

< A hallway continues from the entrance along a double-height gallery into the open-plan kitchen/dining/living area, which wraps around the central void to once again open onto the courtyard via a sliding cavity door. The two living spaces face each other across the courtyard, reinforcing the atrium as the core. A separate butler's pantry and over-size laundry sit behind and off the kitchen. "Rather than discrete rooms, I wanted the whole ground plane to be a series of living spaces linked visually and physically," says Richard.

A travertine-tiled terrace, with a built-in barbecue and banquet seating, opens off the dining area. A 20-metre pool stretches along the boundary, visually connecting all the spaces on the ground floor.

The first-floor accommodation is reached via a staircase down a small corridor near the laundry – two bedrooms and a bathroom to the left and the main bedroom suite to the right. The two wings are split by a mezzanine gallery running around the perimeter of the double-height void overlooking the courtyard and living rooms below. A study nook is

tucked in beside the two bedrooms and, thanks to the voids, there are sightlines through the entire length and width of the house. "No doors, as such, were used in the building, just sliding screens, which was another key aspect to achieving the seamless interior-exterior relationship we intended," says Richard.

When the build was complete, interior designer Warren Naylor of Add+ Noosa was commissioned to furnish the interiors throughout, from rugs to furniture to artwork and soft furnishings. Guided by the open structure and palette of natural materials including timber and travertine, Warren complemented the architecture with antiques sourced from Africa and Asia plus select modern designer pieces.

"Richard gave me a perfect envelope to fill with lovely things," says Warren.

The result is a serene, well-resolved home the owners find very hard to leave.

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BELOW In the main bedroom's ensuite, simple white wall tiles and elegant fittings allow the natural beauty of the New Guinea rosewood joinery and travertine floor tiles to shine. Simas basin from Parisi. Tapware from Hansa. Drum stool from Add+ Noosa. **OPPOSITE** Bordered by the pool and lush garden, the large rear terrace makes a fabulous dining area in fine weather. A built-in barbecue (not seen) means the cook can always be part of the action. Table and sculpture from Add+ Noosa. **For Where to Buy, see page 220.**



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes will allow.

Colour palette

Dulux China White
(interior, throughout)

Add a dash of...

Dulux Yellow Nile

Dulux Deck Crew

Lighter earth tones match the warmth of the timber, while cool blues add a refreshing touch.

'Richard gave me a perfect envelope to fill with lovely things.' WARREN NAYLOR

