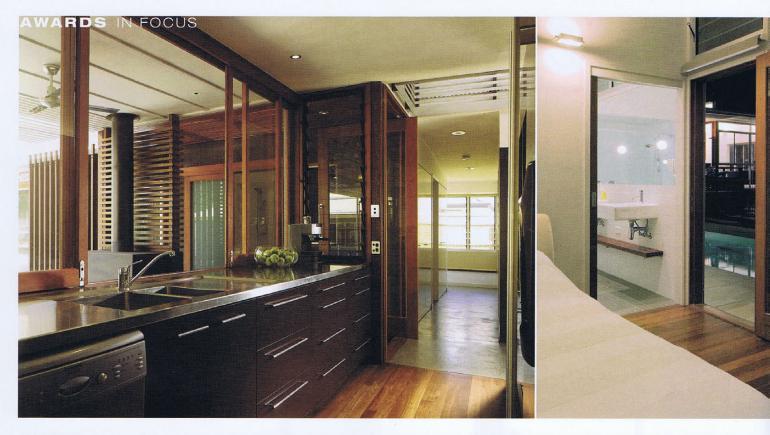




INSERTING A FAMILY HOUSE into a newly subdivided bush setting, in Brisbane's Fig Tree Pocket, presented Bligh Graham Architects with the challenge of finding a built form that would suit a natural environment of significance. Fig Tree Pocket is only ten kilometres from the centre of Brisbane, and is an area noted for its picturesque natural charms. "A main concern was finding the appropriate form for the house in this particular suburban landscape," say the architects. "How could we make the house contextual, as well as deal with it being on a smaller block with close neighbours, in this recent bushland subdivison?"

The strategy was to structure the landscape as a series of stepped terraces and walls, so as to form a new ground for the house to occupy – rather than simply treating it as an object to be dropped into an existing landscape. To achieve this, the envelope of the house has been designed as a series of deck pavilions. "These pavilions grow off and out of the walls, in forms that echo 1960s houses in the area," note the architects. The result is that the house feels spacious and well

THIS PAGE, ABOVE:
The pool forms a focal
point around which
the house is arranged.
LEFT: The landscaped
front entry sequence
has a formal flavour.
RIGHT: The deck
areas have been
conceived as outdoor
rooms, ideal for
enjoying Brisbane's
amenable climate.



ABOVE, LEFT: A change in floor surfaces distinguishes the kitchen from the concreted living spaces. RIGHT: The main bedroom enjoys a view out to the pool. BELOW: While this project emphasises outdoor living, interior spaces such as this moodily-lit dining area are also extremely well resolved.



connected to the environment, even though the interior spaces themselves are quite modest in size. The L-shaped footprint contains the north-facing communal rooms along the main axis and bedrooms along the other.

The pool courtyard forms a focal point around which the whole house is arranged, and is used by the clients as a primary outdoor "room" for family activities and large-scale casual entertaining. A pergola provides shade and shelter, as does the wide eave over the living room deck.

Bligh Graham Architects was keen to imbue this project with a high level of passive thermal comfort and energy efficiency. The building's single-room width ensures excellent cross-ventilation, while high-level louvres further promote cooling air flows, or expel hot air if required. The polished concrete floor in the communal spaces acts as a thermal mass in winter by soaking up the low sun's warmth during the day, and releasing it during the night. The communal spaces face north, and boast generous glazing opening onto a large deck area. H

ARCHITECT
Bligh Graham Architects
3 Dairy Farm
Cedar Creek QLD 4520
Tel: (07) 3289 4566
Fax: (07) 3289 4577
Email:
mail@blighgraham.com.au

PRACTICE PROFILE

Small practice of four people specialising in residential projects.

PROJECT TEAM Chris Bligh, Sonia Graham

BUILDER Fielding Homes

CONSULTANTS
Engineer Bligh Tanner
Interiors Bligh Graham Architects
Lighting Point of View

PRODUCTS

Roofing Stramit Monoclad; James Hardie compressed fibre cement; Ampelite clear polycarbonate External walls Beeser bagged blockwork; Norply stained plywood; James Hardie fibre cement Internal walls Boral plasterboard Windows and doors Bradnams aluminium sliders; Duce timber frames Flooring Boral Karri hardwood strips; Pioneer polished concrete

PHOTOGRAPHY Ian Henderson / Bruce Peebles