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SUNRISE SURPRISE

LEAVING THE CANBERRA CHILL BEHIND THEM FOR PART OF THE YEAR, THESE HOMEOWNERS ARE NOW BASKING IN THE QUEENSLAND SUN, IN THEIR CONTEMPORARY TWO-PAVILION HOLIDAY HOUSE

Words by Danielle Townsend

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You couldn't get two more different climates than Canberra and Queensland. Canberra, the nation's chilly capital, is freezing for at least half of the year, while the further north you head, winter is a very different story, with sunscreen and swimmers rather than coats, scarves and heaters. These homeowners opted to flee the harsh Canberra winter for Queensland's sunshine and warmer climate, and the style of holiday residence they chose to build is in complete contrast to what they are accustomed to back home.

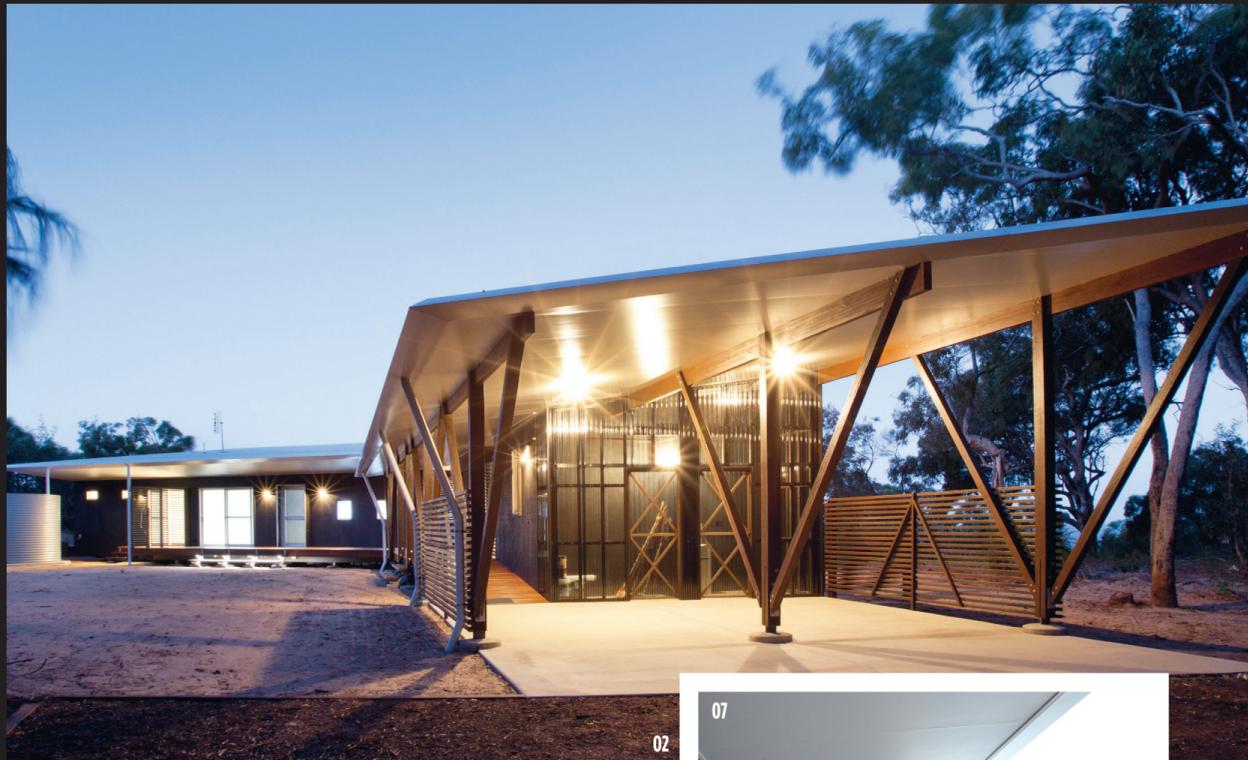
"Our clients are Canberra based, and had limited available time regarding site visits," says Kieran Gibson, director of Agnes Water's Gibson Building. "They were looking for a design and build contract, with complete trust in the design and construction process."

They chose a vacant natural bush-covered block within the gated community of Sunrise Estate, in the Central Queensland tourist town of Agnes Water, and requested a contemporary two-pavilion holiday house incorporating an upside-down truss concept, which they had seen at a previous Gibson Building project.

Their two buildings, which took five months to design, are set over 292 square metres — building number one is 81m², building number two is 41m², the carport is 45m² and the expansive wraparound decks, a Queensland necessity, cover a space of 126m².

Located on top of a ridge overlooking the ocean, this home's design and material choices needed to incorporate the harsh environment. Screw piles were used in lieu of mass concrete at each of the footings to suit the sand foundation type and for speed of construction, which took eight months.

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The estate also has strict height restrictions, in particular, the roof had to be below the treetop maximum height. The ridgetop ocean view and the application of the upside-down truss with large column-free overhangs was a perfect match, and inspired the design. The couple's upside-down truss concept was utilised for the main pavilion, while a sandwich-panel roof featured on the second pavilion. Triangular perimeter roof flashing was applied for its distinctive look.

"The meeting and overlap points of the two roof types plus the custom flashing is a feature rather than just a meeting of the roofs," says Kieran, of his favourite part of the design.

The lightweight timber frame throughout the three-bedroom, two-bathroom design suits the climate very well. The spotted gum decking areas with stainless-steel wire balustrading are zoned with regard to protection from the weather, depending on use. The climate really suits indoor/outdoor

living, so the home is strongly connected to its outside areas, thanks to the equal deck-to-floor area. The striking shapes of the exterior are shadow-clad ply with charcoal-coloured UltraDeck, while internally, the walls are painted plasterboard. AWS aluminium windows and external doors invite a connection between the indoor and outdoor spaces.

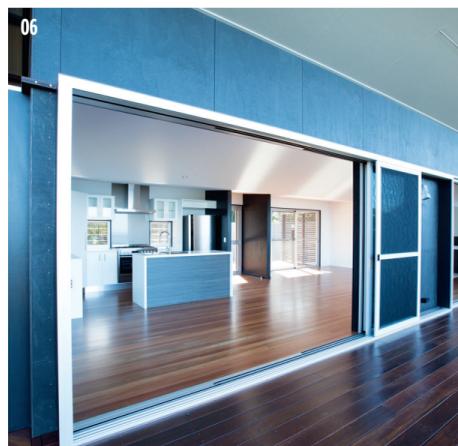
Heading inside, the spotted gum tongue-and-groove timber floors work considerably well with the deck, while the kitchen features Laminex-finished joinery, and contemporary bathroom fixtures are from Reece.

Now, when winter hits Canberra, the homeowners just have to pack their bags and head up the East Coast to escape to their own holiday house, with their personal touches incorporated into its design. ■

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01 An impressive array of contours, this home features diverse roofing styles

02 The roof top of this home had to meet requirements to sit below the treetop maximum height

03 The contemporary kitchen features spotted gum tongue and groove flooring and Laminex-finished joinery

04 A sleek bathroom offers luxurious contemporary living

05 A spotted gum deck and stainless-steel wire balustrading look out to the ocean

06 The home is strongly connected to its outdoor areas via large sliding doors

07 The upside down truss roofing meets the sandwich panel roofing creating a visual feature



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