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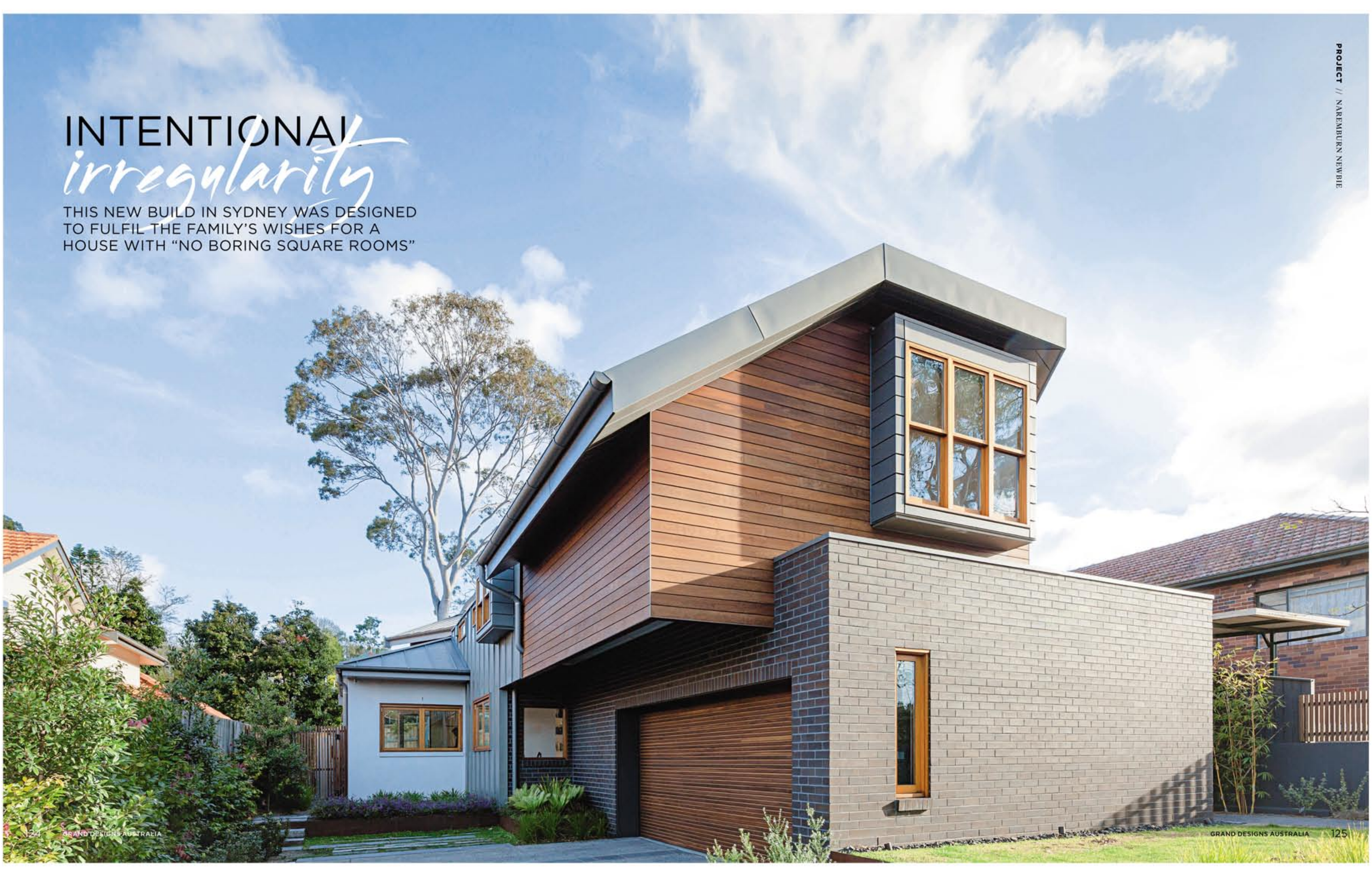
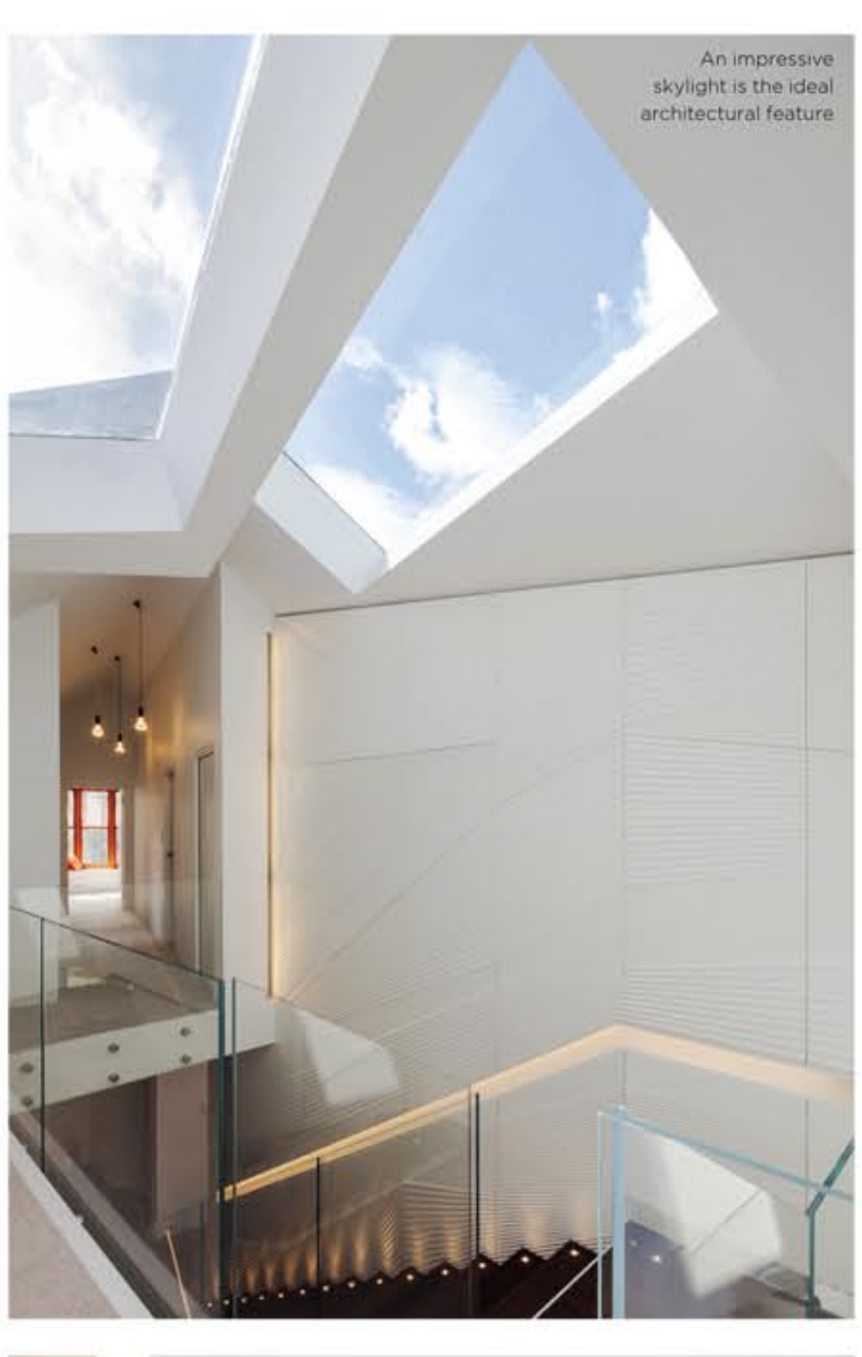


INTENTIONAL *irregularity*

THIS NEW BUILD IN SYDNEY WAS DESIGNED TO FULFIL THE FAMILY'S WISHES FOR A HOUSE WITH "NO BORING SQUARE ROOMS"



An impressive skylight is the ideal architectural feature

Strip lighting brings a modern vibe to the open space

Details
HOUSE NAREMBURN NEWBIE
LOCATION NAREMBURN, SYDNEY
COST $2.5 MILLION
DATE STARTED JANUARY 2012
DATE COMPLETED AUGUST 2013

> "THE ARCHITECTURE FEATURES A SERIES OF OVERLAPPING VOLUMES AND SURFACES THAT ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER BY A PROGRAMMATIC FLOW AROUND THE STAIRWELL" — MELONIE BAYL-SMITH

WORDS // PENNY CRASWELL
PHOTOGRAPHY // KATHERINE LU

Three design concepts underpin this new home in Naremburn on Sydney's lower North Shore. Commissioned by owners Rachel and Rupert Haines, one of the key instructions in the brief was for there to be "no boring square rooms". In response to this, the first concept is intentional irregularity. The second also relates to unusual geometries, but this time in a playful approach to the roof. And the third is a striking double-height feature wall in the stairwell made of sculpted Corian along with what the architects have dubbed the "De-Form Wall".

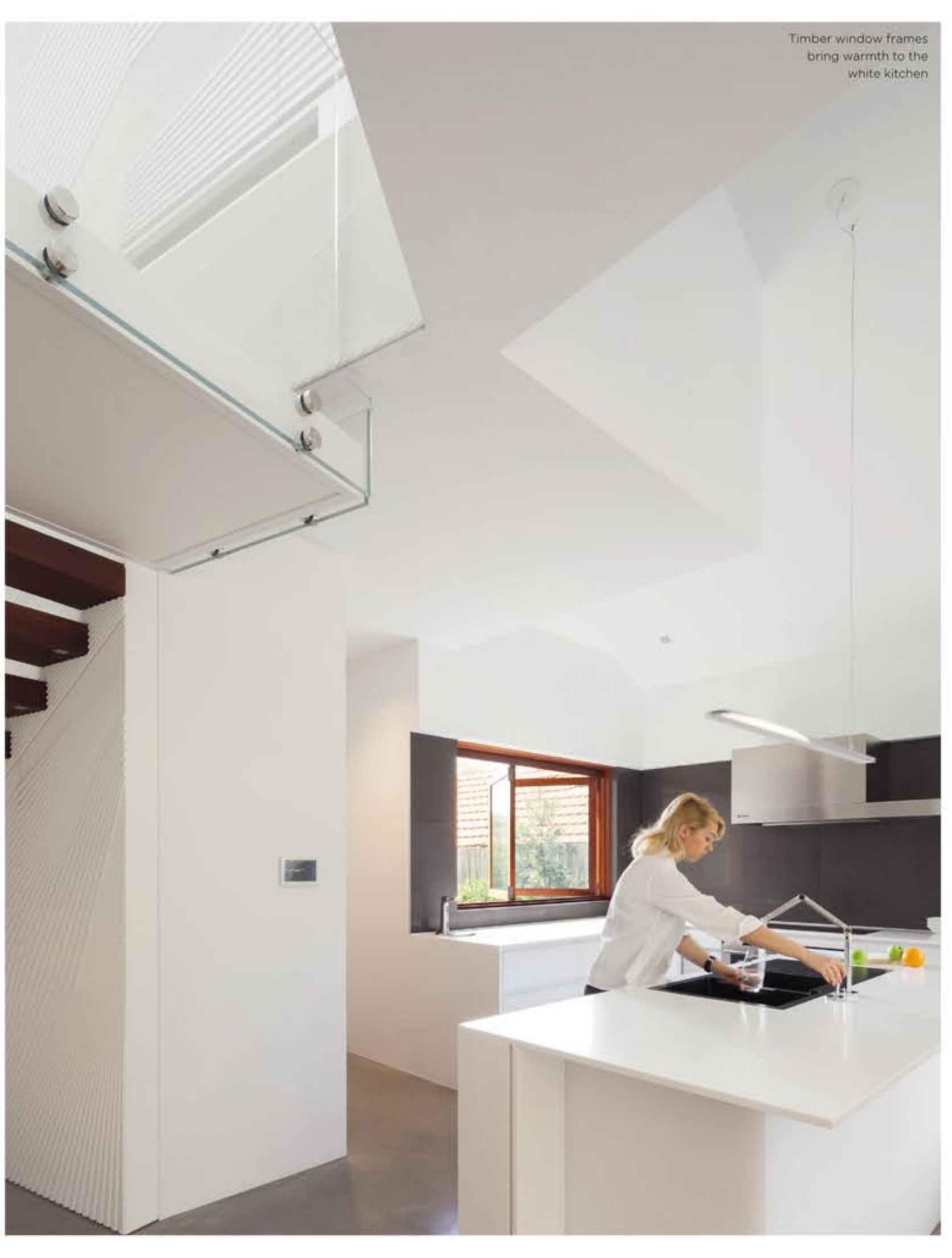
The owners were very clear in their initial briefing to Bijl Architecture. They wanted light-filled spaces, no two rooms the same, a robust house and a place to "live long". Bijl's Melonie Bayl-Smith and Vanessa Tang-Lee took up the challenge with aplomb, creating a house that is constantly surprising and architecturally innovative, yet simple and harmonious without compromising on liveability.

"The architecture features a series of overlapping volumes and surfaces that are brought together by a programmatic flow around the stairwell," says Melonie. "Alongside this, the floor plates of the building fold and shift. This allowed us to properly leverage the unique features of the site, providing environmental benefits and design integration opportunities."

Architectural interest can be found in every room, from unusual angles in the line of a ceiling and the placement of a window to bold strokes of strip lighting that cross the main living space. Outside, the roof is the hero, particularly at the front and side of the home's exterior. The contemporary roof line at the back is contrasted with a Dutch gable-inspired roof at the front and a zinc roof at the side that extends what's known as a cat's slide roof down the wall to the ground, wrapping the building in zinc.

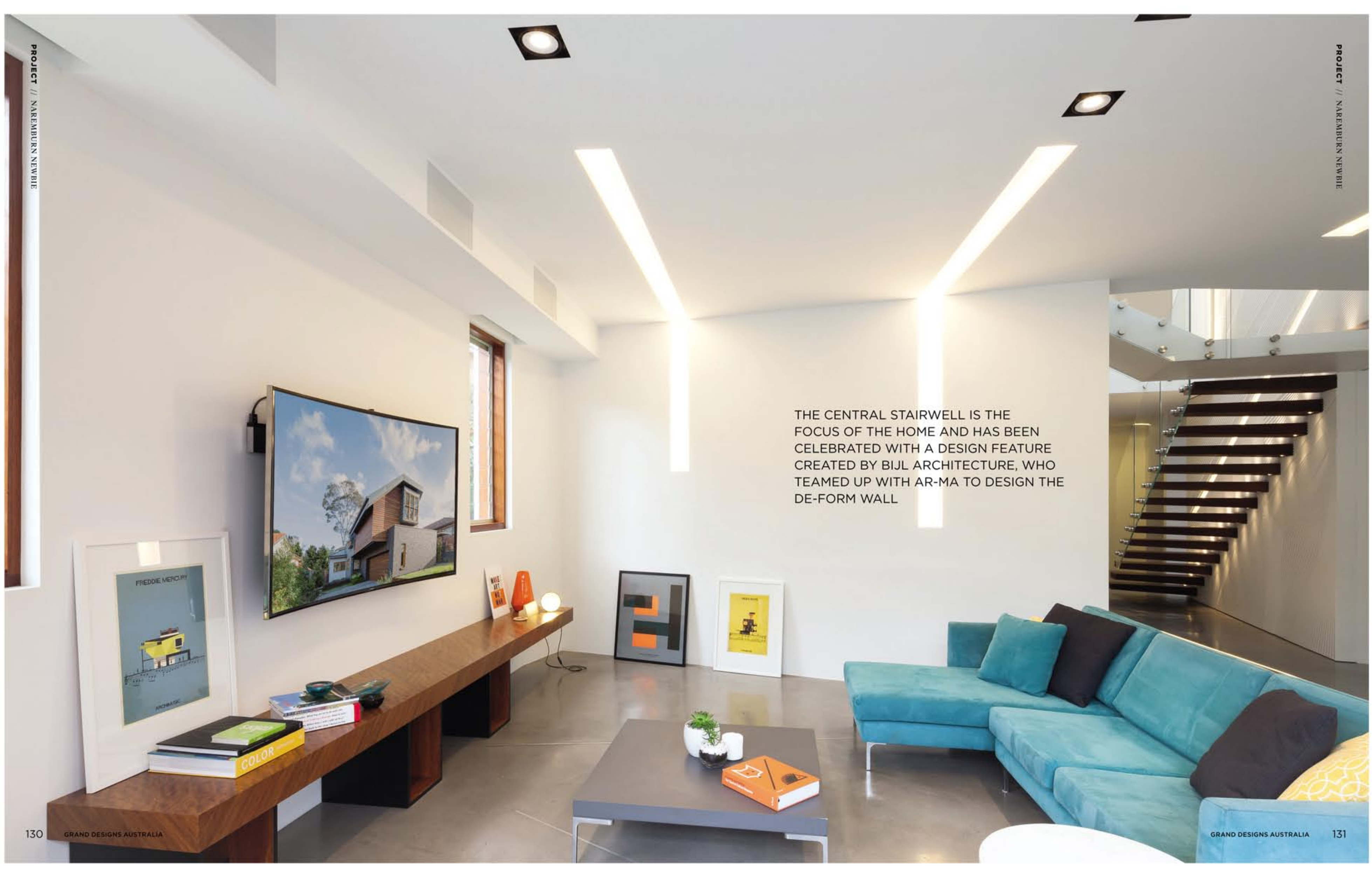
Despite architect Melonie's Dutch heritage (Bijl means "axe" or "cut" in Dutch), the Dutch gable at the front of the house was not chosen for this reason. "While it originates from Dutch farmhouses, the Dutch gable roof is a typical feature of Federation period dwellings — the era that characterises Naremburn," explains Melonie. "It also creates an interesting geometry that could be more easily manipulated than a standard gable or double-gable front roof."

This manipulation allowed the architects to reduce the bulk of the building at the street front to bring it in line with the neighbouring homes. "By reinterpreting traditional roof forms, we have been able to create a dialogue with the existing suburban context through scale and proportion while establishing a contemporary aesthetic," says Melonie.

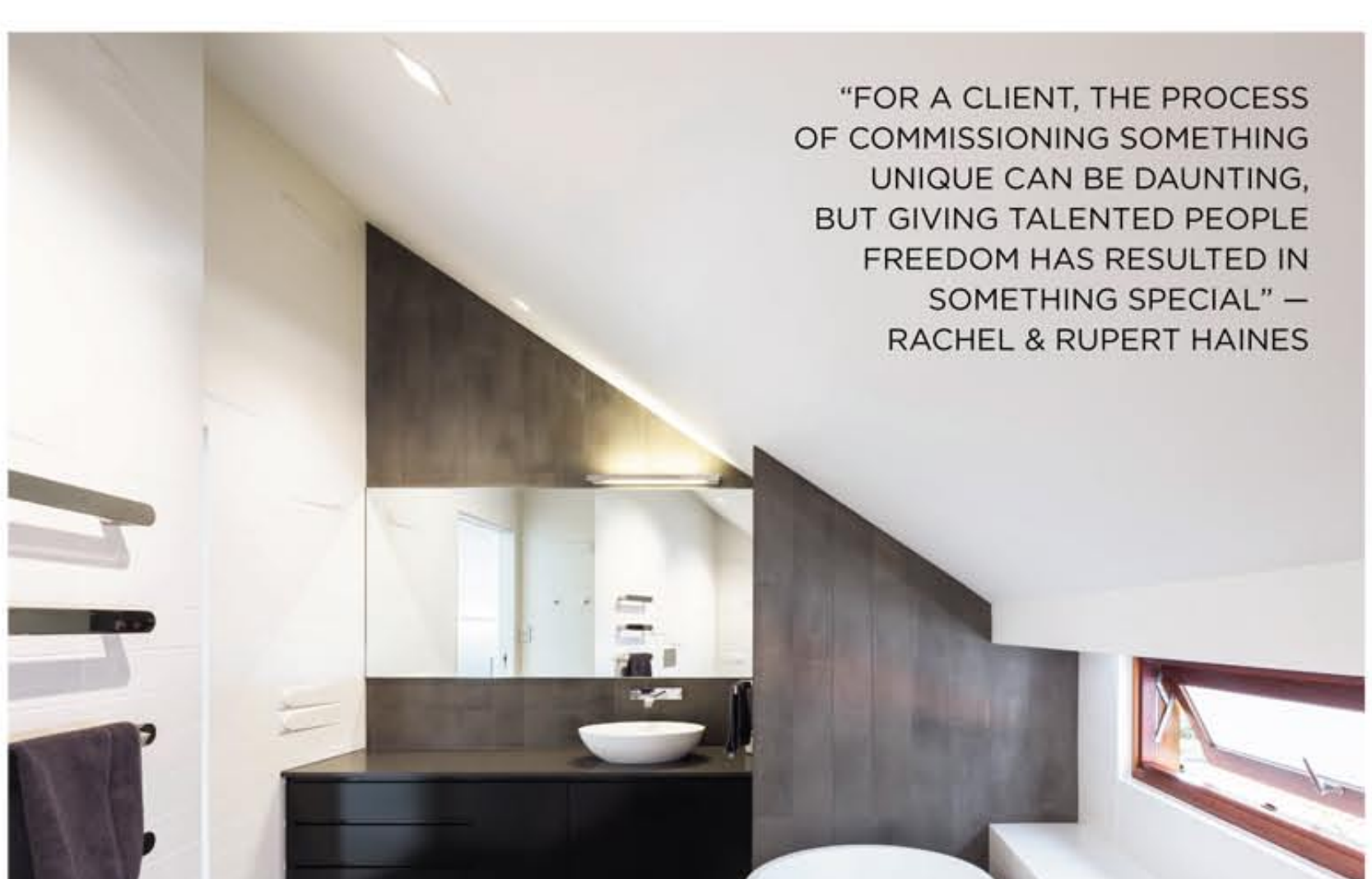


Timber window frames bring warmth to the white kitchen

WE LOVE THE USE OF GLASS, WHICH FUSES THE CONNECTION BETWEEN INDOORS AND OUT



THE CENTRAL STAIRWELL IS THE FOCUS OF THE HOME AND HAS BEEN CELEBRATED WITH A DESIGN FEATURE CREATED BY BIJL ARCHITECTURE, WHO TEAMED UP WITH AR-MA TO DESIGN THE DE-FORM WALL



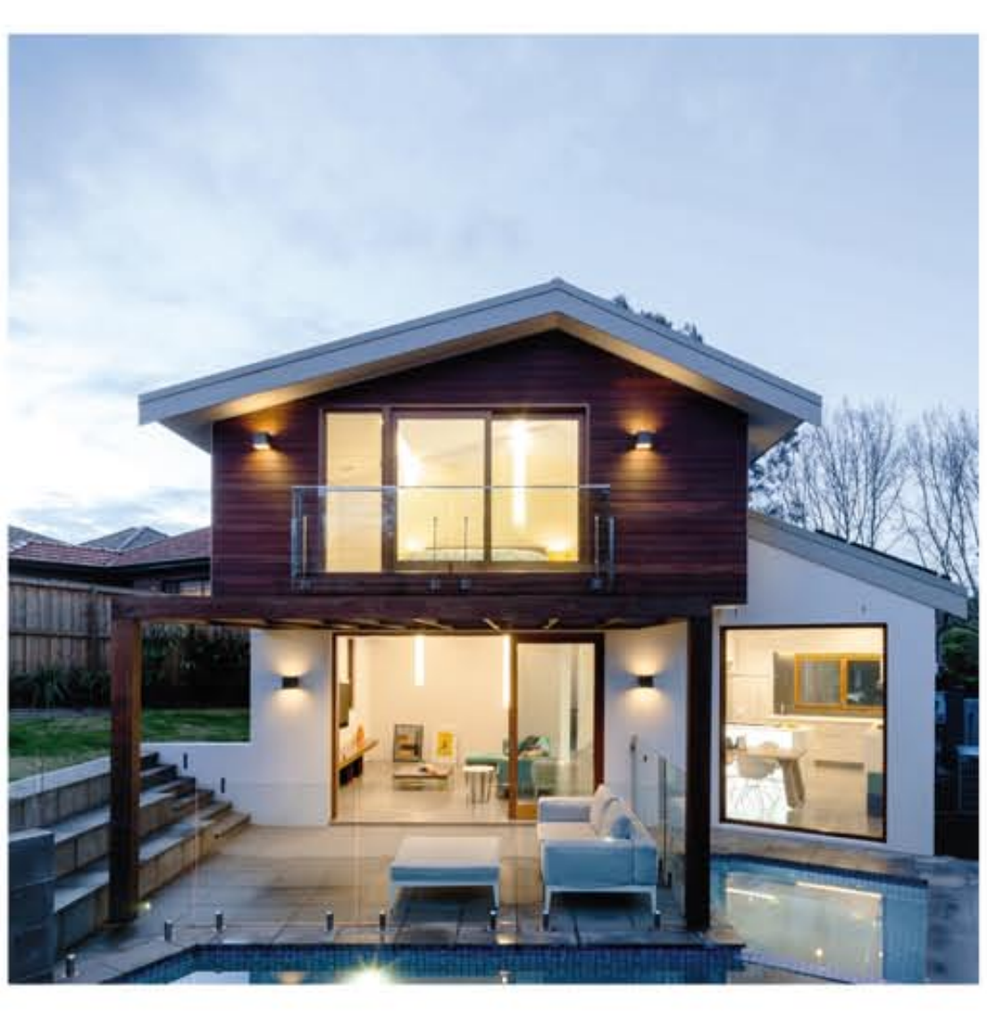
> "FOR A CLIENT, THE PROCESS OF COMMISSIONING SOMETHING UNIQUE CAN BE DAUNTING, BUT GIVING TALENTED PEOPLE FREEDOM HAS RESULTED IN SOMETHING SPECIAL" — RACHEL & RUPERT HAINES

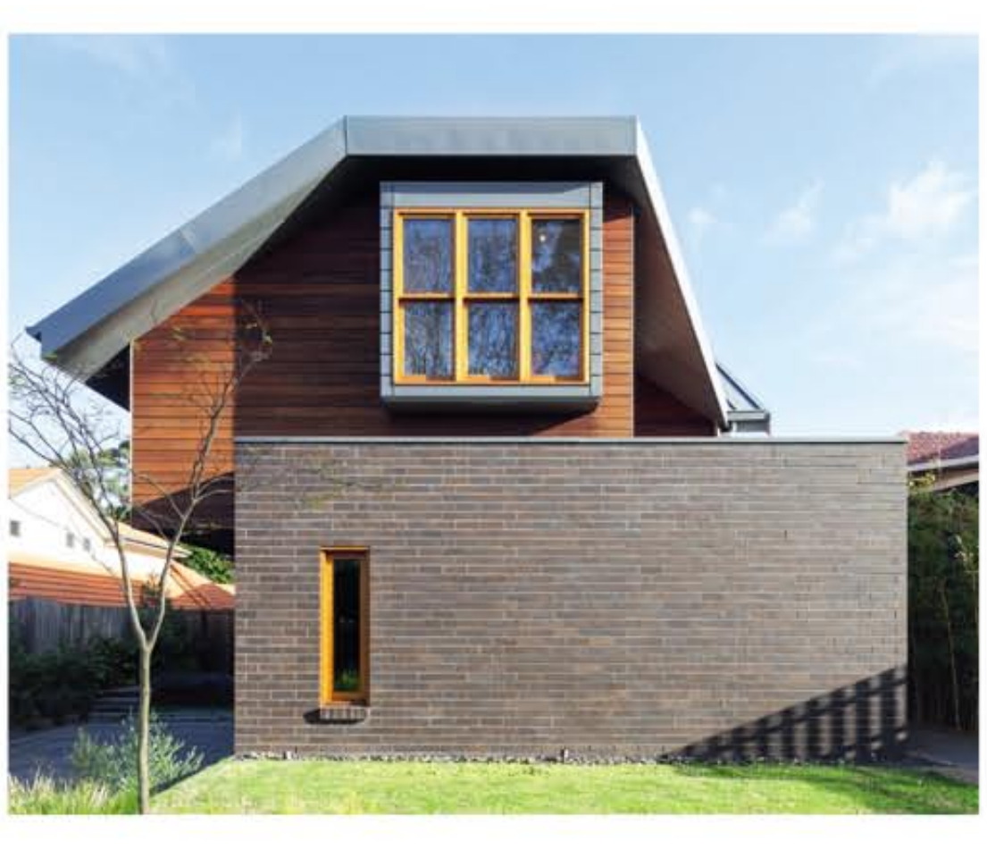
The central stairwell is the focus of the home and has been celebrated with a design feature created by Bijl Architecture, who teamed up with AR-MA to design the De-Form Wall. Providing the backdrop to a cantilevered stair over two storeys, the wall is made up of a series of digitally fabricated Corian panels. Corian was selected as the choice material after a process of research, development and prototyping with a CNC router used to create the patterning, which was inspired by the local topography. Meanwhile, two skylights bathe the wall with brightness during the day, while lighting in the recessed handrail creates a glowing effect at night.

For the owners, taking a risk with the architecture has been an ultimately rewarding experience. "For a client, the process of commissioning something unique can be daunting, but giving talented people freedom has resulted in something special," report homeowners Rachel and Rupert. The architects have been given the freedom to realise a creative vision in a multifaceted design that proves the power of architecture to surprise and delight, while providing a functional and comfortable family home for the long term.

An in-built fireplace is a functional design feature perfect for cosy winter nights

There's plenty of room to sit back and devour a good read



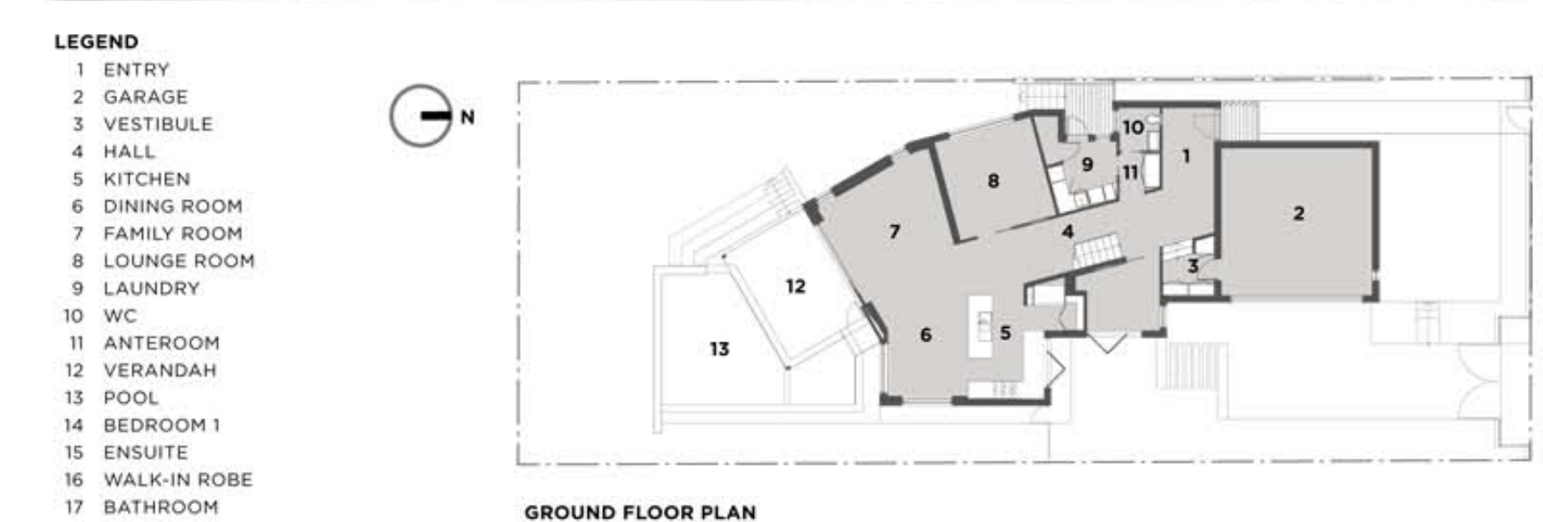


Project team
Architect and interior design Bijl Architecture (02 9958 7950 *bijlarchitecture.com.au*)
Builder Stuart Wilson Constructions *stuartwilsonconstructions.com*

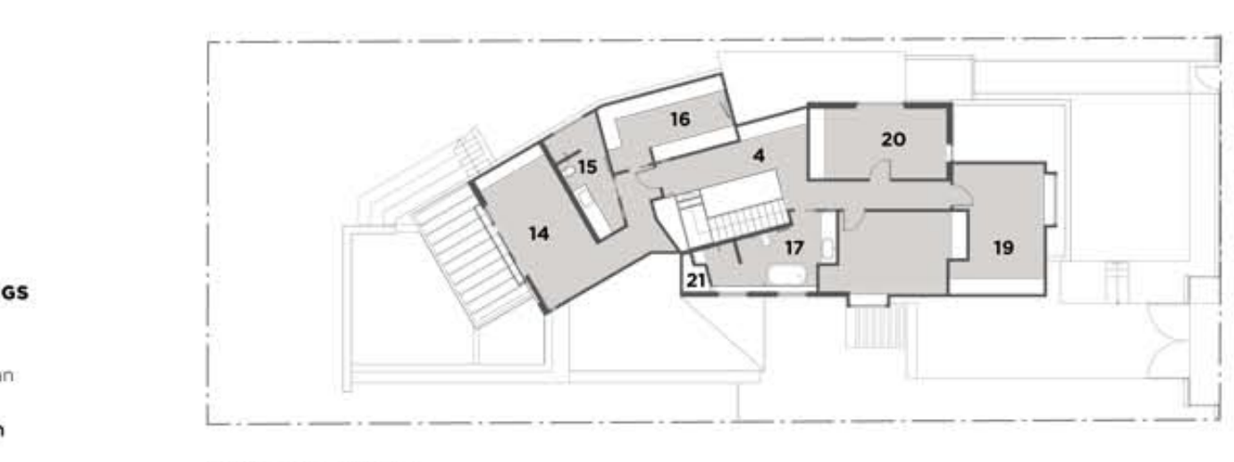
SERVICES
Landscape consultant Melissa Wilson Landscape Architects (*melissawilson.com.au*)
Structural consultant Engineering & Design Group (*engineeringdesigngroup.com.au*)
De-Form Wall design AR-MA and Bijl Architecture (*ar-ma.net; bijlarchitecture.com.au*)
Stormwater engineering YSCO Geomatics (*yscogeomatics.com.au*)

MATERIALS
Walls Austral Bricks (*australbricks.com.au*)
Spotted Gum timber boarding Woodform Architectural (*woodformarch.com*)
Rendered masonry VMZINC (*vmzinc.com.au*)
Roof, standing seam roof sheeting, guttering, downpipes and fascias VMZINC (*vmzinc.com.au*)
Front door Axolotl (*axolotl.com.au*)
Pavers and stone Eco Outdoor (*ecooutdoor.com.au*)
Pool contractor Premier Pools (*premierpools.com.au*)
Landscaper Manna Landscapes (*mannalandscapes.com.au*)
Bathroom tiles Lea Ceramiche (*ceramichelea.it*)
Bath Cocomo Living (02 9667 2222)
Tapware Rogerseller and Just Bathroomware (*rogerseller.com.au; justbathroomware.com.au*)
Heated towel rail DCShort (*dcshort.com*)

LEGEND
1 ENTRY
2 GARAGE
3 VESTIBULE
4 HALL
5 KITCHEN
6 DINING ROOM
7 FAMILY ROOM
8 LOUNGE ROOM
9 LAUNDRY
10 WC
11 ANTEROOM
12 VERANDAH
13 POOL
14 BEDROOM 1
15 ENSUITE
16 WALK-IN ROBE
17 BATHROOM
18 BEDROOM 2
19 BEDROOM 3
20 BEDROOM 4
21 SERVICE VOID



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS
Dining room table DAAST (*daast.com.au*)
Feature wall and door Corian (*casf.com.au*)
Wallpaper in main bedroom Bleux (*bleux.com.au*)
Paint Dulux (*dulux.com.au*)
Polished concrete flooring D Raffin & Co (02 9649 3455)
Tiles Artedomus, Skheme and Bisanna (*artedomus.com; skheme.com; bisanna.com.au*)
Carpet Cavalier Bremworth (*cavalierbremworth.com.au*)
Lighting Inlite, Koda Lighting, Brightgreen, Superlight, Gardens at Night and Artemide (*inlite.com.au; kodalighting.com.au; brightgreen.com; superlight.com.au; gan.com.au; artemide.com.au*)
Fittings Blum, Hettich and Häfele (*blum.com; hettich.com/au; hafele.com.au*)
Door handles Style Finish (02 9957 6344)
Kitchen sink Abey (*abey.com.au*)
Tap mixer Kohler (*au.kohler.com*)
Water filter Billi (*billi.com.au*)
Fridge Fisher & Paykel (*fisherpaykel.com/au*)
Oven Electrolux (*electrolux.com.au*)
Bathroom basin Cocomo Living (02 9667 2222)
Washer and dryer Bosch (*bosch.com.au*)
Fireplace Real Flame (*realflame.com.au*)

Colour palette
Minimal colour has been used in this project outside the colour of the materials of the build. White walls give a feeling of lightness and space, and the only additional colours are those of the sun and the sea

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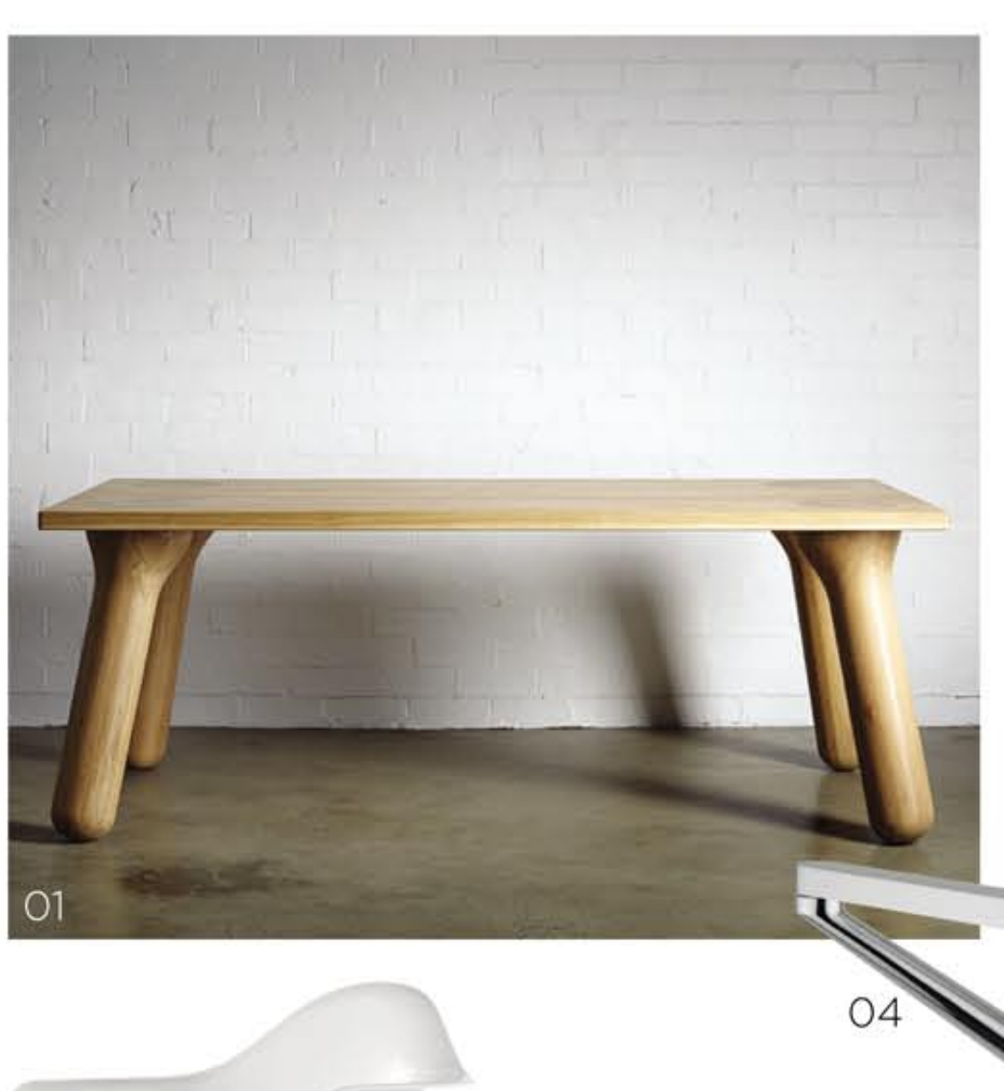
01

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

Get the Look

ADD CHARACTER AND WARMTH TO LARGE OPEN-PLAN LIVING SPACES WITH COLOURFUL HUES AND TIMBER ACCENTS

01: Big Foot table from ***daast.com.au*** **02:** NUD Collection Plumen light from ***surrounding.com.au*** **03:** Valje wall cabinet from ***ikea.com/au*** **04:** Teknobili Zoom 113/1 sink mixer from ***reece.com.au*** **05:** Lemon chevron-pattern cushion from ***idecorateshop.com*** **06:** Metric persimmon vase from ***haveyoumetmissjones.com.au*** **07:** Olsen three-seater sofa from ***daregallery.com.au*** **08:** Eames chair from ***livingedge.com.au***