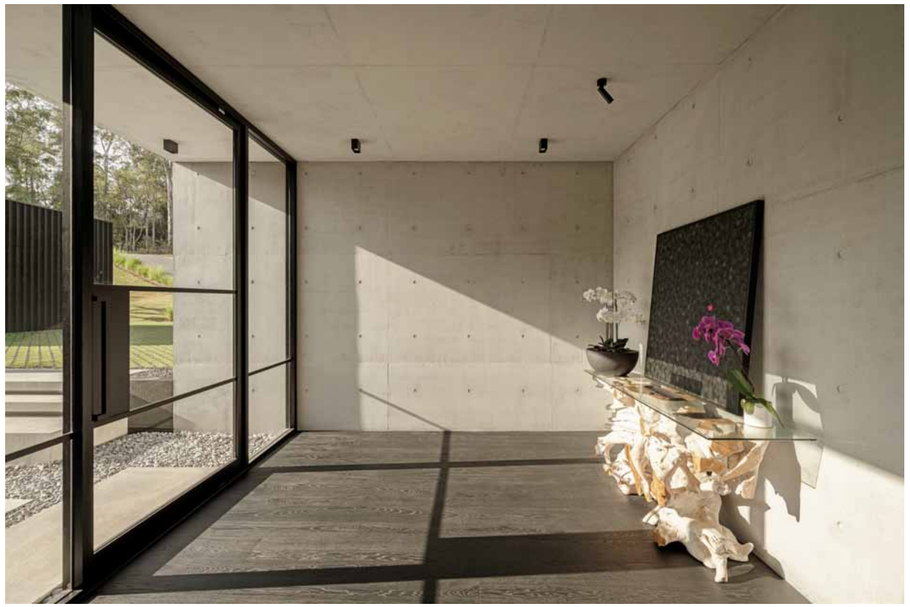
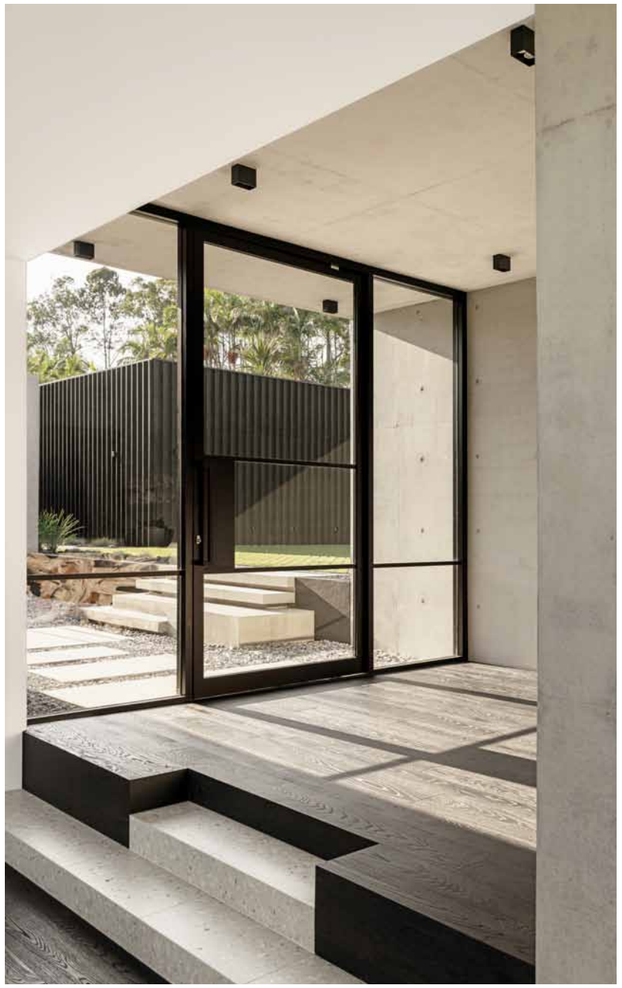
BUSH BEAUTY



A resort-style abode tucked into an idyllic rural locale that's both sophisticated and timeless

WORDS CARROL BAKER
PHOTOGRAPHY ALYNE MEDIA



LEFT
This slice of rural paradise is in a class of its own

OPPOSITE
The materiality of this project is just part of the story; the interior spaces are cool and comfortable all year round

This is a home that piques the interest and curiosity of passersby. It's private from the street and beyond its walls is a quiet oasis of calm. This home is a complete contrast to the architect's Doonan Glasshouse, with its clean lines, modernist edge and total transparency.

Blackwood House, the latest endeavour by Sarah Waller Architecture, is the architect's own home, a resort-style dwelling to cater for her family to enjoy the natural bushland location. "I aimed to build my next dream house, pushing myself architecturally and setting a new benchmark for hinterland homes around Australia," she says.

In rolling out the project, Sarah sought to balance strong architecture with the litheness and fluidity of its rural landscape. "The goal was to establish a private street appearance with a sense of solidity and robustness," notes Sarah, "while designing a transparent pavilion-style home towards the back, where all the rooms are oriented towards the incredible outlook."

The block is perfectly positioned, overlooking a couple of dams and the Noosa Valley golf course. Inside, the home is elegant and refined, with large expanses of glazing, inviting in the light. By design, the lines are effortlessly blurred between indoors and out.

The glazing and off-form concrete offer a sense of contrast, of juxtaposition. One is translucent, the other dense and thermally robust. It's a family home for Sarah and her

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DETAILS

HOUSE Blackwood House
LOCATION Doonan
DATE COMMENCED
February 2022
DATE COMPLETED April 2023

“I aimed to build my next dream house, pushing myself architecturally and setting a new benchmark for hinterland homes around Australia”
– Sarah Waller

ABOVE
The home is made up of a series of well-defined spaces that work together holistically

growing family — her daughters, their partners and the family Pekingese Poodle.

The build comprises two pavilions. The first contains dining and kitchen spaces; there’s a cosy sunken living room, an idyllic spot to relax. There’s also a pantry and powder room. The second pavilion hosts sleeping quarters for the family with ensuites and a guest bedroom with ensuite, as well as a media room. There’s also a detached studio, a third pavilion, for Sarah’s architectural practice.

The design hugs the landscape. “Working with the sloping site involved strategically terracing the landscape and integrating changes in levels within the design,” says Sarah. It’s inspired by her fondness of modernist design. In this project she aimed to reinterpret modernist ideas for the 21st century. “I’ve always been inspired by European modernists like Mies Van Der Rohe, particularly his one-room modernist masterpiece, the Farnsworth House in Illinois,” she explains.

The design aesthetic has a subtle and refined palette. It’s also contemporary and far from being faddish or trendy, it will stand the test of time. It lends itself to Sarah’s iconic signature. “Our hallmark style emphasises

EDITOR’S FAVOURITE
The unique wedged pool that adds interest but also harmonises with the natural surroundings

WE LOVE

The clever connections of the two handsome pavilions via a glass bridge link

ABOVE
The home offers a sense of calm, of respite, with its flowing form and design ethos

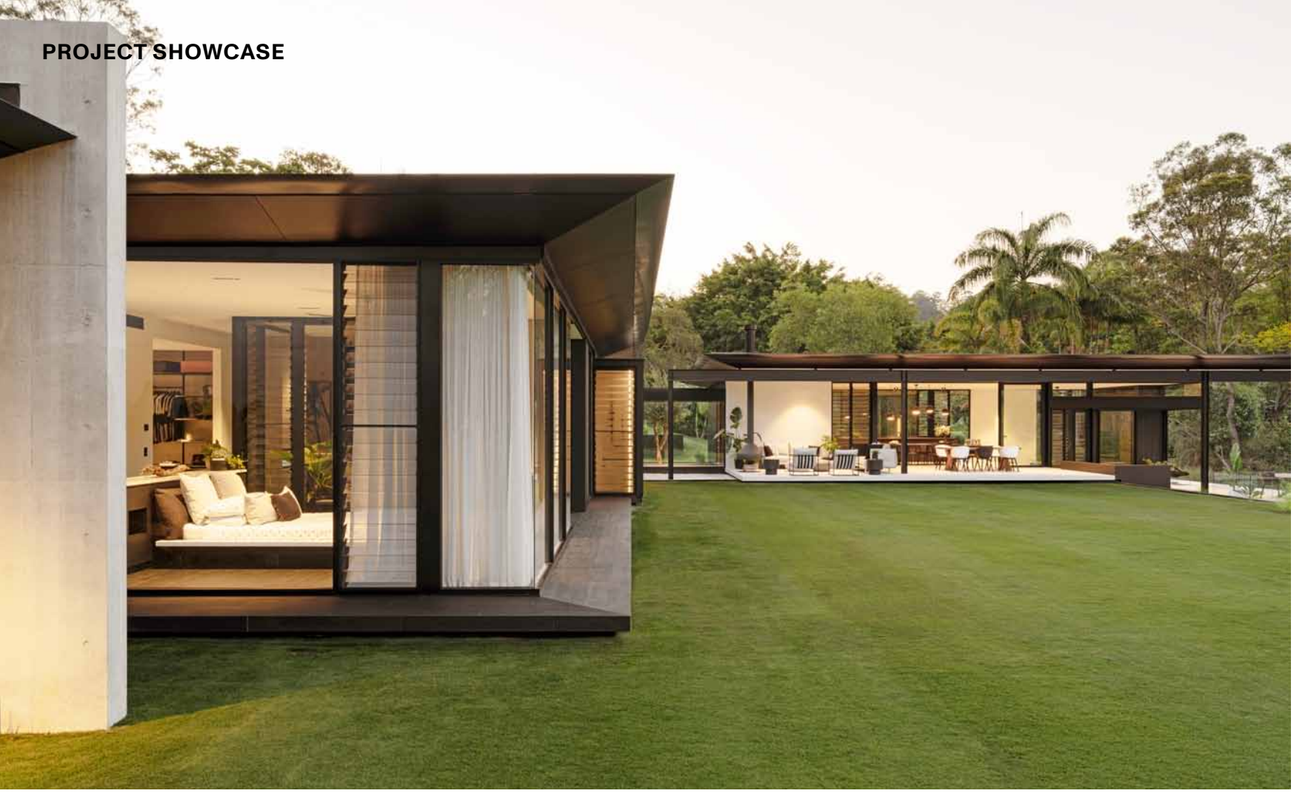
OPPOSITE
Green spaces are viewed from within the pavilions. The very real connection to nature was pivotal in this design

strong contrasts and textures, particularly with black and white, while showcasing the lush greens of the natural surroundings," she says.

This home is a perfect rural escape from the everyday. It's outdoor living with generous splashes of luxury. Sarah's favourite aspect is the pool area. "It's a feature that I believe we've crafted to be truly distinctive, harmonising beautifully with the sharp, tapered ends of the pavilion roofs," says Sarah. With strategically placed lighting, at night the pool area becomes a captivating family playground for all to enjoy.

Sustainable elements have also been addressed with finesse. Among these are timber cladding and stone. The home's orientation and strategically designed roof overhangs minimise solar heat gain, reducing the need for internal cooling measures.

Sarah says the design incorporates high energy-efficiency standards. "It utilises thermal massing to regulate indoor temperatures year-round and employs a chemical-free septic system," she explains. "Additionally, rainwater and bore water are stored in tanks for sustainable water management."



“Our hallmark style emphasises strong contrasts and textures, particularly with black and white, while showcasing the lush greens of the natural surroundings” – Sarah Waller

OPPOSITE
A comfortable outdoor lounge complete with fireplace is a great location for the family to come together

PROJECT TEAM

ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER
Sarah Waller Architecture,
sarahwallerarchitecture.com.au
BUILDER Sarah Waller Building,
sarahwallerarchitecture.com.au

STRUCTURAL TEAM

Structural engineer Structures — Engineering Design
Hydraulic engineer MRP Hydraulic & Fire
Certifier Pure Building Approval

FIXTURES & FITTINGS

Downlights, pendants, wall lights About Space Lighting
Bath & basin Apaiser
Fireplaces BBQ & Fireplace Centre
Wall panelling Easy Craft
Kitchen appliances Fisher & Paykel
Cistern, flush button, pluvia, drainage system Geberit
Blinds and curtains Home Pro
Fans Hunter Pacific
Bar fridge Husky
Paint Resene
Terrazzo (laundry, pantry, master bed) Signorino
Downdraft Sirius
Feature pendants (powder room and master ensuite) Soktas
Sink Turner Hastings
Pool equipment and filter WaterCo
Tapware Phoenix
Water filter and hot tap in pantry Puretec

FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS

Dining table, chairs, studio shelves, outdoor sofas, bed-side tables King Living
Mailbox, firepit, pots Milkcan