

Marcus Beach House

Marcus Beach, Queensland, Australia

Bark Design Architects

Photography: Christopher Frederick Jones

This is a house that quite literally opens itself up to the outdoors.

A change of ownership was the impetus for alterations and additions in 2009 that refined and explored new design concepts for this coastal Queensland beach house originally designed in 2002. That the house has been constructed around a courtyard containing a 50-year-old Moreton Bay ash, which acts as a centrepiece to the two pavilions and which almost every room in the house connects with, is indicative of the respect the design shows its natural surroundings and how indoors and outdoors have been integrated.

This is a house that quite literally opens itself up to the outdoors, allowing in an abundance of daylight and freshening breezes for natural ventilation through operable glass walls and

windows. The indoor living/dining area extends out into a generous double-height decked outdoor space protected from the sun while cooled by the easterly breezes blowing in from the Pacific Ocean. Translucent polycarbonate cladding allows light to enter while reflecting heat and providing insulation.

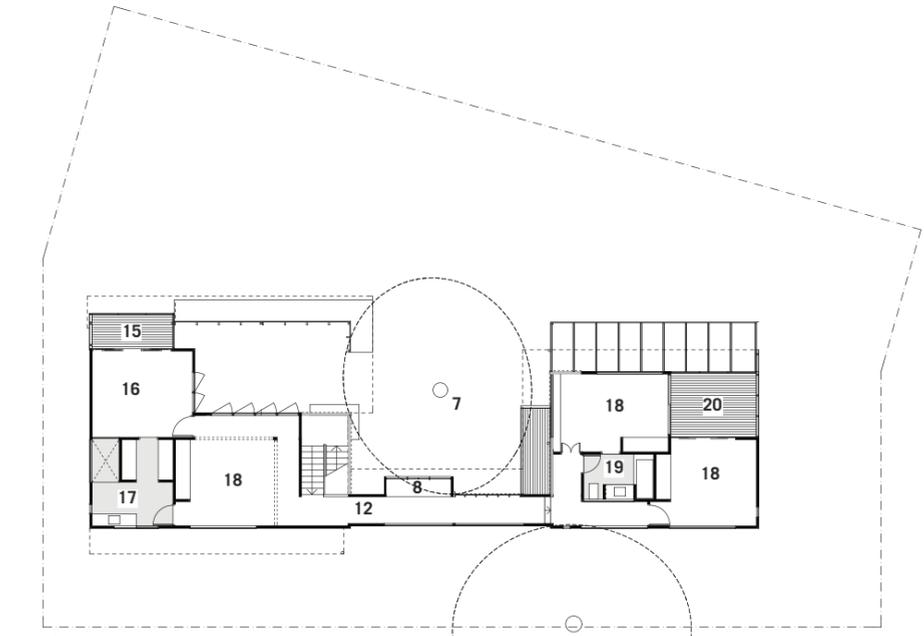
High-level operable windows capture daylight and allow heat to escape in an effective stack-effect natural cooling system that overrides the need for an active air conditioning system. This system of passive cooling is assisted by the internal stairwell and high-level louvres enabling warm air to escape. Timber shades on the east façade provide a defence against the heat of the morning sun, while elsewhere generous

overhangs shade the house from direct sunlight. The landscape is protected by a perimeter wall wrapped in endemic vines, providing an acoustic 'green' buffer to a busy road to the west.

Careful attention was paid to the minimisation of wastage during construction, with some material reclaimed from the original structure used for the alterations and additions. Timber used for screening, outdoor seating and the internal structure was sourced locally, helping minimise embodied energy.

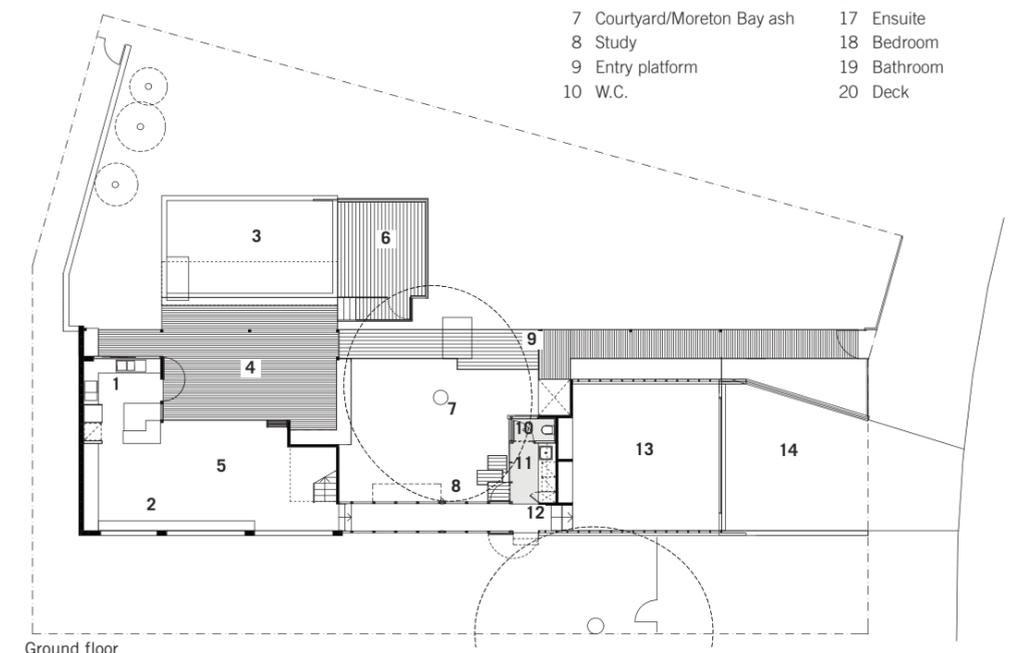
There is a lightness and a breeziness about this house that, combined with its sense of sophistication and respect for its environment, makes it more than just a typical beach house.





First floor

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Kitchen | 11 Laundry |
| 2 Living room joinery | 12 Bridge link |
| 3 Pool | 13 Garage |
| 4 Double-height outdoor space | 14 Driveway |
| 5 Living/dining | 15 Master bedroom deck |
| 6 Pool deck | 16 Master bedroom |
| 7 Courtyard/Moreton Bay ash | 17 Ensuite |
| 8 Study | 18 Bedroom |
| 9 Entry platform | 19 Bathroom |
| 10 W.C. | 20 Deck |



Ground floor

0 5m