

space.

light & shade

Words **Cindy Lord**

Some regions have a reputation for producing more innovative houses than others. We don't tend to look to the Granite Belt or Burdekin for cutting-edge design but we do expect the Noosa region to somehow break the mould.

Designed by Bark Design Architects, this house perched on a hillside at Tinbeerwah in the Noosa hinterland has all the individualism of the region's best. Made of lightweight timber and tin, it has lots of openings to let in light and breeze and is energy-efficient. But, first and foremost, it has a style all of its own.

On walking in you are struck by the sunshine that floods in to fill the space, casting its contents and inhabitants in the best light possible. Double-height void spaces, clean lines and a neutral colour scheme make the 250 square-metre home

feel much bigger than it is. "We love the quality [as well as the quantity] of light," says co-owner Stefan Dunlop, an artist, who works from a studio semi-attached to the house.

Dunlop and his wife, Adrienne Webb, were living a world away in a London loft when they purchased the plot of land with its forest outlook and views to the ocean and Lake Weyba. On a flying site visit, Dunlop commissioned neighbours and architects Lindy Atkin and Stephen Guthrie after he took a liking to the building they had erected next door. Undaunted by the prospect of co-designing a house from more than 16,000 kilometres away, he says the long-distance relationship worked brilliantly.

Fans of timeless design and double-volume spaces, the couple's brief to the architects was for a home "with a slightly industrial edge".

"Because we were living in a loft apartment we were after a gutsy kind of space," says Dunlop,

These rooms are not that large and they could feel quite closed in, but in this way the spaces can spill into each other.

who emailed photos of the couple's extensive collection of Danish furniture, artwork and light fittings to the architectural team. Their furnishings now look totally at home in the resort-like, yet earthy, interior that combines materials such as coir and timber with a concrete fireplace.

The compact house is intended for relaxed family living. Rather than a separate room for each function, the living space is an all-in-one affair, incorporating kitchen, dining and lounge. The kitchen runs the length of the room, like a galley kitchen without the island bench, and extends to the deck and plunge pool area. This is a way of saving space, says Webb. "These rooms are not that large and they could feel quite closed in, but in this way the spaces can spill into each other."

Another feature is the take on Japanese *shoji* (paper) screens. The sliding panels on the bedroom mezzanine can be pulled shut for privacy at night and left open during the day.

house style

natural light

This unusual Fossil light from Kyogle-based Pipi Designs is made of layers of resins into which natural materials have been set. From Craft Queensland, \$1433.



scandi nova

Danish Modern furniture is timeless. Yet Hans Wegner's plank sofa, with its oak arms and felt wool upholstery, couldn't be more contemporary. From The Great Dane, \$4950.



seafood servers

Our catch of the day is this pair of fishy dishes from French Country Collections. They come in varying sizes and there's a clam platter and starfish nibbles plate, too. From Victor Scot, \$6 to \$32.

