

weekender

jw

september 17, 2009 issue 594

LET'S GET FUNGI

FRESH AND FUNKY
HOMEWARES FROM
DINOSAUR DESIGNS

POINT, AIM, SHOOT

WE REVEAL THE NEXT THEME IN OUR
READER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

ONE OUT OF THE BOX

LINDY ATKIN AND STEPHEN GUTHRIE ARE LEAVING THEIR ARCHITECTURAL FOOTPRINT
ON THE COAST — NOW THE REST OF THE WORLD IS TAKING NOTICE

Now with your *weekender*, the best **local** property guides — Southern, Central and Noosa



BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE

Internationally renowned for its beaches, fashion and food, Noosa's architecture is also gaining global attention Words KYLIE JACKES



Stephen Guthrie and Lindy Atkin established their Tinbeerwah practice Bark Design Architects more than a decade ago.

But despite the success and acclaim that have followed since, they have become accustomed to being described as "up and coming" in design and industry publications.

"My mum always says to us, 'I'm always reading that you're emerging, how long will it take before you actually emerge?'" Stephen says with a laugh.

And with a design portfolio that includes a collection of award-winning residential, commercial and civic projects ranging from the new Noosa information centre in Hastings St to masterplans for a residential community on the Capricorn Coast, there is no doubt Lindy and Stephen have well and truly solidified a prime spot at the forefront of Australian architecture.

One of their most recent coups was a six-page spread in *The Architectural Review UK*, considered one of the most revered international architecture publications. "If you are an architect it is 'the' magazine everyone aspires to have their work in," says Stephen as he flicks through the glowing article, which describes the Hastings St Information Centre as an "authentic architectural anchor".

Unveiled earlier this year to rapturous centre volunteers, and a throng of visitors, it seems the public building, initially inspired by a leaf (see

breakout), has managed to tick all the right boxes.

Turning heads both locally and internationally, the two were invited to showcase their design process for the centre at the 11th Architectural Biennale in Venice last September. It also picked up the ASI Queensland 2009 architectural steel building design award this month.

"The building has been termed iconic and many people have said they're drawn to it, which is a real compliment," Lindy says. "Juanita (Bloomfield), who manages the centre, says she has no trouble getting volunteers because people love being there. And that's our biggest satisfaction — seeing how people inhabit and use the space. When you design a project like this, which is going to be used by millions of people, it really is a privilege."

No strangers to public architecture, the couple won a contest to design the Caloundra Regional Art Gallery 12 years ago, which proved the catalyst to establish their own practice.

They met in Noosa while working for architect John Mainwaring and the "office romance" became a long-distance relationship after Lindy began working with architect James Grose in Sydney. But with a similar ethos for sustainable design, their goal was always to establish their own boutique practice on the Coast, with international scope.

"We'd planned to work together and we'd already registered the name Bark but hadn't started out

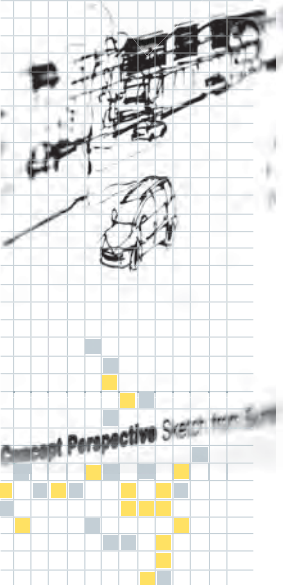
on our own, so when we won the competition we thought, 'Well we'd better actually set up the business,'" Stephen reminisces.

Similar to the Noosa information centre, the Caloundra project suited Lindy and Stephen's "intuitive common sense design approach", which focuses on minimising a building's environmental impact while maximising its emotive, sensory qualities.

And, even though the gallery was designed a decade ago, the couple still considers the building a "good response to the site", with many similarities to the visitor centre.

"Both projects needed to be very open and welcoming and were designed around significant trees. And, with the natural landscape such an integral element in the design, it was nice that my mum (Pat Atkin from Landform) was the landscape architect for both," Lindy says.

Sitting in their hinterland design studio, which slots in between two towering eucalypts and overlooks the coastline, a line-up of shoes at the door reflects the relaxed feel. Employing a small, close-knit team of four architects, Stephen says it was a conscious decision to remain in Noosa rather than follow in the footsteps of feted architects such as Gabriel Poole, John Mainwaring and Lindsay and Kerry Clare, who all headed south after establishing their careers on the Coast.



EXCLUSIV

EXCLUSIV

- ◆ Innovative Corner & Storage Solutions
- ◆ Latest European Styles
- ◆ Value for Money

Exclusiv Kitchens

SUNSHINE COAST

7/25 Premier Circuit, Warana

Mobile 0422 429 818 | Ph 5437 9355 | Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm | SAT by appointment

- ◆ FREE on the spot 3D Design Service by appointment
- ◆ FREE upgrade to Blum Self Closing Drawers & soft close doors
- ◆ FREE upgrade to 20mm stone tops

Visit the Showroom with a DIFFERENCE



In focus: Stephen Guthrie works in the Bark studio

"When I was growing up I spent 10 years in the Bahamas and I think living there really influenced my appreciation for the outdoors, the climate and the informality of places like the Coast," Stephen reflects. "It is great

and recently posted a YouTube clip of a site walk through in Maleny for clients living in Romania.

"Most people save up their whole lives to build a house and working with an architect

'MOST PEOPLE SAVE UP THEIR WHOLE LIVES TO BUILD A HOUSE AND WORKING WITH AN ARCHITECT INVOLVES A LOT OF TRUST.'

LINDY ATKIN

to go overseas and down to Sydney and Melbourne to see what is happening with design, but I like to come back here. And these days you can work in a place like this and have clients all around the world."

An avid fan of Twitter, blogs and Skype, he has embraced these mediums as a way of collaborating with international clients in Shanghai, Amsterdam and Switzerland

involves a lot of trust, particularly if people have never had any experience in the building industry," Lindy says. "Collaborating closely with the owners is really important."

Often sought out for their sustainable design approach, Lindy and Stephen are also proponents of "slow architecture", which is similar to slow food. It advocates using locally available products, traditional

Caloundra Regional Art Gallery

Conceived as a flowing space that sits among several melaleuca trees, the central focus of the building is a glazed sculptural enclosure that draws in the landscape and natural light to create an everchanging backdrop of colour, shadow and reflection.



Hastings St Visitor Information Centre

The roof, inspired by a leaf, allows northern light through the space and cantilevers over the street like a canopy to enable the main public visitor information space to become part of the life of the street. Recyclable steel structure and glass provide free flowing transparency, in contrast with the natural warmth of recycled Australian hardwood joinery and plantation plywood.



Noosa Coastal Transit Centre

Due for completion in 2010, Stephen and Lindy were commissioned to design the concept architectural masterplan for a transit centre in Noosa Junction. Designed to let buses operate effectively, a key component of the centre will be the integration of the subtropical environment, with the hub's elements fragmented to ensure their scale and bulk is in proportion to the natural landscape.



Enjoy the colour & variety at this years Pelican Waters Orchid Show

Thursday 24th - Saturday 26th September, 2009

- Thursday 24th - 9.00am to 9.00pm
- Friday 25th - 9.00am to 9.00pm
- Saturday 26th - 8.00am to 3.00pm
- Discuss Orchid Culture with Members.
- Buy beautiful Orchids, Bromeliads and other Foliage Plants for yourself, or Give a bloom as a delightful gift.

coles

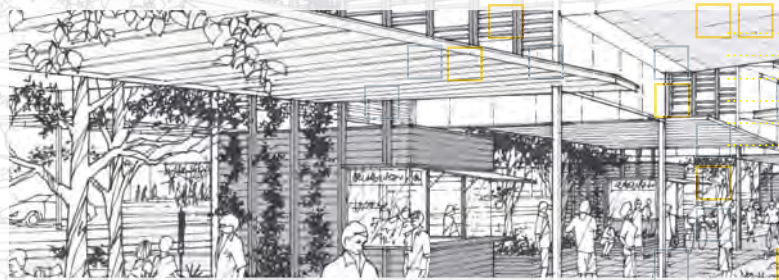
Santa's warehouse

PELICAN WATERS BOULEVARD, PELICAN WATERS





Innovative architects: Stephen Guthrie and Lindy Atkin



craftsmanship and techniques that respect the environment and climate.

"Good design is informed by the natural environment and I think people are more aware that good orientation is important. Five or 10 years ago a rumpus room and a double lock-up garage would top people's checklist, but now people are aware that a northern aspect is a good box to tick," Lindy explains.

With a shared passion not only for architecture, but design in general, Lindy admits their work and life are inextricably linked, with weekends often spent in the studio. "It is like an extension of our living room," she says. "On weekends we come here, play whatever music we like and pull out the drawing boards. And at home we're always talking about design and reading architecture books. We could probably start a library with all the books we've collected."

In the studio alone, an entire shelf is devoted to magazines and books featuring Bark projects. One that takes pride of place is *Place Makers*, which accompanied a major exhibition at Brisbane's Gallery of Modern

Art last year showcasing the work of 22 leading Queensland architects.

Several magazines also feature the couple's own home, which surprisingly is a 1940s fibro house, salvaged by Stephen from the suburbs and plonked in the bush.

A nostalgic reminder of his time as a student in Brisbane's West End, Stephen recalls seeing old Queenslanders sliced in half and carted away on the back of semi-trailers in the early hours of the morning. So when the opportunity arose to buy his own takeaway house he snapped it up. But, rather than realign the house back together once it was relocated, he designed several bespoke additions that have transformed the original layout into a thoroughly unique home.

Looking to employ a similar notion of transporting houses and customising them to suit specific sites and clients, one of Stephen and Lindy's ongoing projects is developing a range of prefabricated Bark Box houses, which can be delivered anywhere in Australia and assembled on site in a matter of weeks.

Change your **lifestyle** without changing your **address**.



LOCALLY OWNED FAMILY COMPANY

ASK ABOUT OUR EASY FINANCE PAYMENTS!

SEE THE LARGEST OUTDOOR DISPLAY CENTRE ON THE SUNSHINE COAST AT 203 BRISBANE RD MOOLOOLABA

5444 8555

FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE DESIGN CONSULTATION



www.apollopatio.com.au

PRICE RANGE TO SUIT FROM BUDGET TO DELUXE!

patios ■ pergolas ■ carports ■ decks ■ screened & glass enclosures

*For approved applicants only. Fees, charges and conditions apply. See Terms and Conditions for details.

Credit provided by ONCE CREDIT PTY LTD trading as MyBUY (ABN 112319632). Construction by Better Patios & Decks Pty Ltd. BSA Licence No: 721664

ARE YOU REPLACING AN EXISTING ELECTRIC HOT WATER SYSTEM?

BUY A 250L DUX AIROHEAT IN SEPTEMBER AND RECEIVE A

\$100 COLES MYER VOUCHER*

ADDED BONUS! CLAIM YOUR REBATE THROUGH DUX AND RECEIVE TWO BATHROBES

FREE

You could be eligible for \$1840 from Rec's and the Federal Government Rebate.

Ask our friendly branch staff to explain how REC's can benefit you!

Promotion applicable to retail customer sales only.

Promotion ends September 30th 2009.

Claims are subject to REC trading values and installation date.

Federal rebate not available with the "Insulating Australian Households Rebate".



AVAILABLE AT **SAMIOS WARANA**

COME VISIT OUR BRAND NEW SHOWROOM FOR ALL YOUR BATHROOM NEEDS

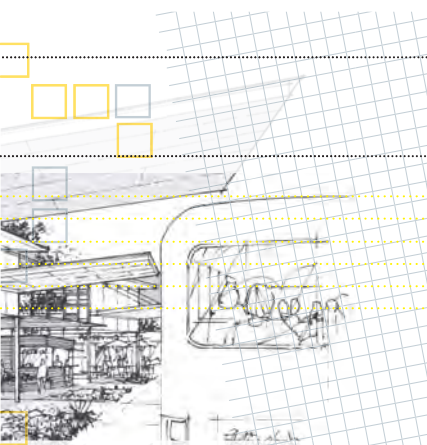
SAMIOS PLUMBING SUPPLIES

Service leaders

www.samios.net.au

Samios Warana
10 Bearing Ave,
Warana QLD 4575
P: (07) 5493 4105

E: warana@samios.net.au

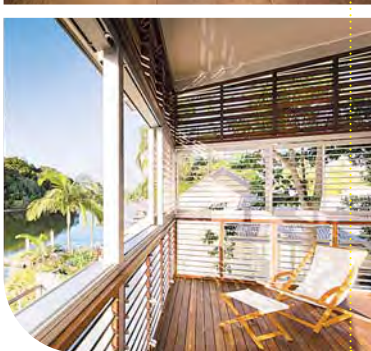
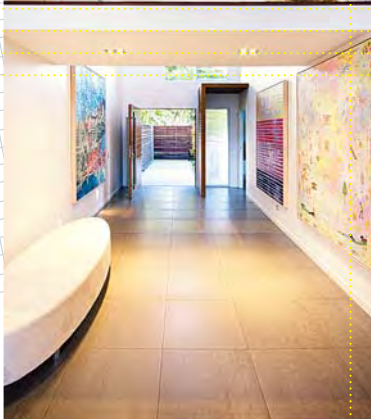


"The houses will be made up from a series of boxes, which can be configured and shifted sort of like a Rubik's Cube," Lindy explains. "You can have a bathroom, laundry, powder room box, a bedroom box and a space box. We've designed them as modular, so on site you can respond to the northern aspect and, if you have a spectacular view, you can move the living spaces accordingly."

Unlike many of the prefabricated homes already on the market, the Bark Boxes will have the flexibility to be either single or two storey. "Because building sites are getting smaller, the two-storey option is an effective solution as you can fit in a whole lot more in by going up and still keep some green space for outdoor living."

With plans to build the first prototype early next year beside their studio, Lindy and Stephen are both keen to configure their own box. If the popularity of their current civic and residential projects is any gauge, it seems the home-delivered designer boxes will prove a popular takeaway. 📍

Additional photos by Peter Hyatt and Christopher Frederick Jones



The Bark studio building has won the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Beatrice Hutton State Award 2005, RAI Sunshine Coast Building of the Year 2005 and Australian Steel Design State Award 2003



A model home

LORNA JANE

ACTIVEWEAR FOR ACTIVE LIVING

Dance

Start Now with a

FREE

Inspirational Dance Singlet

When you spend \$200 in store.

Bring in store to redeem offer.

Your nearest Lorna Jane Stores:

- Mooloolaba Esplanade
- Noosa - Hastings St
- Sunshine Plaza

Visit lornajane.com for full address details & to shop online

Conditions apply. See in store for full terms and conditions. Expires 6/10/09

PLU 900055

Natural Stone, Porcelain and Ceramic Tiles, Glass Mosaics

CERAMICA SENIO

CERAMICA SENIO

Shop 1 Gibson Rd, Noosaville Ph: 5449 7377

Open MONDAY - FRIDAY 8.00AM - 5.00PM www.senio.com.au