



PETER STUTCHBURY +SHANE BLUE

HARBOUR HOUSE

Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia
Design: 1999–2001 Construction: 2001–02

Photos: Yoshio F.

View from northeast garden 北東より見る庭





North elevation 北面





◀Terrace テラス

View toward family room 家族室を見る

It has long been the ambition of these architects to design for this magnificent north facing harbour side dress circle location.

The site, just below ridgeline has prospect over the mighty Hunter River that serves the shipping lanes of industry and then beyond to the wilds of Australian coastline and surrounding mountains.

Orientated due north this site needs to be managed for the extremes of the sun and light such a clear-skied outlook requires a softening of climatic conditions.

The eventual concept was to see the solution as an armchair that might be placed strategically under the protective branches of a tree, sometimes in the depth of shade, the dappled light of broken shade or the edge where a blast of sun benefits winter chills.

A large simple cut into the land provides a platform that has a distinct front and back. The platform is protected by the downward sweep of a sculptural canopy, designed to soften light reflection into the rooms below and beyond.

A back laneway drags light vertically downward into the southern reaches of the building giving life to what might have been the less vital courtyard, instead lifting this room into a work of transitive architecture.

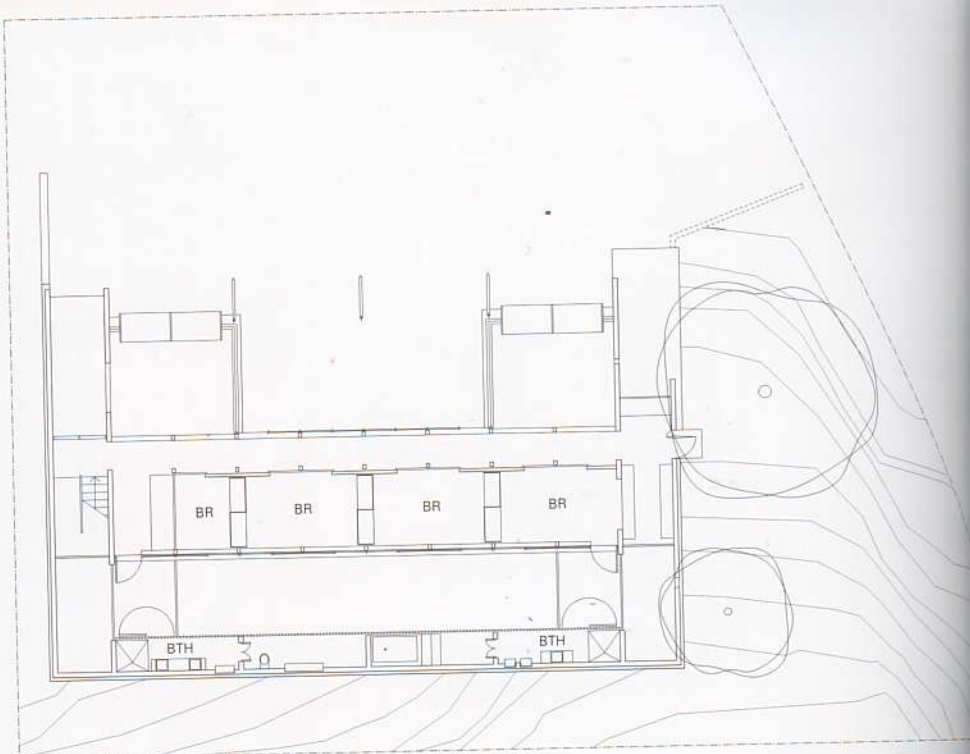
The building operates as a living playground. Informality has determined outcome; one can wander as if across a bush track often arriving in unexpected yet complimentary places.

There is a deliberate blur even misconception as to what constitutes inside, one is taken simply by the hand to an awareness of this particular place along with an understanding of the aspects that are carefully termed 'makeup'.

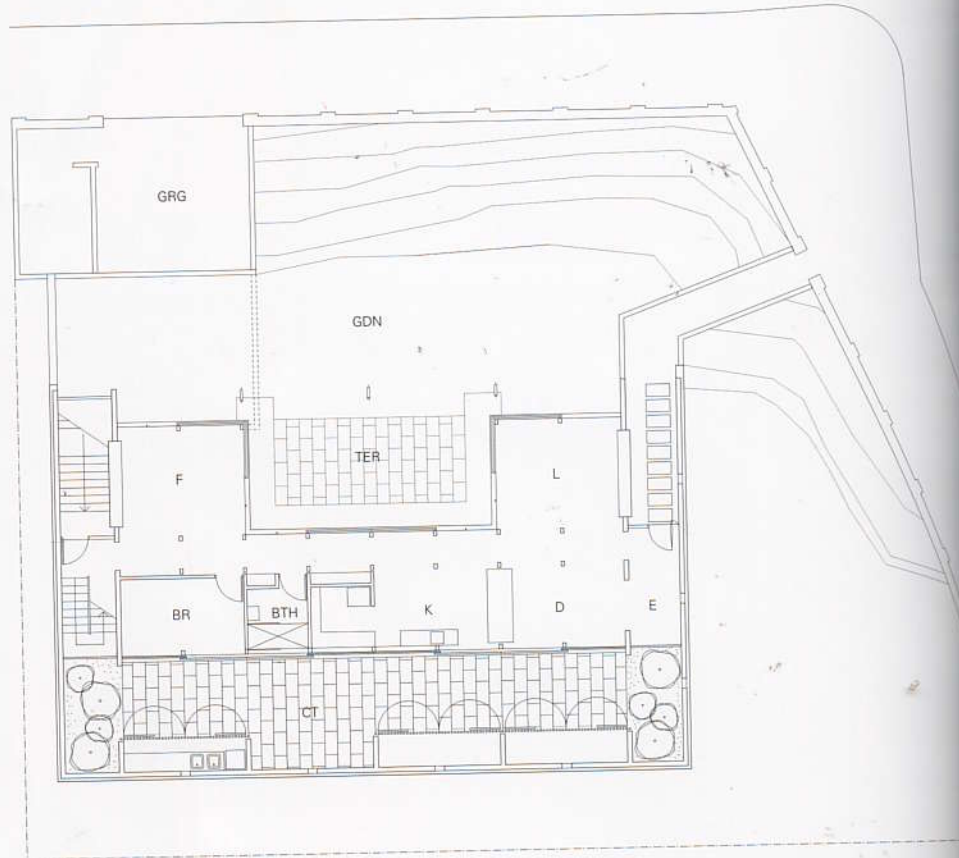
The composition of this building does not guide the resident toward the traditions of residential lifestyle—there are few definitives but instead a series of variations that remove the constancy of experiencing a building replacing that event with an edge of living experience where night and day are recognised only by the changing level of light and noise, and hospitality moves equally through the building in the form of entertainment.

The fact that humans adapt easily to the provocations of this building would seem to indicate that the style of life in this house can enjoy greater levels of freedom, that external rooms are equally relevant to how we live that the joy of day to day events such as cooking, bathing, sleeping, eating, washing all can be enhanced into greater worth, when decorated by architecture.

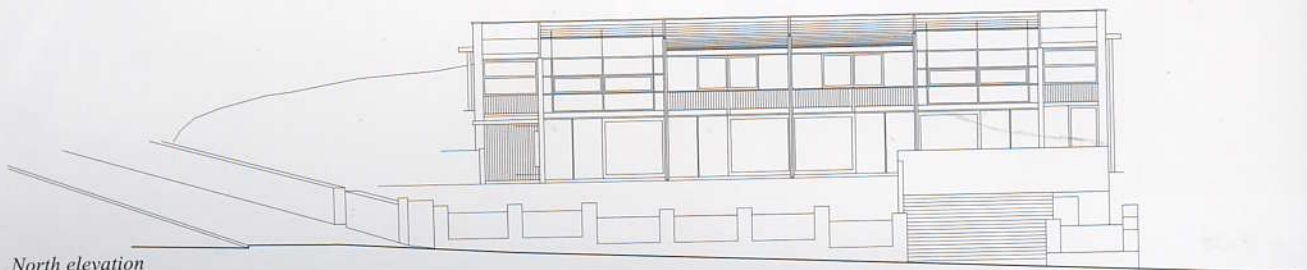
This building represents how architecture can be discovered beyond the building.



Upper level



Lower level



North elevation