KURREKI
SEAL ROCKS, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA
BOURNE BLUE ARCHITECTURE

Kurreki is a purpose built retreat in the tiny village of Seal Rocks on the North Coast of New South Wales. Surrounded by both the Myall Lakes National Park and the Great Lakes Marine Park, Kurreki offers a rare escape from the increasingly urbanised sprawl of the cities.

The design is intentionally a cross between camping and luxury accommodation and employs strategies designed to allow inhabitants to relax and unwind. All spaces open to the outside resulting in a connection with the natural elements.

The building has a tough exterior to provide privacy, bushfire protection and a sense of solitude. Spaces enclose a central deck and garden, with all rooms opening up onto it. In the central space, rather than glass and fly screens for the bedrooms, there are roller shutters and mosquito nets that allow the fluid of camping. An added benefit is the sky view created by establishing a circular perimeter.

Bathing facilities are stripped back to the bare essentials: a single toilet in a cement partitioning and a huge double shower that can open to the deck with just a curtain or be closed off for total privacy.

The home also has impact: a worm farm treats power waste onsite, all water is collected from the roof and a variety of other water and energy saving devices are employed.

Materials throughout are honest and serviceable. External cladding is upcycled compressed cement sheet. Roller shutters are plain zincalume, joinery is concrete foamply left unfinished. To counter the harsh exterior, Mundoolun colours are used extensively inside to embrace the spaces and provide a link to the colours of nature.

Opposite: View across courtyard towards living room