

space



Sun and surf chic ... (opposite) A central deck links the "pods"; (left) breezeways, hardwood and weatherboards enhance the casual feel; plywood lines the kitchen walls.

sea sure

This island home has every marine angle covered.

Words Sandra Killen

Childhood memories of long, lazy beach holidays inspired architect Paul Butterworth when drawing up plans for this weekend at Point Lookout on North Stradbroke Island. "My father used to surf competitively so I spent my childhood on Moreton Island, Fraser Island and Straddie," he says. "I don't remember the inside of houses or caravans or tents as a kid. Rooms were just for sleeping and stashing stuff."

Big decks are at the core of the three-pod design for this house, owned by Butterworth's father Laurie and stepmother Elizabeth, and also the other house he designed that shares the 775sqm corner

block. The project won a commendation at the recent Australian Institute of Architects' Brisbane Regional Architecture Awards.

"I didn't want to have to cross a marked line to the deck space," Butterworth says. "So doors peel back to borrow from the decks, enhancing the perception of space."

In this house there are 50sqm of decks and 100sqm of internal space, with bedrooms a mere 3m x 3.2m – "just cosy places to sleep", Butterworth says. Three bedrooms open to the internal upper deck/breezeway via large sliding walls, while the fourth bedroom, which has a kitchenette, is on the ground level and adjoins the lower living space. There are two bathrooms and

one ensuite – very handy when there are "clan gatherings".

Spotted gum hardwood, corrugated iron and stained weatherboards were selected to project a quality aesthetic but in a way that was "rough and ready, hard and fast", Butterworth says. "I didn't want it to be too precious, so it was a delicate balance."

Lacquered plywood and painted sheeting were used on interior walls, with spotted gum on the decks and floors. Butterworth says he originally thought of the downstairs space as a concrete-floored, hose-out area. Elizabeth had other ideas, and now a low coffee table, stools and seagrass matting make it the perfect spot for grandchildren to play. ■

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