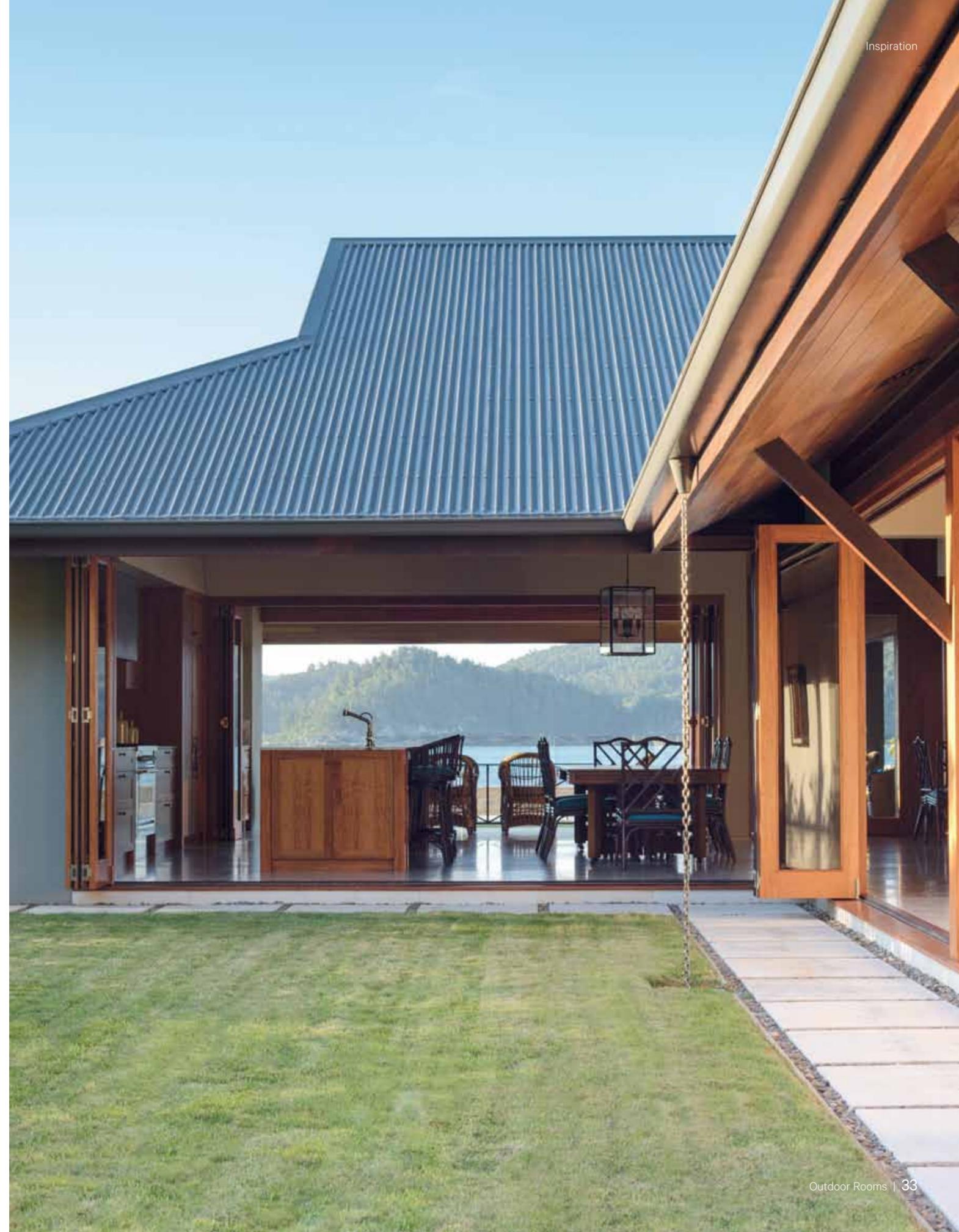


ISLAND *dreaming*

This outdoor room is the
stuff dreams are made of

Words April Ossington



Of course, the great Australian dream is to own your very own piece of land and build a home that satisfies all of your earthly desires. But this large family has gone one better. They wanted to live the holiday life every day. And with this outdoor room, they do just that.

Located in the popular holiday destination of Hamilton Island in Queensland's Whitsundays, this new build is situated on a new release of level land facing north to Catseye Bay. The grounds are bound to the eastern and southern sides by steep parkland leading to Passage Peak.

The home itself was planned as a "pavilion cluster structure" with an internal courtyard to form a protective area. Large walls of bifold doors allow the interior to flow seamlessly to the terraces, gardens, parkland and water's edge.

The project was a collaboration between architect Chris Beckingham, builder and landscaper Coastal Edge Construction, and gardener Pat Floor. Interior architect Andrew Waller was responsible for both interior and exterior materials, finishes, furnishings and decorative elements throughout, including garden urns and outdoor furniture.



The brief was to design a contemporary home and gardens with an "island influence" that would take full advantage of its location. Colour palettes and materials needed to reference the landscape but allow views to take centre stage.

The outdoor areas were created to form a continuous space from the interior, which would be more relaxed and offer protection from the harsh sunlight. Terrace and

balcony areas were made to form extended entertaining spaces to capitalise on the amazing natural landscape and views across the water.

Sleeping accommodation for the children and guests was designed to be separate from the main reception, with each space featuring an ensuite and private terrace facing east to the gardens and adjacent reserve.



The dining terrace runs off the internal kitchen and dining area. To connect the spaces, it is detailed with the same timber joinery, appearing seamless. The barbecue joinery includes a concealed minibar for ultimate convenience. A chic granite benchtop in Valley White from WK Marble & Granite was specified for the internal kitchen and terrace barbecue benchtop for continuity. Granite was selected as it is particularly durable for outdoor use.

Dining furniture was chosen to create a “light and transparent” feeling so that it wouldn’t interrupt the views. The dining table features a forged metal base with a glass tabletop and is teamed with rattan open-weave chairs from Vietnam. Urns with an aged finish complement the natural palette as well as introduce greenery on the terrace. The urns, filled with *Zamia furfuracea* (a palm) and *Sansevieria* (mother in law’s

tongue), visually pull the landscape into the space. Large outdoor fans were included to add to the natural breeze, which flows across the water’s edge onto the terrace.

Adjacent to this area is the living terrace, which features the same honed finish travertine flooring as the internal living rooms. The ceiling has been detailed in New Guinea rosewood with a central ceiling fan from Big Ass Fans. Here, the darker tones dampen the light, reducing glare and shading the internal spaces.

Custom-made seating from Vietnam has been chosen for a casual feeling with a mixture of ethnic-textured green and natural-coloured upholstery fabrics. An outdoor rug anchors the seating while adding to the comfort underfoot. Homewares including marble and glass hurricane lamps, rattan candle lanterns and aged planters, make the space feel more inviting.

Teetering on the edge of the property, the infinity pool is surrounded by frameless glass fencing that allows an uninterrupted view to Catseye Bay. A travertine pathway stretches the length of the pool while large stepping stones lead up to the house. A kwila timber deck adds warmth and softness to the end of the pool and creates the ideal place for sunbathing and drying off. A spa area is located in the corner of the pool and both the pool and spa feature a mosaic of blue tiles that match the beautiful hues of Catseye Bay beyond. The garden planting has been graded to flow into the reserve to visually dissolve the border line between the property and parklands.

The main building was designed with a linear gallery with bifold doors made from rosewood timber along its length. These open up completely to the internal courtyard, which has a flat lawn area for the children to play on.

A fully contained rumpus room, complete with shower room and sleeping area, faces north to the courtyard with a covered games terrace designed especially for table tennis. The main reception area in the front was designed with a front and rear wall of bifolding doors to enhance the spectacular view through to Catseye Bay.

A small walled courtyard has been designed to the rear of the master bathroom for privacy. Here, an outdoor shower provides a private place to rinse off after a dip in the pool. Chosen for its “visual weight”, a wall of local Bowen granite commands attention and contrasts with the warm timber awnings above.

No need to pack your bags for a family holiday each year when you call this impressive outdoor space home. You might have to be prepared for some guests, though. mrwaller.com

