



AMONG THE VINES

This architecturally captivating home offers the perfect retirement retreat

WORDS / April Ossington PHOTOGRAPHY / Robert Hamer

Curved, galvanised steel-plate rainwater heads are installed at each end of the house



Design tip

"Regarding kitchen design, take the risk and don't make everything match or become clinical. You will be pleased with the end result as it will become part of your furniture."
— Lisa Grounds



- HOUSE: Vineyard Views
- LOCATION: Kangaroo Ground, Victoria
- DATE COMPLETED: May 2014

Working vineyard for more than a decade, this 12ha property in Kangaroo Ground, Victoria, was completely covered in vines before the project commenced. As the home is perched on a relatively steep, north-facing slope, the main objective of the brief was to make the most of the magnificent views from the north to the east. With adult children and frequently visiting grandchildren, the couple needed a "retirement retreat" that could still accommodate family and friends comfortably, including the possibility of "grandchildren zooming around on trikes through the house".

The project was a collaboration between Michael Sheppard from Sheppard & Dwyer Architects, Lisa Grounds from Blink Interiors, and Anthony Northwood from Eco Edge Homes. "Working with Michael was like having a master class on shapes and angles," says Lisa. "I really enjoyed this process. They allowed me the freedom to choose interior finishes even if they thought I had gone nuts." For a modern and clean look, a minimalist palette including stone, glass, metal and timber was chosen for the exterior and, as a result, no painting was required. This restrained palette is continued with organic-inspired interiors including

neutral walls in Dulux Mount Buller, warm timber finishes and minimal furnishings. In keeping with the landscape, the interiors are decorated with Australian-inspired pieces including a fabulous Bottlebrush rug in the living room.

While the couple embarked on this build for the purpose of downsizing, the home still has plenty of space with four bedrooms, a study, powder room, cinema, three-car garage and ample storage. Though spacious and boasting plenty of features, special consideration was required to ensuring the home is as low maintenance as possible. For both safety and aesthetic purposes, there

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Words of Wisdom

"I cannot say enough how important lighting is as it creates mood and enhances design elements. This needs to be carefully considered so be sure to take the time." — Lisa Grounds

central box gutter was incorporated, allowing the owners to sweep away debris as they walk beside it.

Fascinating architecturally, this unique home makes a great first impression with its curved eave and butterfly skillion roofline. Designed along the contours of the land and taking from the bushland surrounds, the form of the main roof was inspired by the shape of a gum leaf. "A lot of locals and sightseers assumed the structure didn't fit into a traditional or recognisable house shape," says Michael. "The most common assumption was that it was a cellar door or restaurant." Anchoring the home into the hill and contributing to its solid structure, the south half of the house is finished in natural stone. While on the north side, the combination of glass, steel

and a cantilevered deck create a feeling of lightness, as if the home is floating above the vineyard. Fine lines leading to the edge of the roof and galvanised steel pipes enhance this light feeling in the roof planes.

With the site positioned on an old volcano, the soil was highly reactive and so the slab structure had to be founded on base rock rather than clay. Additionally, the site's exposed location meant that it needed to withstand very high winds with the possibility of sub-cyclonic conditions. A skeleton steel frame was incorporated to both hold up and tie down the roof. As the clients' previous family home was built in the '80s, they were excited about updated facilities and improved energy efficiency for their new build. For superior temperature

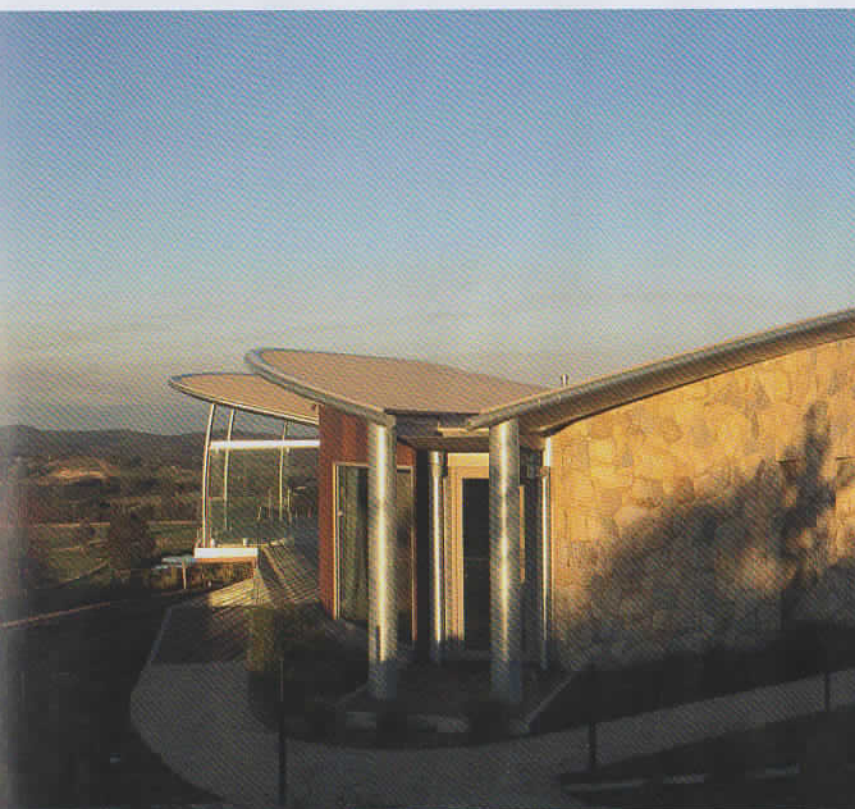
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Point of View

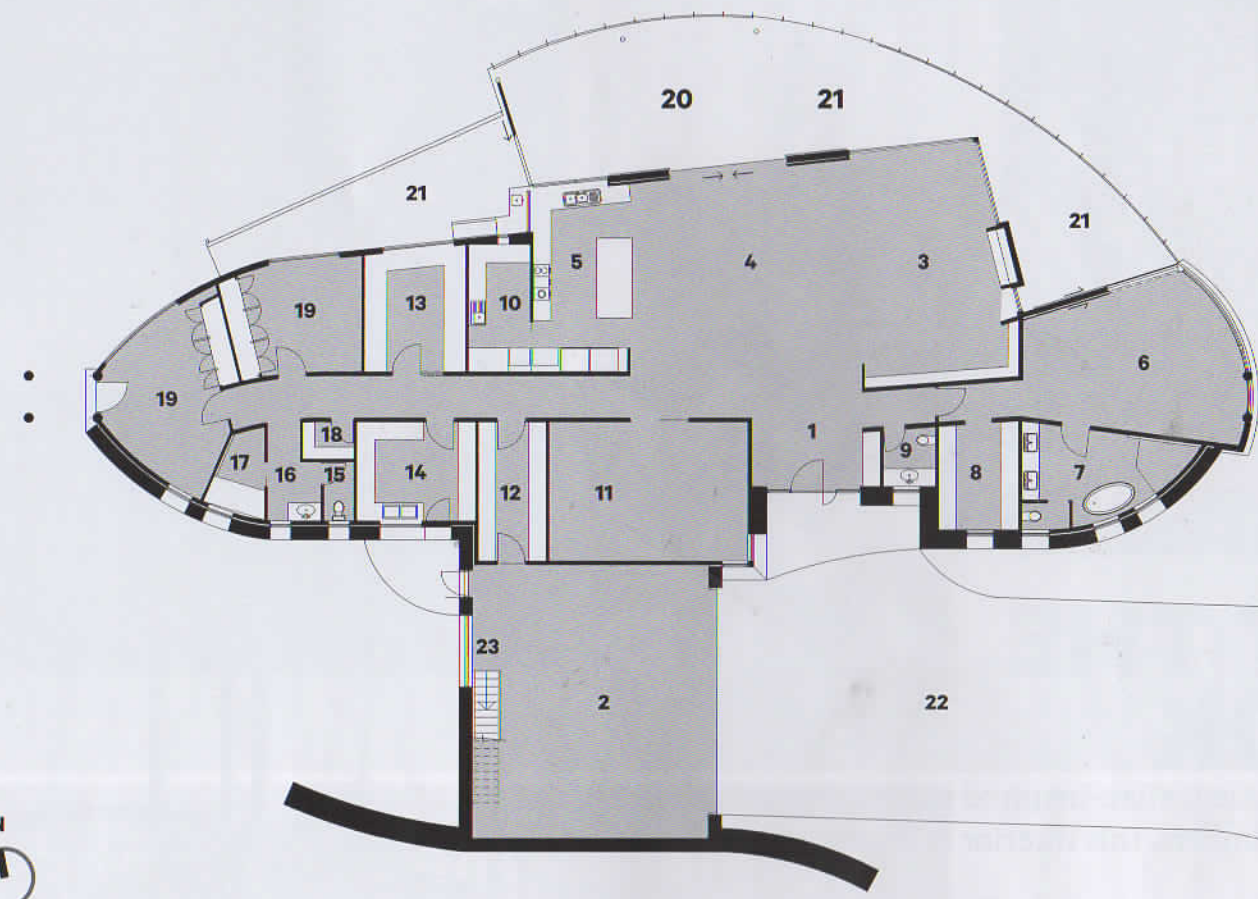
"Paint your wall colours on boards measuring 300mm x 600mm so you can take them into different rooms. This allows you to see how the colour looks in different lighting. It also gives you the flexibility to throw them in the car and take them to places like the tile shop." — Lisa Grounds



energy efficiency for their new build. For superior temperature control, thicker-than-standard thermal mass was incorporated into the home through the ground slab and masonry walls as well as high-performance insulation in the roof and walls. Extensive double glazing was applied to the home through curved panels and windows, with extended eaves added to those on the north side.

"The house is a modern interpretation of a country house combined with modern living requirements," says Michael. "It is single storey with extended eaves and verandahs but instead of closing down around the house, the roof opens up and embraces the surroundings." And this home certainly fits the brief for a view, taking in the stunning landscape that stretches towards Kinglake National Park and the Yarra Valley.

"Nominating my favourite part of the house is like trying to name your favourite child," says Michael, who admires the seamless flow from the internal living area to the alfresco deck featuring a curved "sky glass" balustrade. "The sliding doors totally disappear into the wall cavity," he adds. One of Lisa's favourite areas is the kitchen with its striking combination of veined marble, stainless steel and warm timber finishes. "Before the dirt had been turned, I found these fantastic chandeliers that we had to have," recalls Lisa. "They are shaped like grapes and so the vineyard house's journey began." 🍇



FLOOR PLAN

LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Entry | 5 Kitchen | 9 Powder room | 13 Office | 17 Bathroom | 21 Deck |
| 2 Garage | 6 Master bedroom | 10 Pantry | 14 Laundry | 18 Storeroom | 22 Driveway |
| 3 Living room | 7 Ensuite | 11 Cinema | 15 WC | 19 Bedroom | 23 Stairs to loft |
| 4 Dining room | 8 Walk-in robe | 12 Cellar | 16 Vanity | 20 Alfresco area | |

PROJECT TEAM

■ **BUILDER** Anthony Northwood, Eco Edge Homes (ecoedgehomes.com.au)

■ **ARCHITECT** Michael Sheppard, Sheppard & Dwyer Architects (sheppardwyer.com.au)

■ **INTERIOR DESIGNER** Lisa Grounds, Bllink Interiors (bllinkinteriors.com.au)

■ **STRUCTURE** Geotechnical engineer CE Lawrance & Associates (03 9879 0384) Land surveyor Digital Land Surveys (03 9855 2727) **Structural engineer** Maurice Farrugia & Associates (03 9696 9073) **Energy rating** Designing

Energy (03 9796 277) **Building surveyor** Rod Bethune & Associates (03 9563 4266) **Concrete** Trident Concrete Construction (0488 082 868) **Glaziers** Makeview Windows & Doors (03 9796 4571) **Structural steel** Castagna Steel (03 9387 1735) **Roof cladding** Cayley Building Services (0431 715 691) **Stonemasonry** Chris Flett and Pat Hargood (0423 894 403; 0458 683 038) **Steel cladding** Designer Panel Systems (03 8720 8900) **Plaster** Comcraft Constructions (03 9432 1711) **Earthworks** Roc Carafa (0412 358 180) **Timber floors** Australian Recycled Timber (australianrecycledtimber.com.au)

■ **SERVICES** **Plumber** Kinglake Plumbing & Drainage (03 5786 1498) **Electrical** Langborne Electrical Contractors (0408 369 422) **Painting** Black Dog Painting (0422 216 774) **Communications** Electra Guard (0408 337 524)

FIXTURES AND FITTINGS Joinery and kitchen design Bllink Interiors (bllinkinteriors.com.au) **Refrigerator** Sub-Zero (multyflex.com.au) **Front door** Metalcote (metalcote.com.au) **Bronze front-door handles** Mother of Pearl (motherofpearl.com) **Baths and basins** Boyd Alternatives (boydalternatives.com.au) **Taps and bathroom fittings** Reece (reece.com.au) **Bathroom tiles** Signorino (signorino.com.au) **Lighting** Lights & Tracks (lightsandtracks.com.au) **Chandelier** Oly (cocorepublic.com.au)

■ **FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS** Sofas and cinema chairs Destination 3000 (destination3000.com.au) **Dining table and leather chairs** Jordan (jordan.com.au) **Floor rug** Designer Rugs (designerrugs.com.au) **Sofa fabric** Mokum (studio98.mokumtextiles.com) **Curtain fabric** Casamance (zepelfabrics.com) **Blinds** In Control (0408 566 005) **Bedhead/curtain manufacturing** BQ Design (bqdesign.com.au)