

# RESTLESS LIVING

*"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."*



VOLUME 24



## HIVE HOUSE

Surat, India

**W**ith a kinetic facade rooted both in time and culture, the home named »Hive« is characteristically picturesque and responds very well to the hues of Indian urban areas. We had the opportunity to talk about the project with the Principal of Openideas, Monarch Champaneri.

When Monarch and his team received the initial brief of the client, it was surprisingly the thorough and well-made kind. “Being well-informed about architecture and given his core competency in mechanical engineering, the client was very clear about what he wanted as a ‘home’ — a smart structure rendered in metal and a ‘mono-space’ living area”, Monarch says and continues: “Along with those primary thoughts, the client communicated an almost 90-point brief with inputs connected to diverse points — from structure, landscape, planning, materials, sustainability, insulation, HVAC and plumbing, along with entire year’s sun path study.” While the client had made his »homework«, he gave the team a free hand to design the project the best way possible. About the project, Monarch mentions: “The architecture is expressed as an angular V-shaped structure oriented towards the green pockets spread around the house. The entrance creates a bridge and valley experience, with a sunken court and stepped garden, a linear arrival corridor and the walk-able green roof with varying slopes. This roof technically acts as a thermal insulation, lowering the overall temperature of the interiors, while functionally doubles



up as a congregational area for social gatherings.” The temperatures were indeed one of the key challenges to overcome, and required in-depth analysis of external temperature, humidity, solar radiation, cloud cover and wind patterns. “The project is located in hot and dry climate where the summer temperature ranges from 40-46 °C. Our climate responsive kinetic facade – done for the first time in India – is achieving thermal comfort of 8-10 °C and considerably decreasing the energy consumption of HVAC”, Monarch explains.

The geometry of the project draws inspiration from the hexagonal structural patterns “found in nature such as those of honeycombs and carbon crystals”, as Monarch frames it. The focus on geometry continues to the inside of the house, where the interior is kept simple with a few incredibly interesting dynamic design pieces, e.g. the beautiful suspended staircase and the curved bench also acting as a room divider. Since the client viewed the building as a product – due to his profession as a mechanical engineer – these design pieces had to be manufactured flawlessly. “He wanted something unique in every detail which put lot of pressure on the design team to deliver and not fail their expectations. Therefore, all the ideas that went into its making were backed with intensive research and prototyping”, Monarch concludes.

Architecture by **Openideas Architects**

Photography by **Fabien Charuau**





*“The landscaping echoes the home’s relaxed nature with indigenous plants, and the Texas-sourced Antique Lueders Limestone finishing the exterior walls roots the home firmly in its setting.”*

## **LAGO VISTA** Lago Vista, Texas, United States

When a couple contacted the Austin-based architecture firm Dirk Clark + Associates, it was with the intention to design a home for a narrow cliff-side lot. Yet, the project eventually turned into something bigger.

“The owners originally approached us about 10 years ago to design an informal home on their narrow cliff-side lot in the resort community of Lago Vista outside of Austin, Texas. The couple worked with our firm remotely, intrinsically trusting us to design their dream home. The original designs were for the narrow lot, but when a piece of land became available next door, the owners bought it and decided to re-envision their dream home to stretch across both pieces of property and leave more »breathing room« for the neighboring properties”, says the lead architect, Kim Power. The final design is a 4000 f<sup>2</sup> (or ~370 m<sup>2</sup>) limestone-clad home with awesome views towards Colorado River.

“The house was strategically designed in thirds, not only so the home would be as comfortable and accommodating with a houseful of guests as when the couple is home alone, but also to provide as much distance as possible between the main living areas and the nearest neighbors”, Kim explains. This essentially meant that the house was divided into the a social area with kitchen, dining, and living, a private area with master suite, and a guest wing. About the style of the house, Kim says: “The home uses some classic hill country and contemporary features that lend themselves well to the Central Texas lakeside setting, incorporated in a beautifully laid-back way.” These features count contemporary clerestory windows and floor to ceiling retractable glass doors to bring in natural light, while furnishing is kept casual and durable. And, in combination with the Texas-sourced limestone walls, the house is thoroughly rooted to its context.

Architecture by **Dirk Clark + Associates**

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Photography by **Dror Baldinger**



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## **JANINE ALLIS' RESIDENCE**

Melbourne, Australia

Intended to be an expression of its residents, the Janine Allis' Residence plays with an elegant contemporary minimalism reflecting the client family as a whole as well as individuals. To give us a better understanding of the house's interior design, we spoke to Penny del Castillo, Founder and Creative Director of In Design International.

"Responding to today's market yearning for deeper emotional connections, our client was clear on how she wanted to feel from the outset", Penny says and continues: "Set with this task, we delivered via materiality, color, lighting, texture, proportion and the functional aspects of how the space flows seamlessly. The JA Residence is an excellent example of intelligent, common sense principles being used to dictate the design." The owners of the house were interested in a strong modern aesthetic; yet subtle without feeling too extreme nor futuristic. Therefore, Penny and her team decided to design an elegant, timeless home that displays a sense of luxury without being pretentious. "Every interior aesthetic element has been crafted to contribute towards emotional gratification, luxe without bling. Behind the straight lines of the bold façade, an entirely unexpected interior awaits. Natural daylight, improved airflow and ambiance is maximized by an intriguing internal courtyard. Intimate spaces coexist with robust family zones", Penny explains.



All these elements come to play in the grand living room, which is highly characterized by its double ceiling height and its strong connection to the outdoor terrace while responding to Australian contemporary architecture. “There was a unanimous intent and passion to use Australian design and made products where possible. High-quality materials, both natural and synthetic, ensure durability and longevity. Genuine brass trimmings incorporated into handrails, door handles and feature lighting provided a quiet luxury to the homes earthy palette referencing the down to earth character of our client”, Penny mentions.

As an additional feature to the house, enhanced sustainability was a priority. “The house features a solar farm on the roof feeding basement supply batteries and utilizes insulation, double glazing and water recycling, creating a sizable energy-efficient home. Quality and timeless materials were conscientiously selected to adhere to ethical production, low environment impact and harmonize with long term sustainability”, Penny says. The priority of sustainability as an equal element to the visual expression, the house is true to its contemporary values. It is another proof that great design and sustainability can and should coincide.

Architecture by **Wolf Architects**

Interior design by **In Design International**

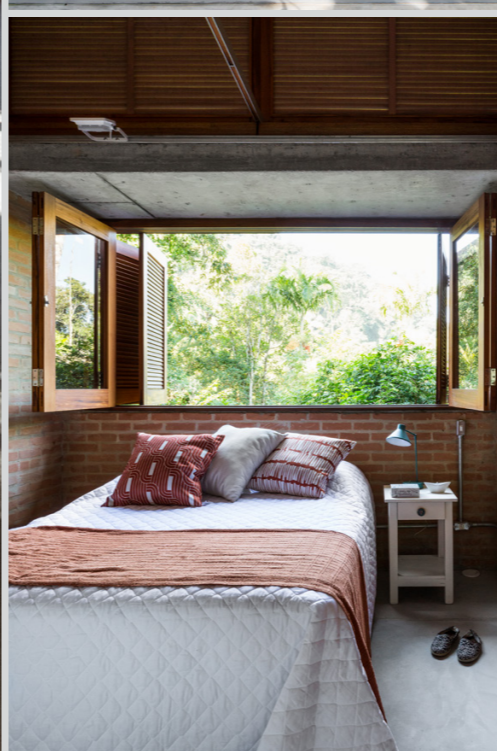
Photography by **Damien Kook**



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## BEACH HOUSE AT PRUMIRIM Ubatuba, Brazil

With the purpose of building a vacation house near the beach of the Brazilian coast, Bruno Rossi Arquitetos was given the task; a task involving careful planning due to the characteristics of the natural environment.

“The project intended the house to be a vacation retreat for the couple and their three children as well as the main home for the couple to enjoy retirement among the natural landscape”, Bruno says. Here, the couple and their three children can experience the Atlantic woods of the São Paulo shoreline – just a few meters from the sea. Bruno and his team were aware of the opportunities – but also the limitations – of the site. Bruno explains: “Due to the plentiful woods, the house implementation faced big limitations within the removal of trees. Keeping this in mind, creating engaging social areas became the focal point for the architectural project; that happened through the creation of patios that connect the spaces in the house benefiting from great openings; bringing the green woods inside, like a cabin open to the plant life.” Since the project is a beach house, it was important to consider a few issues, such as the proximity to the woods and hot and humid climate, which is “a trait of the São Paulo coastal line”, as Bruno mentions.

“Addressing these concerns, a conventional concrete and brick structure was adopted for the biggest wing of the house (containing the rooms, kitchen and bathrooms), ensuring the expertise of the local labor and the material’s thermal load. Supported by this solid wing, a large wooden roof structure was developed, reinforced by three pillars of the same material”, Bruno explains. The result is an architectural structure that makes the best of indoor-outdoor living, maintains a respect to the forest, and keeps the project grounded to the Brazilian culture. This is a home where simplicity creates space for contemplation.

Architecture by **Bruno Rossi Arquitetos**

Photography by **André Scarpa**



*“... the project explores the possibilities of different construction and structural methods, letting the materials shine on their own, harmonizing with the site’s surroundings, and elevating the connection between each room of the house and the preexisting woods.”*

**– Bruno Rossi, Bruno Rossi Arquitetos**





## VILLA T

Located in the center of Toulouse, the project named «Villa T» is a complete renovation of a classic townhouse in the Montplaisir neighborhood. We have talked to French architect, Pierre-Louis Taillandier, about the project.

Prior to the renovation, the existing house consisted of two stories plus an attic. It was originally divided into 4 units, but the units were in such a bad shape that it needed extensive renovation. “The aim of the project is to create an entirely new family ho-

me while preserving only the existing historic façade of this house type called the «Toulousaine», Pierre-Louis says. The new house is now divided in two zones, where the private areas with sleeping areas occupy the upper two floors. The living areas, on the other hand, link the street level in the front to the lower garden level in the back. “These zones function like two superposed duplexes, the «day duplex» and the «night duplex». The «day duplex» is organized at garden level around a kitchen that opens onto a double-height space”, Pierre-Louis explains

and continues: “The upper level of the «day duplex» consists of a single space functioning as living and dining room with a fireplace as a focal point. A balcony looks out over the double-height space towards the kitchen and garden.”

With walls of prefabricated concrete and floors of light oak, the interior of the home has been designed to be minimalistic and aesthetically pleasing. “The contrast between stained concrete and light oak emphasizes the dual nature of the house, bet-

Toulouse, France

ween historic and contemporary expression, intimate and gallery-like spaces, public areas for living and socializing and intimate areas for sleeping. As a rule, the concrete walls are kept pure, without any added elements such as switches, light fixtures, or artwork”, Pierre-Louis says. Yet, one of the most characteristic elements of the house is the combined staircase and library. As Pierre-Louis explains: “The design refers to several classic threads of the architectural imagination, with its built-in library wrapping around the stair like the tower of knowledge of

ancient Babylon, a 15-centimeter (6-inch) vertical reveal connecting all four levels. This stair creates a link between the sky, with its four skylights, and the ground, at garden level, while connecting and unifying all of the spaces and levels of the house. The stair also enables natural ventilation between the gardens all the way to the uppermost floor.” The natural ventilation was in fact an important feature in the design – to create a great indoor climate without the need for air conditioning. “Thanks to the thermal mass, the house does not need to be air

conditioned. The skylights positioned above the stairwell can be opened during hot weather to create a “free cooling” effect. All of the windows are equipped with adjustable sun shades, allowing the house to be naturally kept cool”, Pierre-Louis mentions. In its totality, Villa T is a stylish home perfectly fit to a contemporary lifestyle while emphasizing an interesting reference to the past.

Architecture by **Taillandier Architectes Associés**

Photography by **Luc Boegly**



## Words of the Week



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*Recently, I have been asked the question »How do you choose the projects to feature?« quite a few times. I thought this issue would be a great occasion to give an explanation. The funny thing is that during my everyday, I do not have a kind of checklist – at least not a physical one. I usually base the selection of projects on intuition, to which certain characteristics are of course rooted into. So this week, I tried to reflect and put a few words on a few characteristics that guide my project selection. I will give you five words: Distinctive, Authentic, Raw, Nature, and Contemporary. The projects do not necessarily have to check out on all five characteristics, however, they usually check out on at least three of the elements. The mix of elements allow a certain level of diversity, so that all projects do not look the same. Yet, the set of characteristics do guide the weekly issues (and the Instagram profile for that matter) with a sense of consistency. So, the projects selected for this issue are trying to depict these five characteristics – more or less in their purest form – to give you an idea of the elements »evaluated« throughout the selection process. Left to say is that I hope you enjoyed reading this week's issue.*

See you again next Friday!

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH  
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

