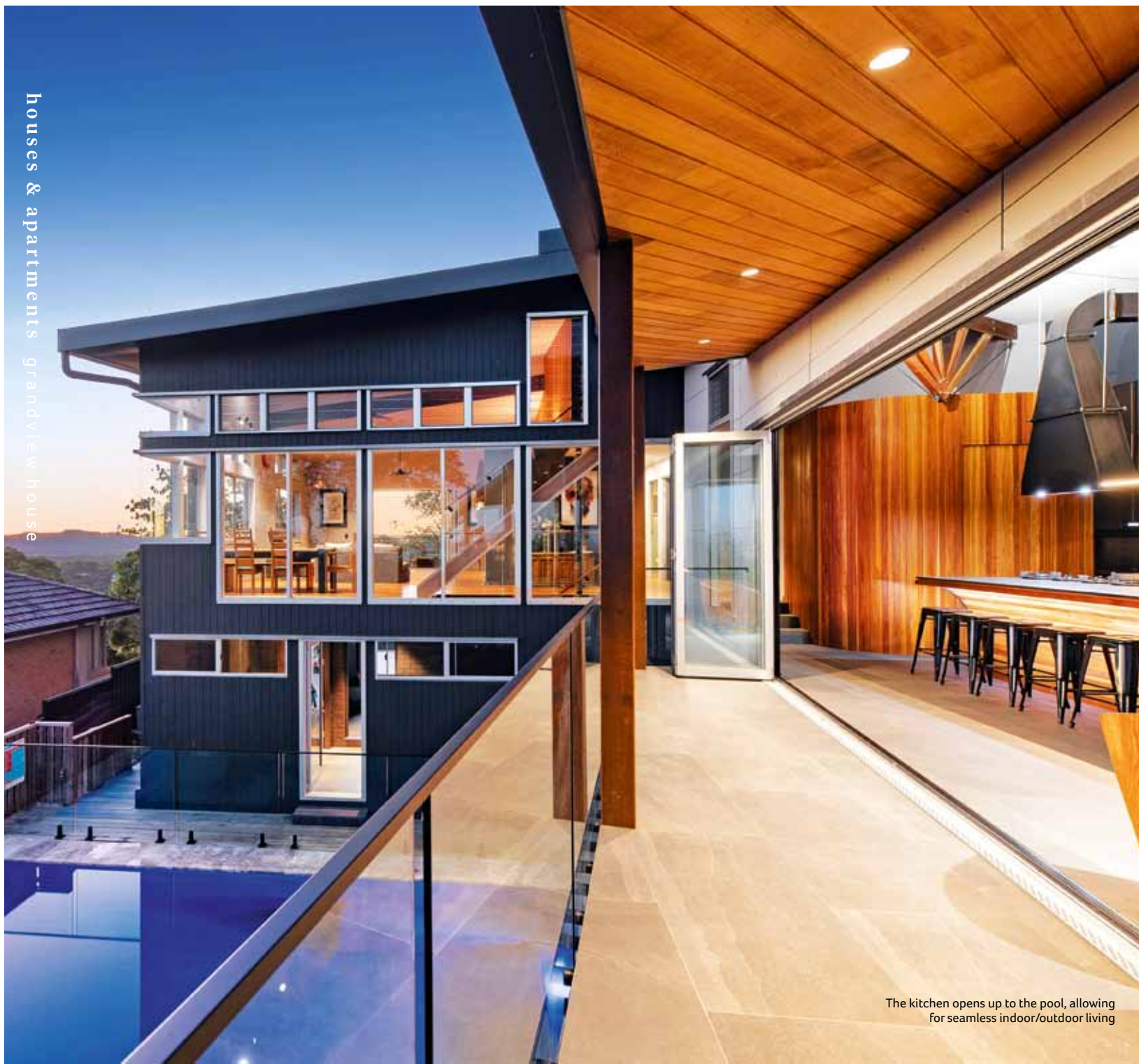


HOUSE ON HIGH

Located high on a mountaintop, this house is a renovation triumph

Words Lauren Clarke Photography Anna Wilshire



The kitchen opens up to the pool, allowing for seamless indoor/outdoor living



The roofline is dramatic without any exposed guttering or fascias



Some prospective homeowners spend aeons scouring the market, searching for a house with the perfect ocean view. Others prefer the country and seek out a place that offers sweeping views of green fields, towering trees and undulating hills. For Tom and Louise Roebuck, there was no reason to choose — Grandview House enjoys both.

This 1000sqm block is perfectly positioned on the south-western ridge of a hill on the edge of Yaroomba and Coolumb Beach in Queensland.

The original home, built in 1980, was placed at the front of the block, with the back garden a native wonderland that stretched up the hill behind it.

Yet it was the view that first attracted Tom and Louise to the property. The verdant green hinterland sweeps out to the west, with the blue of the Pacific a sparkling gem in the distance. This was part of the motivation behind their recent renovation. The couple wanted to enjoy as much of the vista as possible, starting with the kitchen. "The kitchen renovation sees the

ed's fave

THE SHIP-LAPPED SPOTTED GUM ISLAND BENCH CONNECTS THE KITCHEN TO ITS VIEW



LOUVRES AT THE TOP OF THE
WINDOWS USE THE NATURAL
AIRFLOW TO COOL THE PROPERTY



White walls allow the striking vista to be the hero in this space

we love

THE INTERESTING ANGLES CREATED IN THE OPEN-PLAN KITCHEN

room open up on two sides onto the wrap-around balcony overlooking the pool, with stunning views of both sea and hinterland," says Tom, who was also the builder on this project. "A kitchen with sunset views is hard to beat."

The changes to the kitchen didn't stop there. The room was opened up, with high ceilings creating a sense of space. A butler's pantry was added, complete with a copper-penny mosaic-tile splashback, and a custom-made rangehood was created when Tom couldn't find one to suit. "I made one from a modified AC duct fitted with a black stainless integrated extractor unit," Tom says modestly, as if whipping up a rangehood is part and parcel of any renovation.

Other highlights of the kitchen include the very functional island bench, where a ship-lapped spotted gum is the hero. This material complements the native trees growing right outside the home and adds warmth to the otherwise dark aesthetic of the interior.

"Light grey and black emphasise the bold lines used," Tom says of their colour scheme. "A plain background really brings out the colour in our pictures and the view of the rainforest through the window."

Green living was prioritised in this renovation. "Louvres at the top of the windows use the natural airflow to cool the property, which works amazingly well," Tom says. He was also able to repurpose many of the original building materials, with the hardwood roof trusses used as screening and balustrading and the old decking and roof battens used to make the internal doors, a vanity unit and some shelving. "I used all the old bricks to fill in any unwanted openings," Tom says. Solar panels and solar heating for the pool, as well as a water tank for the garden, have also been installed.

One of the absolute highlights of this renovation was the roof. A simple roofline was created without any recognisable fascia or gutters. "I worked closely with my roofer, Matt Wilson from Roofbitz Metal Roofing, to design a gutter that looked identical to a fascia and the same size as a flashing," Tom says. "I think this has a huge effect on the look of the home and it boldly frames the outline of the roof."

Of course, this renovation had its challenges just like any building project. "My memorable moments from the project were not necessarily the most enjoyable," Tom says. "The first Christmas we spent in the house saw me working for the entire holiday period in the dirt, tying the steel and pouring the concrete footings for the retaining walls so as to be ready for the pool builder."





A one-bed, one-bath unit, complete with kitchenette, is adjoined to the home yet doesn't compromise on style

“I promised Louise and the boys a pool for the summer, and a gigantic pool it is, but it nearly killed me” — Tom Roebuck



“I promised Louise and the boys a pool for the summer, and a gigantic pool it is, but it nearly killed me,” Tom continues. “I kept my promise to them — and also made a promise to myself never to give myself such a ridiculous deadline again.”

But all his hard work has truly been worth it. Tom has transformed this home from a three-bedroom, one-bathroom dwelling into a three-bedroom, three-bathroom masterpiece complete with parents’ retreat, vast living/dining area, kitchen with butler’s pantry, office, gym and laundry. “And there’s an adjoining one-bed, one-bath with kitchenette,” Tom says, almost as an afterthought.

The grand renovation was destined to become the Roebucks’ forever home — yet thanks to the burgeoning market, Tom and Louise are now considering doing it all again. “I love giving old homes new life and transforming living spaces from dingy, dated boxes into light, cool places,” says Tom. We can’t wait to see what he turns his hand to next. **HD** roebuckconcepts.com.au