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Green Spaces Residential

Australian Architecture Takes Berlin



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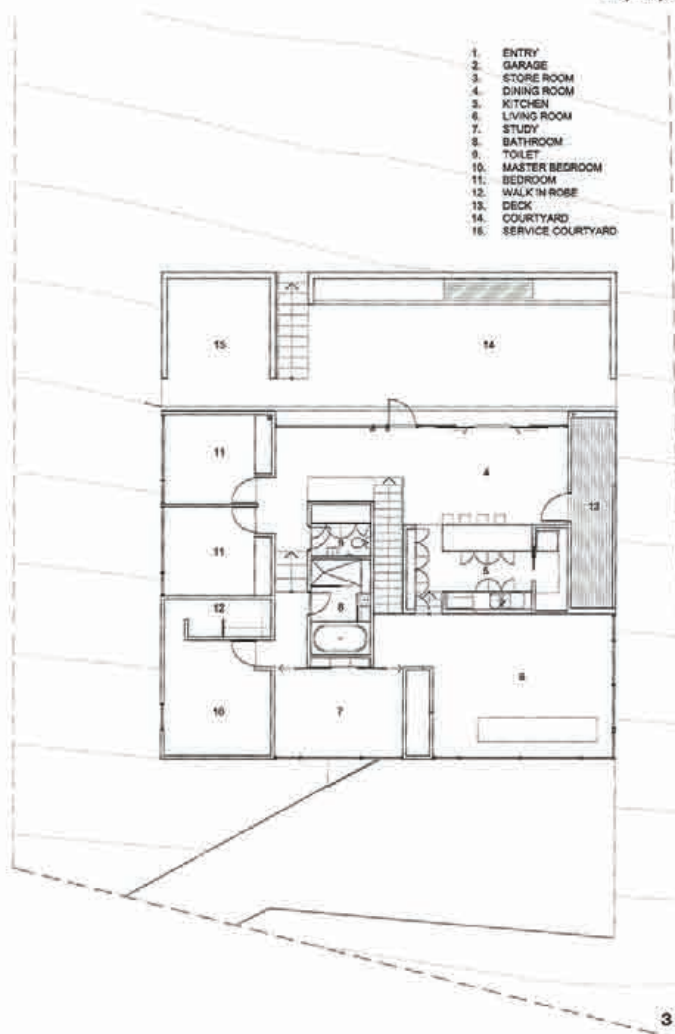
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Ray Joyce



Liverpool Crescent House

Hobart, Tasmania 2005

Externally this house is a blunt cube in the landscape that contrasts with its intimate interior. This play is repeated in the spatial concept. What appear at first to be interiors are continually externalised through. For example, the use of material and floor-to-ceiling glazing creates a vertiginous relation to the exterior.

The public spaces of the house were conceived as plateaus compressed around the more private functions—toilet, bathroom, bedroom—that occupy the solid centre of the house and that push up from the base. This core is understood conceptually as having been carved from the massy substance of the site, an idea that is reinforced in the colour scheme. This provides a counterpoint to the public plateaus of the interior and their colours. The core folds out into the landscape in a suntrap courtyard connecting the spatial sequence of the house with the slope of the site. The courtyard and vertiginous windows suggest, conceptually, another level of folding outwards and interconnection with the greater landscape. In this sense the play of interior/exterior is extended to take in the valley and the hill.

This house can be understood then as a play of doubles—blunt/intimate, interior/exterior, carved space/plateau—in which the experiential qualities of house, of home, of inside and landscape are folded together in a powerful expression of place.

This is a new architectural direction for architectural firm Terroir; it is a new way of engaging with site and landscape through the compression of cubic spaces, distinguishing this project from other Terroir projects where the line plays a dominant role in spatial distributions.

Terroir

Architectural practice Terroir evolved out of a series of discussions regarding the potency of the threshold to inform relationships to both an external, physical space and an internal psychological one. The practice understands this threshold not just as a developed boundary condition but as a potent psychological and cultural concept. Ultimately, this threshold is a metaphor for Terroir's place of origin, Tasmania, a place that, through physical isolation, is amplified as a space of engagement and exchange, projection and introjection, between the world and ourselves.

Terroir is a concept that goes to the nature of ground in a cosmopolitan condition. It is an opening up of the surface of place, a tangible mark of human interaction with ground. Thus, Terroir understands the world as an ever-evolving system—at both a spatial and ecological level—that is subject to continual modification.

Tasmania provides a rich environment in which to explore these ideas, with highly contested wilderness areas that have become a focus for those searching for new and unique experiences but requiring a high level of amenities. The particular characteristics of Tasmania's sublime landscape—its uncanny quality, labyrinthine structure and unique formal characteristics—are used to drive formal and spatial interventions.

- 1 Exterior view
- 2 Interior view
- 3 Upper floor plan