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# September 2005

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*The colour issue*



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# TAILOR MADE

*Perched on the side of a sloping block near Hobart, this multi-level family home ensures every room has a view*

PRODUCED REG WATSON PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD EASTWOOD



**Opposite** the living area seen from the kitchen. "The house is terrific for entertaining," says Natalie. "We cope perfectly well with large gatherings, as there is so much room for people to mill around. It all works very well." **Above** the garden was designed by local landscaper Cathy Shields. It contains 80 per cent native Tasmanian plants in a low-maintenance garden design. The remaining exotic species have similarly low water and fertiliser needs, and will soften the house's exterior as they grow.

**T**odd and Natalie Burrows both grew up in Tranmere, a prestigious foreshore suburb of Hobart. When they married they wanted to stay local, so were thrilled when a site with a magnificent view of Mount Wellington came on to the market. The young couple were eager to build their own home, so snapped up the sloping, well-situated land.

The budget was limited at that early stage, and the house needed to fit a satellite office for their Hobart-based financial planning business too. They approached an architect friend, Scott Balmforth of Terroir, who came up with plans that were able to evolve.

"When we started planning the house we weren't even thinking about kids, but by the time we moved in, Emily was eight months old," says Natalie. ▶



“ This house is terrific for entertaining.  
We cope perfectly well with large gatherings as there is  
so much room for people  
to mill around ”

Natalie Burrows Owner







LINES OF SIGHT  
**SECRET VIEWS**

**"Having the view with privacy was a huge thing for us. In our previous home, I felt I was in a fishbowl. Here I can sit on the sofa looking out, and no-one can see me,"** says owner Natalie Burrows. Architect Scott Balmforth designed the whole house

around sight lines that would lead from the relaxing neutrals of the home to the natural colours of the Derwent River and hills outside. "Scott has done a fantastic job," says Natalie. "We have access to all those wonderful views, even through the house from the back deck."



**Opposite** the kitchen was designed in an open plan style with a high bench dividing it from the living areas. The sight lines are used practically, family members in the kitchen aren't cut off from view but the work bench with all the mess on it is hidden. **Above** the low joinery unit containing the television and sound system cuts off any view inside from the street, while framing a vista of the river and hills beyond through the upper windows.



#### Colour code

*If you like the colours used in this home, these paints will appeal*

- 1** Dulux Black; Watty Jet Black; Covered in Paint Black Night
- 2** Dulux Wink; Taubmans Blue Harbour; Porter's Paints Jodphur Blue
- 3** Tabuman's Baby Bright; Covered in Paint Shy Sky; Bristol Early Day
- 4** Dulux Cloudform; Bristol Astral; Porter's Paints Ice

◀ Scott created a plan that takes complete advantage of the site's gently sloping foreground which looks out at the successive layers of view: river, city and foothills.

The design uses level changes and openings to manipulate space and maximise views without compromising the family's privacy. When seated in the living room, for example, the treetops, water and distant mountains are seen, but not roads, vehicles and houses.

"The view embraces Mount Wellington, which is the heart and soul of the river valley," says Scott. "An important aspect of this location is its linear quality. From the house, these lines can be seen as trees, river, Hobart foothills and the mountain beyond."

While the couple's initial budget was limited, the exterior planes of the house give a sense of a much larger building and the interiors have the richness of a much more expensive home.

"It is a nice size, not overly large, but with ample room," says Natalie. ▶



**This page, top** the house entry is at a lower level, but a large window on the stairs leading to the main living area keeps this zone bright and cheerful. **Above** the dramatic tone of Dulux Curtain Call was chosen to match the colours of the distant hills of Hobart. **Opposite** the playroom looks out onto the kitchen/dining area, so Natalie and Todd can chat with the girls while preparing dinner. Wicker and plastic boxes make tidying simple; similar products are available from IKEA.





“ It is not only a great house to bring up kids in, but in the future it will not be too big for Todd and I ”

Natalie Burrows Owner



◀ With a new family, the house's furniture is in a state of evolution. The sofa in the playroom for example was purchased from a garage sale, while the suite in the living room comes from their old home. Todd and Natalie had the dining table made to size, and it is left natural, not lacquered or oiled.

The children's bedrooms are upstairs, while their parents' bedroom and study is downstairs, allowing a division of living and play areas. "Originally this was a concern to us, but it has worked out well and now we wouldn't change anything," says Natalie.

"It is not only a great house to bring up kids in, but in the future it will not be too big for Todd and I to live in by ourselves." **HOUSE**

Architect Scott Balmforth, Terroir, Hobart, Tasmania; call (03) 6234 6372, or visit [www.terroir.com.au](http://www.terroir.com.au)

**Right** Todd and Natalie's bedroom is a private adult space complete with ensuite and walk-in wardrobe. The girls aren't forgotten – family portraits take pride of place. **Left** Sophie's bedroom is an adaptable child-friendly space that can grow with her. Both girls have windows that look out on to the garden, keeping nature close.



