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Rooms

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Paul Hotston



Matt Gibson

36 | FIELD WORK

On the bank of a lagoon in the cane fields of North Queensland, this open-plan kitchen (above) was designed by architect Paul Hotston. "The site's distant views, both upstream and downstream, dictated the layout, while the building merges into the landscape," says Hotston. The kitchen sits between the living and dining zones, brightened by a north-facing skylight.

The palette is a sophisticated mix of white polished stone, Tasmanian oak and slate-grey laminate. The external cladding is echoed inside, while broad openings, with stacking floor-to-ceiling glass doors fold away to link the interior and exterior. The oak floors and gloriously tactile white polished stone joinery play up the indoor-outdoor connection.

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37 | DARK AND HANDSOME

This bathroom (opposite) in a narrow Melbourne terrace opens onto a small courtyard. With the rest of the house all white, its full-height black Madras limestone tiles are a strong contrast. "We clad the external boundary wall of the courtyard in full-length mirror giving it the feeling of being both internal and external," says building designer Matt Gibson. "At night, the dark surfaces and mirrors reflect the sky and create another world that seems completely separate from the flow of the rest of the house." He adds: "Opening the doors up makes you feel as if you are having a bath outdoors, and if you dare use the hot outdoor shower on a winter's night, it's like being in a sci-fi movie with an upright shooting a diffused beam into a steam cloud that can extend 20 metres into the night sky!"

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