



**FASCINATING TWIST:** The shape is like a ribbon that emerges from the dramatic landscape.



**RURAL ROOTS:** Weathered sheds and outbuildings inspired the style of this holiday house.

Pictures: JONATHAN WHERRETT

# Guided by the site



**D**ESPITE being perched high above Marion Bay and gently undulating farmland, this is not a house on the hill. Mike Verdouw, of Hobart firm 1+2 Architecture, says the striking house is *of* the hill rather than on it.

"It is designed to settle into the landscape. Our work is always guided by the site, we don't have one signature style," Mike said.

The house is a finalist in this year's Tasmanian Architecture Awards in the new housing category. In the coming weeks, the *Sunday Tasmanian* is featuring all finalists in this category.

In the case of the Marion Bay House, the site offered fabulous views over the water and the privacy of a large block in a farming area.

The house is built in a paddock, with the resident cows often wandering up to scratch themselves on the corners.

"The style was inspired by the weathered old sheds and outbuildings you see everywhere in the local area," Mike said. "It's an unapologetic house. It is clearly a man-made structure but one that is created for this particular site."

One obvious reference to a working farm is the "sheep chute" that leads to the front door of the house.

Originally the owners wanted a deck there but, because the southern side of the house is the most exposed to the weather, the plan changed to include the ramp leading to the recessed door.

The entrance is the only opening in the wall on the southern side, which at 58m is much longer than the actual house and provides a buffer against the prevailing southerly winds.

The shape is like a ribbon that emerges from the ground, twists around the living areas at one end of the house and folds back to enclose the building.

The vertical cladding is macrocarpa timber that is starting to fade to a beautiful silver-grey. The



**OPEN-MINDED:** The recessed deck is shielded from the elements but not the view.

galvanised nails and the deliberately rough finish are true to the rustic nature of the building.

"Where the material doesn't require a finish we have left it raw," Mike said.

Another material used both inside and out is cement sheeting. Inside, the rustic look gives way to contemporary comfort.

The compact 190sqm house has three bedrooms, one with an ensuite. The bedrooms are built on a different level from the public areas of the house.

The owners live overseas and regularly visit Tasmania. When they are not using the house, it is used as tourist accommodation.

The bedrooms are compact but offer plenty of storage. The ensuite off the main bedroom has a striking feature – a bath nook that juts out of the room and makes the most of the open views over pasture and mountains. Fortunately, the nearest neighbour is more than 500m away.

All spaces inside are crisp and modern, with shadow lines around windows and doors replacing traditional frames and architraves.

White plasterboard walls, white blinds and simple furniture enhance the sense of space the 3.6m-high ceilings provide.

The view over the water dominates the combined kitchen, dining and living area, with a study and sitting area partitioned off.

A funky metal fireplace suspended from the ceiling and the Artichoke light (a Scandinavian classic) over the dining table provide focal points for the room.

"The design keeps things really simple. The rooms offer the features you need but nothing else," Mike said.

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**STUDY AREA:** A corner bench provides an office nook or somewhere to contemplate the scenery.

## Take your pick

VOTE in the People's Choice prize in this year's Tasmanian Architecture Awards to be in the draw for a Pure Tasmania holiday voucher for two people worth about \$2250.

You can vote online for your favourite project in all award categories.

The winning project will be published in the *Sunday Tasmanian* on June 19.

Vote at [www.architecture.com.au/tas](http://www.architecture.com.au/tas). Voting closes on June 15.

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**BY NIGHT:** A side view shows the home's different levels, with the suspended fireplace providing a funky focal point inside.

