



Shear wonder

A home that uses the humble shearing shed for inspiration thrives on its mystique. MATT MALONEY reports.

ALTHOUGH it looks like a rustic shearing shed from a distance, one Marion Bay home is just as striking as its rural and coastal landscape.

The home last month was one of three new residential properties to be awarded at this year's Tasmanian Architecture Awards.

1+2 Architecture director Mike Verdouw said the design was inspired by rural architecture and drew on landscape cues from around the 60-hectare farm.

"Our principal cue was your everyday farmhouse shed," Mr Verdouw said.

"It's not an abrupt blip in the landscape, instead it links to it. It's a simple gesture in the landscape."

He said the lightweight timber structure was essentially a fence that became a building.

Its external cladding is rough sawn macrocarpa timber, fitted together following a traditional board-and-batten technique and sourced from disused wind breaks.

The 200-square metre home has a strip of windows that runs along the building's front.

On the building's opposite southern



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side is a solid 60 metre-long wall which guards the home from blasts of southerly Antarctic winds, which includes a decked walkway — referred to as “the sheep chute” — to the front door.

“There is a tremendous amount of mystique to the house in its approach,” Mr Verdouw said.

“There is a gradual revelation of the house. You don't see it from the main road, so there is optimum privacy.”

“It's not until you pass through several gates that you see the house

(and) all you see is a wall with a hole in it.

“It's a robust house that is visually and physically tough — cows even walk up and rub themselves against its walls.

“But once you go inside, it's more refined.”

Following European design principles, the home's interior is lavish yet simple with a mix of warm whites and natural timbers.

It has a number of centrepieces peppered throughout, including a suspended fireplace in the middle of its main living area, hanging from a 3.6-metre ceiling.

“And the kitchen is a big wall really, a divider between various spaces and great for storage,” Mr Verdouw said.

The site sits 175 metres above sea level and offers an idyllic rural landscape and coastal views.

“There is always a temptation to run the house across the view to make a big panorama statement,” Mr Verdouw said.

“But we don't see panoramically, we can only focus on one thing at one time so this house actually sits oblique to the view.

“All the views are very different.

“There is an estuary below, a view out to one of Tasmania's best surf spots, a substantial gum tree, which was used as a design cue, views to Maria Island, and the Dunalley Canal.”