



Photographs by DENYS FINNEY

Written by CATHERINE BAUER



NATURAL BEAUTY

This holiday retreat blends into the scrub

Paul and Marina Tokareff's two-storey holiday home, at Aldinga Beach, sits so well within its seaside scrub landscape it is barely noticeable from the road.

The substantial building, which includes four bedrooms, appears to float above its site on a wooden deck foundation and makes use of solid natural materials including Kanmantoo sandstone and wood.

Set among stringybark gums, which were selectively trimmed and cut to make way for the building - and which serve as home to three resident owls, the property is low impact both visually and environmentally.

Paul and Marina, of Tempo Constructions, built the home two years ago and the finishing touch - a wood and stainless steel outdoor kitchen - has just been completed.

The couple and their three young daughters, Emilia, Lydia and Daria, spend relaxed summer breaks at the house where casual entertaining is often on the agenda.

It also doubles as the Tempo Constructions' display home.

"We were pretty specific with what we wanted," Paul says.

"In our work we do both commercial and residential projects and we know what we like and what's out there.

"We wanted to be able to accommodate two families without

being on top of one another and being a beach house it had to be easy to maintain and cater to relaxed living and entertaining."

The home's lower level features the open plan living area comprising family room with open fire, dining space and kitchen with apple green glass splashbacks and Eucalyptus veneer cupboards.

A soaring two-storey, 60-tonne Kanmantoo sandstone wall forms the western boundary and seems to anchor the home to the site.

Wooden floors run throughout for a quick easy clean and effective use is made of glass and bifold doors, which allow the living areas to flow through to the outdoor kitchen and entertaining area, complete with practical outdoor shower.

The main bedroom suite and children's bedroom and bathroom complete the lower level.

The upper floor consists of another master bedroom, children's bedroom, bathroom and another living area with wet bar and concealed study.

Paul and Marina's attention to detail and penchant for streamlining is revealed in small but important details including stainless steel fittings, lack of skirtings and the fact that many fixtures interlock.





An outdoor shower (1) is just one of the useful inclusions in the two-storey beach house (2) of Paul and Marina Tokareff (3). There are separate living areas upstairs (4) and down, while timber and glass are used extensively

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