

# Inside

text: Megan Norgate

## DYNAMIC BIOPHILIC

Conceived by Cavill Architects, this exquisitely resolved extension to a Queensland home was inspired by monolithic European relics, into which vines and plants creep as the building further decays. Despite the exotic inspiration, the outcome has a very local context. The domestic Australian architectural dream has long chased the narrative of indoor/outdoor connection as a core aspiration. This project has transcended that ideal, morphing the environments into a single intention that removes thresholds.

## BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Monolithic interior materials such as concrete, lime plaster render and stone have been repeated in the garden with concrete paving, rendered walls and permeable river stone channels for unified materiality. The thresholds between the interior and exterior environment are playfully blurred, with river stones used to border the kitchen, bathrooms and outdoor patios. The magic disappearing sliding door in the living space is cleverly triple-stacked into an external fin wall.

## CHANGING FORMS

The arrangement of a sunken living room looking beyond an internal garden onto a suspended pavilion-style sitting room beyond forms a deferential arrangement around the central crepe myrtle tree. The result is an interior environment that inspires intimacy and reflection. The rhythmic landscapes designed by Dan Young are full of climbers, ground covers and cascading species which will appear to engulf the building over time.  
[danyounglandscape.com](http://danyounglandscape.com)

## QUIET MASSIVE

The use of heavy mass materials combined with intensively planted environments would keep the enclaves of this house cool during the day. The concrete will function to absorb the radiant heat. Careful attention to privacy around glazed doors and windows means they can be left open overnight to expel built-up heat. The proximity and volume of plant life, both inside and out, will regulate excess humidity, creating a continually cool and fresh interior. Located in a hot climate, a home that can breathe to a circadian rhythm is a future-proofing asset.

## CONCRETE

Concrete is used in various finishes, both underfoot and overhead, and concrete garden walls flank the building. Off form concrete impressed with the ghost of recycled pine floorboards forms the kitchen ceiling and dramatic skylight. Hand-trowelled concrete steps and floors bridge the various levels in the home and outside. The garden walls are rendered with a Dulux Concrete render and finished in Dulux "Whisper White" paint.  
[dulux.com.au](http://dulux.com.au)

## LIME

The lime plaster render used on the interior walls is an environmentally friendly mineral alternative to concrete-rendered walls. Made from a combination of lime and sand, lime plaster is a porous, highly durable and inert finish. Lime has an inherent colour, removing the need for paints and other VOC-releasing coatings. Lime is a breathable surface, absorbing moisture without forming mould as the pH environment prevents its growth. The finish varies from satin to semi-gloss, and the sheen increases over time.  
[ideacreation.com.au](http://ideacreation.com.au)

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