

# A look to the future

“Designing homes is about understanding form, shape and balance, with an appreciation for the specific requirements of the homeowner. Functionality, suitability to the surrounding area and potential expansion for family growth, are all-important factors when creating a successful home design”

*Darren Grayson, Darren Grayson Designers*





# Height of fashion

Repeating forms, monochromatic colours, and a distinctive roofline extending toward bay views are aspects of this home's modern design

Simplicity in design is a sort after concept that, paradoxically, is usually difficult to achieve. In architecture, some of the most enduring designs of the 20th Century have been those that incorporate simple, unadorned forms.

It was with this in mind that designer Darren Grayson set about creating this home. Responsible for all facets of the design, including lighting, furniture, artwork and landscaping, Grayson looked to classic American modernist structures for inspiration.

"What I wanted to achieve was simplicity of design, without any multi-textured cladding. In time, the client may like to change aspects of the home, such as the colour – but most importantly, the design won't become dated," he says.

The house sits atop the city's highest peak. Taking advantage of the site's natural elevation, the designer incorporated

**Preceding pages and these pages:** Designed as a lighthouse on top of a hill, this home features a sculptural, butterfly wing roof.

rated a distinctive butterfly-shaped roof – based on a roof form designed by the renowned American modernist architect Richard Meier – that projects the home's main living area upwards and outwards, towards the 270° views.

"Overall, the house was conceived as a beacon on a hill, with the main living space forming a double volume glass prism," he says.

"Entering the double doors, on the road side, you gradually work your way through the house to this main living room.





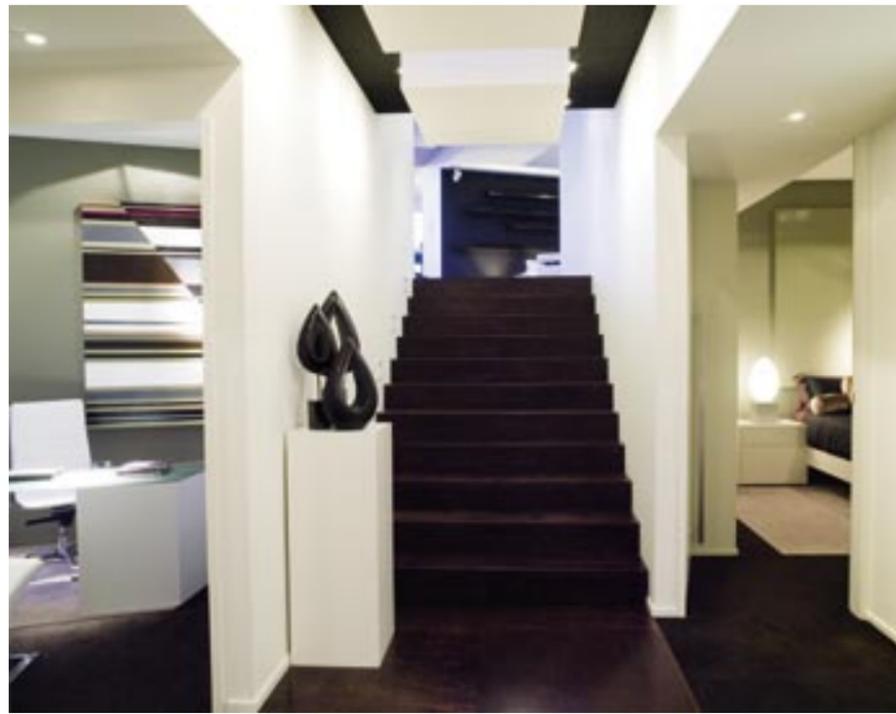
Here, the roof's steep gradient increases the room's volume as you approach the views.

"The house works on a number of levels. The living, family and formal areas are interconnected, with sliding doors to the deck and lap pool creating a grid of juxtaposed indoor-outdoor living areas," he says.

Grayson also incorporated a series of simple repetitions into his design to help make visual connections between spaces. The exterior of the house represents a

**Facing page:** Designer Darren Grayson worked closely with his brother Scott to create many of the home's sculptural pieces, such as the three-piece red column arrangement and the coffee table. The sofas were chosen for the angles of the arms and back, which reflect the angles of the sculpture and roofline.

**Top and above:** Black leather, 1.5m high dining chairs are reflected in the mirrored table. Black was chosen to mimic the tiles in the 27m lap pool. When 12 people are seated around the table a complete enclosure is formed.



series of white cubes, with the clean form stepping down at the roadside on two levels.

Inside, a main hallway feeds the visitor past the accommodation and office space, through to bigger and increasingly dramatic spaces that progressively open up the home to the views.

Creating impact with duplicated form was another technique used by the designer.

"Repetition is seen almost everywhere – in the cubes on the hallway ceiling, in

the skylights between the cubes, in the red living room sculpture, and even in the entertainment room's chocolate carpet."

This discipline of repetition to link spaces is obvious in the entertainment room where the 900mm x 900mm squares, shaved into the plush pile carpet, are repeated in the adjacent wooden flooring and the vertically and horizontally detailed exterior timber decking.

To add ambience to the clean, monochromatic and minimalist spaces, strong blocks of predominantly red and choco-

late colour were introduced. These colours are backed up with atmospheric lighting, also designed by Grayson.

The designer worked closely with his brother, joiner and master builder Scott, to create many of the pieces of furniture, sculptural pieces and artwork.

"Our talents combine well. When it came to developing the sculptural pieces, I generally conceptualise them, and Scott then constructs them. The three-piece red sculpture in the living room was designed to create an indoor-outdoor link with the

white column fence outside. This piece was given a high-gloss finish that reflects light beautifully."

Red, a theme running throughout the home, also features in the lighting design.

"I chose red because I wanted a powerful colour to accent the monochromatic base. It also makes a very strong statement and can stand alone."

The lighting design in the main living and dining room is dramatic. Four inground uplights with metal haloid globes create an ambient milieu.

Two of these uplights were treated with a red gel. One, placed under the three-column sculpture, casts complex shadows in the double-volume room.

However, the room's centrepiece lighting feature is a wire ball lamp. Dotted with a series of 12V globes, it is suspended above the dining room table. Three inground uplights behind the table round out the rooms overall lighting.

"The table is large, 2m x 2m, with a mirror top that ascetically reflects the light from the lamp," says Grayson.

**Facing page, top:** The home's lower level contains accommodation and office space. The painting seen in the office features all the colours used on the home.

**Facing page, above:** The kitchen's black roof contrasts with the automotive metallic silver finish of the cabinetry and the white benchtops.

**Above:** Repeating, square and rectangular shapes feature in the entertainment room. The 900 x 900mm carpet and floor squares create a connection with the exterior decking, which consists of horizontal and vertical planks, composed in squares.



**Above:** In the master bedroom, carpet was laid in four pieces using Chocolate, Igloo and Beige from the Supercraft range. Excess sun is shielded by an automatic louvre system.

**Right:** Large, wok-shaped counter top basins overhang vanities of differing levels.

**Facing page:** The designer was also responsible for the home's landscape design. The tree planted in front of the master bedroom was specially selected for its form. Treated like a bonsai, it is trained to grow along the same line as the home's sculptural roofline.

"In the adjacent entertainment room, the lighting design highlights and adds ambience to the repeating geometric shapes. A split-roof contains recessed downlighting, while the uplights behind an extremely angular couch throw square shadows on the roof."

The entertainment room also features a wall installation of four long mirror-gloss finished panels. The wall on which these are hung has a mat, monochromatic finish that is given a three dimensional aspect by this installation.



**Home designer:** Darren Grayson, Darren Grayson Designers (Geelong, Vic)  
**Kitchen designer:** Darren Grayson Designers; Scott Grayson Kitchen Bathroom Living  
**Interior and landscape designer:** Darren Grayson Designers  
**Builder:** David McDonald Builders  
**Cladding:** Brick; Blueboard Render  
**Roofing:** Metaltec Roofing  
**Tiling:** Walkers Geelong  
**Flooring:** Belmont Timber  
**Pool:** Darren Grayson Designers; Guseli Pools  
**Windows and doors:** Westcoast Geelong  
**Window and door hardware:** Detail Door Hardware

**Blinds:** Brax Window Treatments  
**Painter:** Quest Painting  
**Lighting:** Lumascape  
**Heating System:** Middelton Airconditioning  
**Furniture:** Scott Grayson Kitchen Bathroom Living; King Furniture; Living Etc  
**Rugs:** Fletchers Carpet Choice  
**Audio Visual:** Bose from Belmont Stereo Systems  
**Televisions:** Marantz  
**Speakers:** Bose  
**Kitchen Cabinetry:** Two-pac auto metallic  
**Benchtops:** Re-constituted stone  
**Splashback:** Glass  
**Kitchen Sink And Taps:** Abbey

**Oven, Cooktop And Microwave:** Miele  
**Ventilation:** Qasair  
**Refrigeration:** Jenn-Air  
**Dishwasher:** Fisher & Paykel  
**Bathroom Vanity:** Scott Grayson Kitchen Bathroom Living  
**Shower Fittings and taps:** Abbey  
**Shower Enclosure:** Tiled  
**Bath:** McCanns Plumbing Supplies  
**Accessories:** Art Sculptures designed by Darren Grayson Designers, created by Scott Grayson Kitchen Bathroom Living

**Photography By Andrew Ashton**