



## AZURIS, Hamilton Island, Australia

Idyllically located on the western side of Hamilton Island, the aptly named Azuris overlooking the Coral Sea, is one of two holiday homes nestled side-by-side that architect Renato D'Ettorre designed for the same client.

The three bedroom design spectacularly responds to three key elements of its location—light, air and water.

Indoor and outdoor effortlessly blend and spaces fuse, making the most of ocean breezes and light. The sea is not just the focus of the view but also wraps around the main pavilion in the form of a spacious infinity pool, blending seamlessly into the horizon and the ocean vista.

Airflow is optimized and adjusted with walls and shading devices easily opened, creating comfort, reducing the need for airconditioning and artificial lighting.

Although stunning, the design brief included instruction for a low-maintenance house that is all about easy living.

**Opposite page:** The surface of the luxurious infinity pool transfers seamlessly into the horizon with its unique ocean panorama.

**Above:** The swimming pool's proximity to the living area and master bedroom never fails to impress.



Above: The open upper living area embraces an outdoor/indoor lifestyle.

Right: Azuris' design responds to three key elements of its island location—light, air and water.



Far left: Shower with a view—naturally.

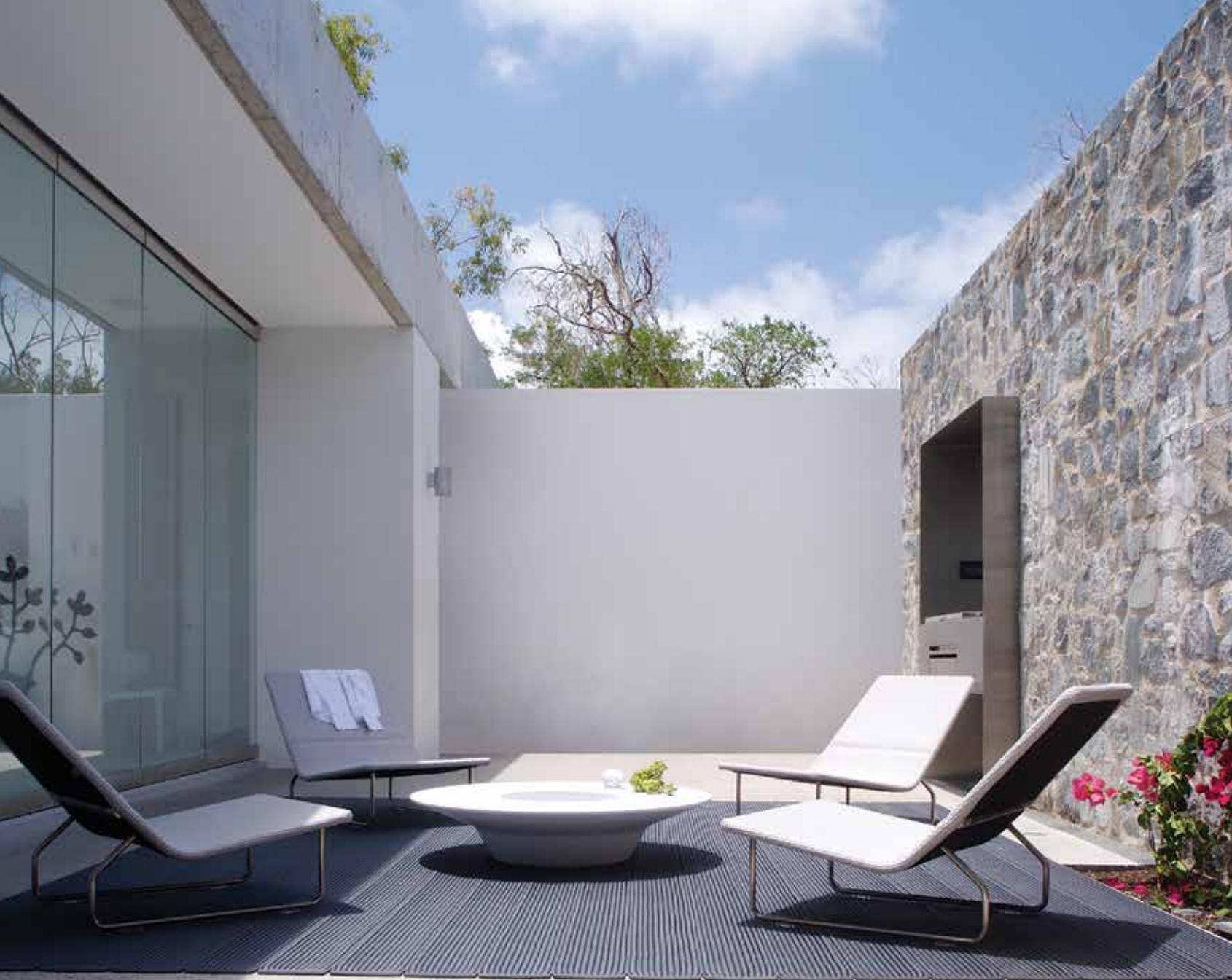


Above: Walls and shading devices are easily opened and adjusted to optimize air flow and moderate sunlight creating a comfortable environment that reduces the need for air-conditioning or artificial lighting.

Left: "The bedroom and its relation to the swimming pool is the easiest feature to fall in love with," says D'Ettorre. "The distance from bed to pool is only meters away which beckons you to take a dip the moment you awake."

Far left: Shower with a view—naturally.





Situated on a site that falls steeply away to the water's edge, on approach, the only part of the house visible is a green roof planted with native species, which further draw the eye out towards the horizon and the spectacular view.

The contemporary design adopts a pavilion form, with floor to ceiling sliding glass doors, bedrooms and living areas spread over three levels. Internal courtyards are tranquil spaces of pools and ponds.

Construction materials are concrete, stone and glass—chosen for their rawness and transparency respectively. The house spans between two dominant walls. The living area, main bedroom and pool are on the top level for privacy, with guest rooms and an undercover sheltered terrace on the lower level. The western façade opens up entirely to the view whilst the two side walls and natural stone wall anchor the home into the earth.

The site, abundant with wildlife and covered in eucalypts and a mangrove swamp, needed to respect the flora and fauna. With water scarce on the island, 40,000 liters (8,800 gallons) of rainwater is collected in tanks within the basement. Water is also recycled, treated and used to water the landscape.

**Opposite page:** The entry courtyard is shielded from the road by high stone walls. The courtyard is a quiet contemplative place with a cooling reflection pond with waterlilies. The entrance courtyard opens directly onto the main living floor. A steel barbecue has been integrated into the massive stone wall, creating a casual outdoor cooking zone not far from the kitchen and dining area.

**Above:** The house sits inconspicuously into the landscape so that it is difficult to imagine what lies beyond the unobtrusive external walls.