

Where We Live:

国际顶IN豪宅

Creative Residential Space

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Dane Richardson
Principal
Dane Design Australia Pty Ltd

Preface

A relationship central to our lives is the space we live in and the things we fill that space with. Private residential space particularly single villas is the most personal one of architectural types. The "home" holds our past, reflects our present taste and style and projects our future ambitions. The humble origins of residential space to provide shelter from the elements, safety and security for the family have not been lost; although the private home has become a showpiece and constantly challenges our understanding of space, light, materials, engineering and function.

Private space may also represent the values we wish to live by rather than just how we want things to look, and this may be evident in your home, the clutter, eclectic mix of collected items and family photographs or a place for everything with minimalist restraint and order. Visually astounding, iconic, technically unbelievable, custom designed villas are as diverse as the cultures and countries they are built in.

The passion, excitement and frustrations that run through the veins of the design and construction of a private home are incredibly fulfilling for designer and owner. A well managed design and construction process is a pleasure and the results exhilarating, and people who have experienced the rewards of creating their own private space will understand. Those that have not – I suggest you engage a good designer and embark on a mission to create your own private space now!

As I have been kindly asked to write this introduction I will shed a little light on my process to design. For me I like to find the "one big idea" that the designer captures the owners' desires and respects the site. This big idea needs to be strong and deliberate; it then allows smaller ideas to hang from it, enhancing and participating in the form and function of spaces. The "big idea" may be a single design element, a single language, a material, lighting, a framed view, or something that is clear and unlike the last project.

As the required circulation, room arrangements, volumes and layer upon layer of detail are added (not to mention compliance issues), it is easy to overload that "big idea" and the starting point, so clear but unresolved, becomes lost. Being aware of the overload of ideas is critical and that's the point of knowing when enough options have been considered. At this time I follow a rigorous process of reduction and refinement, trimming back ideas, deleting fiddly unnecessary detail, less is more of course!! All discarded ideas are kept; they may be suitable for some other projects that I am yet to hear about.

Alongside architectural creativity, space should be underpinned by research and knowledge, and every project should be vigorously interrogated. Energy performances calculated, material selections and finishes painstakingly considered, orientation, ventilation and so on all are reviewed and looked at in detail prior to decisions being made. Environment is sustainably a fundamental in my book; principles of low energy use, low toxicity, material life cycles, and embodied energy must form a part of the outcome for space to be considered above others.

The result of the above process is exactly as expected, the circle is complete, and the original design concept is now clear and the single big idea will be evident again, compliant and functional ready for further design development. Creating personal space is most rewarding from the designer's perspective as it requires an intimate understanding of what the client is asking for and then a creative interpretation of that, even if the brief is open and I am given a free hand to create, I find it is critical to understand the client and how they wish to live, evidence of the character of the owner and site should be visible in the solution.

As a designer I believe I have a responsibility to make residential space creative, comfortable, healthy, low in energy use and safe. I love contemporary architecture and being part of developing spaces for people to live in is truly rewarding. Materials and technologies and ideas are constantly changing and being reinvented and reworked; at the high end it's truly inspirational while at the low end it is humble and equally fulfilling. Another wonderful aspect of private architectural space is that it is "private" and the debate of taste and style, good and bad design can be removed to a great extent and individuals can simply live in spaces that make them feel good and keep them safe.

Please enjoy this book, I am sure you will find inspiration in the Creative Residential Space illustrated on the following pages.



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VIP_House

DESIGN COMPANY: C. F. Møller Architects

DESIGNER: Klaus Toustrup

LOCATION: Vejby Strand + various, Denmark

AREA: 140 m²

MATERIALS: Timber construction, wood & stone floors, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Home



Basic geometric shapes such as the pentagon provide part of the inspiration for Vip House, which is a long way from the classic holiday home. The tight architecture is characterised by simple lines, with material changes and incisions, which helps to give the building lightness and character.

The aim has been to blur the boundaries between inside and outside, and the functional holiday home offers space for all the modern family needs. Vip House comes in three variations, where the basic idea is the same: an elongated central living room zones, supplemented by a varying number of bedrooms. The entrance to the Vip House is either through the hall or the large terrace. They both lead directly into the spacious double-height living room, where the facade consists of large glazed panels that make the surroundings appear as a living painting.

The basic volume also contains two bedrooms and a bathroom, and the ceiling height allows for an open mezzanine with up to eight extra beds. The two larger versions of Vip House provide further rooms and facilities: the 110 m² type provides four bedrooms plus an extra terrace, while the Vip 140 m² type has an additional terrace, a bathroom and a larger living room.











