

LIVING OFF THE LAND

THIS PAVILION-STYLE HOUSE ENCOMPASSES MULTIPLE SPACES
THAT JOIN TOGETHER TO MAKE A HOME



WORDS // ANNABELLE CLOROS PHOTOGRAPHY // RHIANNON SLATTER

With the vision of running a permaculture farm, Dean Lamb purchased a 16-hectare block of land that was essentially a cow paddock. But first, a sustainable home constructed from straw bales had to be built. However, rather than just one space, Dean set out to create multiple structures that stand alone but are essentially joined together.

“We joke that I wanted to build my own village,” admits Dean. And that he did. With a unique and grand design in mind, Dean called on the services of architect Karl Baumann to translate his vision into reality. But instead of a traditional build made with standard materials, Dean wanted to take a natural approach, using straw bales to construct the home along with upcycled and recycled materials. “The main brief I gave myself — and later shared with Karl — is that we had to be pragmatic and work with whatever building materials came along,” says Dean. “As much as possible, everything had to be original, handmade, hand-finished and built with integrity and longevity in mind. I was really grateful to Karl for

his help. He embraced my ideas and had a client that wanted to keep the project looking understated.”

Accompanying the organic nature of the project was the way in which it was created. Dean employed local builders and tradesmen to help him produce something that was by no means conventional when it came to the construction process. Driven by the notion of sustainability, the home revolves around the rise and fall of the sun with passive solar design. “We have used insulation under the slab and slab edges, and the straw bale walls are about R-30 in insulating value,” says Dean. “All glazing is double-glazed and much of it was sourced from glazier errors, meaning it was destined for the bin — but we gave it a new life. We have built in lots of thermal mass inside the insulated envelope and the clay render keeps the place cool, warm and fresh.”

Dean and his wife have three kids as well as multiple pets living under the same roof, so it was important for each of the spaces to be separate but to maintain the same flowing aesthetic through all pavilions.

“THE HOUSE IS BUILT IN FOUR SEPARATE BUILDINGS, THREE OF WHICH ARE LINKED BY FUNCTIONAL ROOMS” — DEAN LAMB

Details

HOUSE PIPERS CREEK STRAW BALE
LOCATION PIPERS CREEK, VIC
DATE COMMENCED JANUARY 2010
DATE COMPLETED OCTOBER 2014
COST \$600,000





“The project was all about building a place for family and friends,” says Dean. “The house is built in four separate buildings, three of which are linked by functional rooms. The main house comprises the parents’ pavilion, which is joined to the main pavilion by the entry. The main pavilion houses the kitchen, dining, lounge areas and the pod — pantry, laundry, guest bathroom — and

a guest bedroom. The main pavilion is joined to the kids’ pavilion by the mudroom. The kids’ pavilion has three bedrooms, a large lounge and bathroom and the last is an art studio set apart from the main building.”

Focusing on the concept of honesty, the finish of the home reflects its raw nature. “I like honesty, perhaps because it’s so rare,” says Dean.

WE LOVE THE ADDITION OF THE POOL TABLE IN THE MAIN PAVILION — THE PERFECT GAME FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO ENGAGE IN



“We wanted the rawness of earth and lime renders to be on show, so that’s what determined the colours.”
Producing a house to cater for a changing family over the next 30 years, Dean has created something different that fits perfectly within the rugged landscape of its

surroundings. With plenty of warm timber, rustic finishes and high ceilings, this project is very much a sustainable and modern home of the future — one that not only complements the environment, but caters for the needs of every family member, including their pet Mexican walking fish. 🐟

WORDS OF WISDOM
“I’M A FIRM BELIEVER
IN UNIVERSAL
CONVERGENCE AND
THE PLANETS LINING
UP FOR US IF WE HOLD
ONTO OUR DREAMS —
THE DREAM, THE VISION
AND THE WILLINGNESS
TO SACRIFICE AND
WORK HARD”
— DEAN LAMB





Project team

Architect Karl Baumann Architecture (karlbaumannarchitecture.com.au; 03 5449 6883)
Builder A&M Kennedy Builders, Anton (0413 451 585)

FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS

Artwork (geometric) Michael Sermersheim (0420 813 254)
Artwork (portraits) Danny Butterworth (danielbutterworth.com; 0437 148 818)
Chairs and stools Matt Blatt (mattblatt.com.au)
Fan Big Ass Fans Australia (bigassfans.com; 07 3292 0100)
Fireplace Hare Engineering (hareengineering@yahoo.com.au)
Industrial furniture Kabinett (kabinett.com.au)
Lounges, light fittings, rugs and linen Macedon Ranges Interiors (macedonrangesinteriors.com.au)
Odd industrial pieces Junked Restoration (junkedrestoration.myshopify.com)

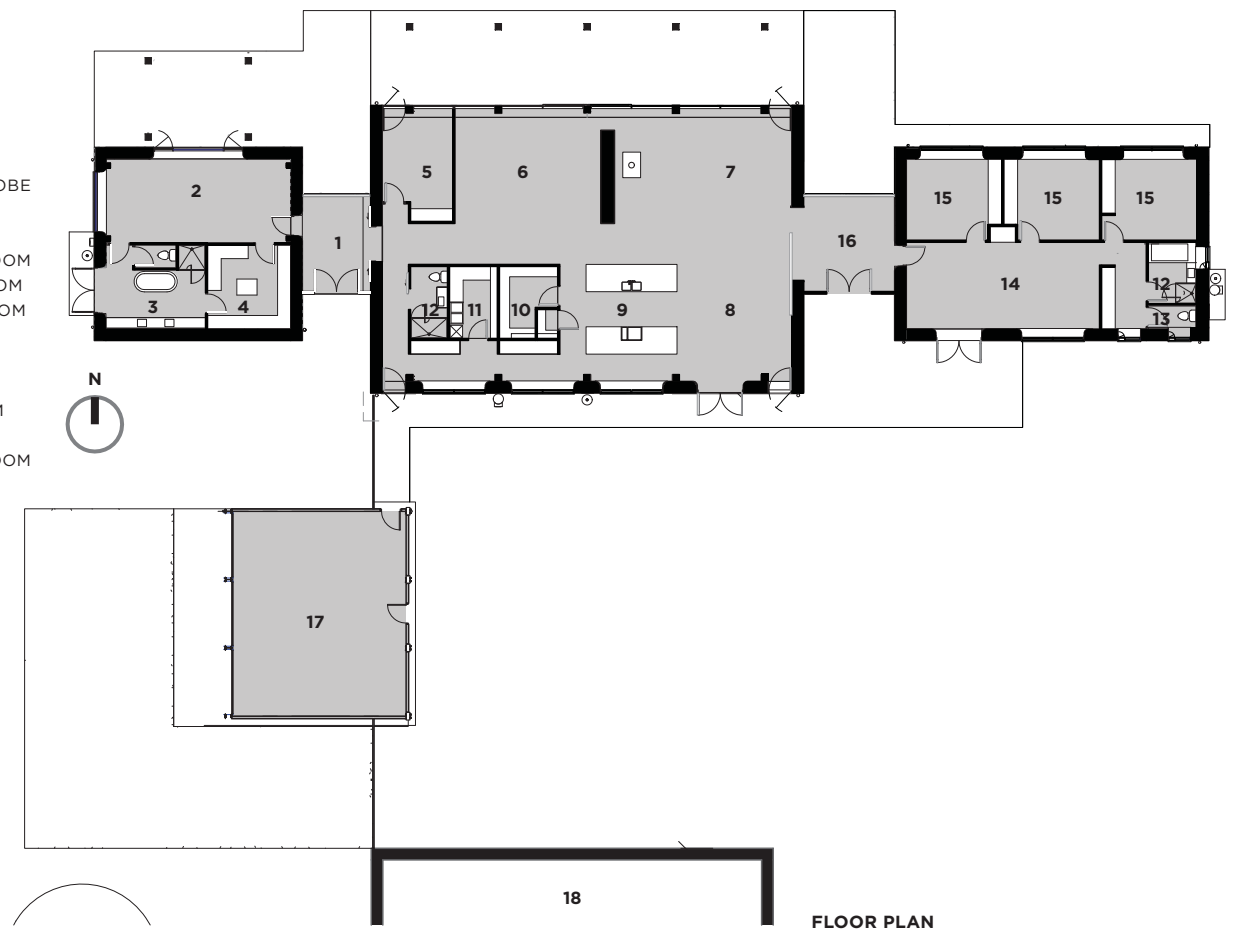
SERVICES

Carpenter Kevin Stokes (0428 133 258)
Carpenter, custom windows and doors Barry Bradley (0428 145 822)
Ceramic tiler Deon Field (0408 502 831)
Concreter Gilbert Fabris (03 5422 1378)
Earth renderer Henderson Clay Works (facebook.com/hendersonclayworks)
Electrical contractor Greg Edwards (03 5473 4331)
Farmer — straw bales Tim and Liz Harrington (threefarmers.com.au; 0439 397 282)
Front windows, concertina flyscreens Aspect Windows (aspectwindows.com.au)
Hydronic heating Stuart Glover (0412 955 415)
Metal cutting and folding Masfield Manufacturing (03 5443 0916)
Plumbing Jim Forrest (0427 316 024)
Supply — reclaimed building materials (double-glazed window panels, subcontract for tin ceiling) Pumphouse Design & Building Works (pumphousedesign.com.au)
Project management assistance ACT Consulting (0408 447 135)
Termite treatment Arrow Pest Control (03 5429 1219)
Supply heater/boiler Pivot Stoves & Heating (03 5221 4485)
Straw bale sourcing Blooming Produce (0408 122 731)



LEGEND

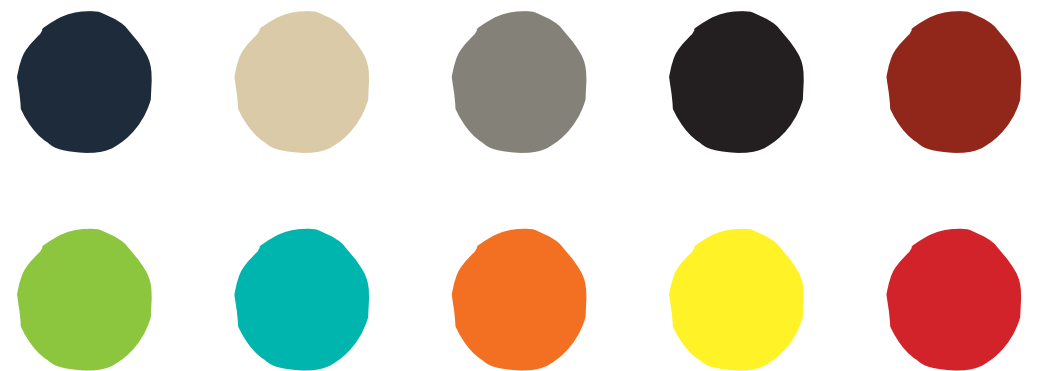
- 1 ENTRY/WINDLOCK
- 2 MASTER BEDROOM
- 3 ENSUITE
- 4 WALK-IN ROBE
- 5 GUEST BEDROOM
- 6 RUMPUS ROOM
- 7 LIVING ROOM
- 8 DINING ROOM
- 9 KITCHEN
- 10 PANTRY
- 11 LAUNDRY
- 12 BATHROOM
- 13 WC
- 14 LOUNGER ROOM
- 15 BEDROOM
- 16 WINDLOCK
- 17 GARAGE
- 18 EXISTING STUDIO



FLOOR PLAN

Colour palette

Honesty is the focus of this house, with the rawness of the materials providing much of the colours, which are celebrated by smaller pops of stronger citrus tones





Get the Look

01: Orange cushion from lorrainelea.com
02: Native rug from rugcouture.com **03:** White Eames chair from livingedge.com.au **04:** Finn concrete pendant light from cranmorehome.com.au **05:** Hugo round oak side table from zanui.com.au **06:** Retro chair from designfurniture.com.au **07:** Pavilion dining table from boydblue.com **08:** The Sleuth table lamp by Amalfi from zanui.com.au **09:** Black leather sofa from beyondfurniture.com.au

