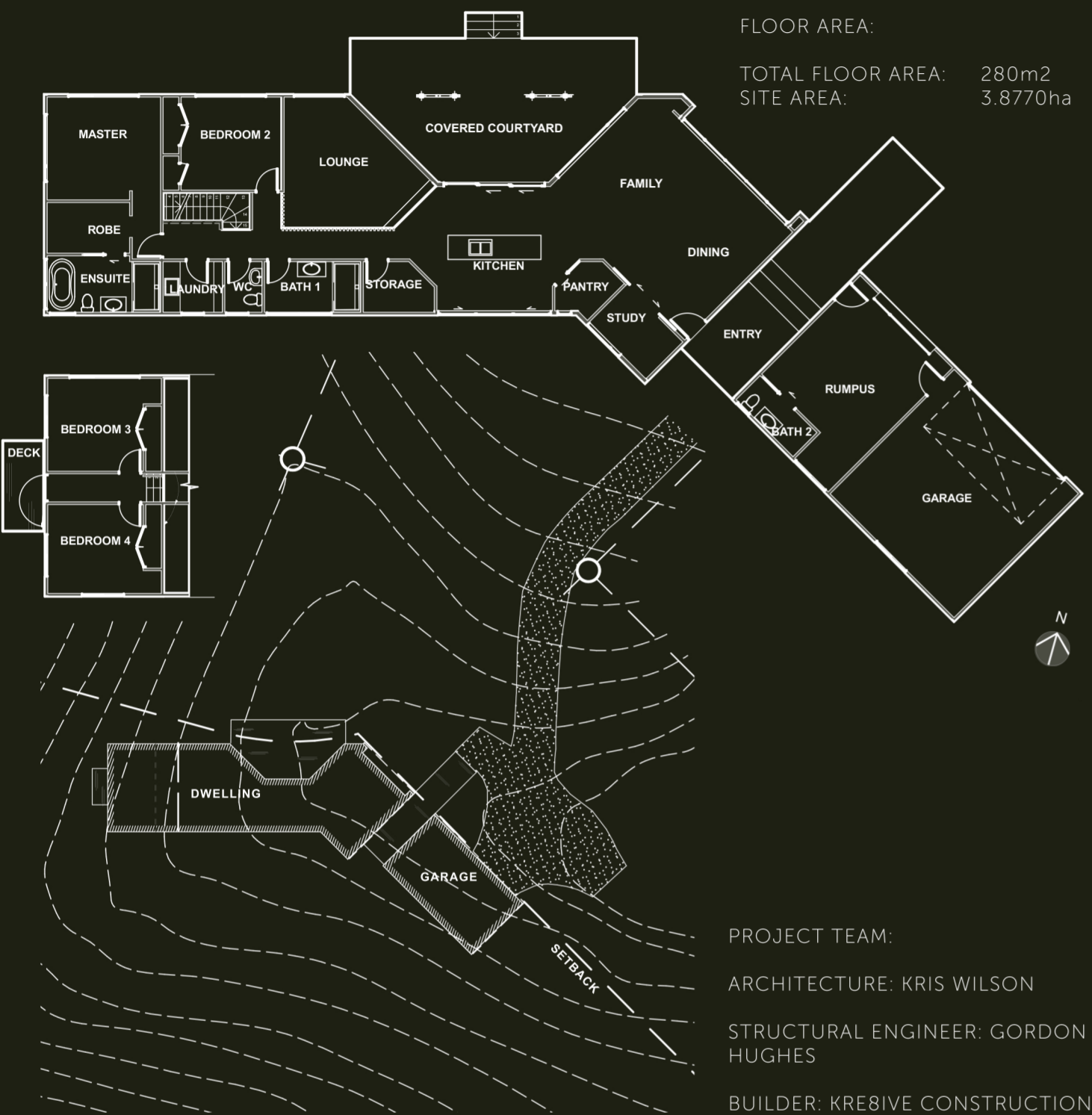


EUCALYPT-HAUS



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BRIEF

This large Raglan lifestyle block represented an opportunity for a young family to stretch out, after years in a tight urban space. They requested a home that engaged with the landscape & met their needs for a comfortable, unique family home on a modest budget. The site offered an incredible backdrop of mature Eucalyptus trees, with an outlook to West Coast mountain ranges & a distant ocean view. The obvious building platform was on the crown of a hill, falling away in all directions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, FEATURES AND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

The home was conceived as a relaxed & refined bush lodge. It is intended to be elegantly brutal, with a dominant mass & monotone palette offset with various architectural techniques. These include a subtle kink in plan with a matching slow rise roofline to a central point in elevation, to mirror the landform, playful 'V' posts to the courtyard, recessed & dissected window forms & a slot breezeway entrance with clear roofing above & a framed view through to the Gum trees beyond. The mass, simplicity & single colour of the building give a sense of permanence & practicality, relevant to the rugged West Coast environment, whilst the lighter, more dynamic features mentioned above reference the motion of the surrounding vegetation & water, whilst creating a degree of tension within the basic form, exaggerating the hilltop position.

The layout is intentionally informal, with the front door accessed via the external breezeway entrance & opening directly into the living area. A rumpus/guest room & garage are off the other side of the breezeway, housing the utility & visitor aspects external & separate to the core family area. The kitchen is a central focal point, with various indoor & outdoor living spaces & the bedroom wing, including the lower floor, arranged out from that location. The sunken lounge off the kitchen, with the fire, built in seating & softer finishes serves as the most inviting & relaxing part of the home.

Opportunities to engage with the Eucalypts to the South from inside are taken from multiple spaces along the rear of the building, however they are controlled & framed as a contrast to the scale experienced from outside. This serves to focus the observer's attention to the relationships & movement within the vegetation at various levels, & limits thermal losses along the South elevation.

Externally the use of longrun painted metal cladding serves the bush lodge typology & reads as a uniform surface for the simple form, allowing the more playful architectural elements to create interest. The metal cladding is only broken by a textured ply at the covered courtyard. The ply is a more natural surface for this intimate area, & the subtle texture change allows the northern façade to read with visual separation and clarity from the inset courtyard.

Internally, a light palette creates a contrast & relief from the heaviness of the black outside. This white base is broken with native timber flooring & various walls of colour to define space & feel.

Sustainability is addressed through material selection, water re-use and solar orientation. Both cross flow and crucially stack effect ventilation (via opening sashes at the highest point of the living space), and a quality thermal envelope are also critical to the performance of the home.

DESIGN HOUSE
ARCHITECTURE