

masonry homes

Haven on earth

The solid walls and thick reveals of masonry homes engender a sense of retreat, which makes them well suited to resort-style architecture



In the Balinese tradition

With its dramatic entrance and pavilion architecture, this resort-style masonry house is more akin to a boutique hotel

Country living is invariably a lifestyle choice, which is why a house designed to reinforce the sense of escape will always sit well in a rural setting.

For this new house on a 1ha country site, designer Mark Wilson of Masonry Design Solutions expanded on the theme.

“The house reflects a distinct Balinese architectural influence,” he says. “In many ways it is reminiscent of a boutique resort hotel – it’s a lifestyle property for people who want to live in the country but don’t want the hard work that goes with it.”

In keeping with traditional Balinese architecture, the 45m-long masonry house is comprised of three linked pavilions. The roof also pays homage to resort architecture – its steep pitch and asphalt shingles reference traditional thatched pavilions.

And like a resort hotel, the entrance is centrally positioned to provide a formal symmetry. Gas fires flank the entry, which features stepping stones across a reflection pond. Thin, one-metre-wide columns pierce the roof, providing a strong vertical element to balance the horizontal lines

Preceding pages and facing page top: This new house on a 1ha country site references traditional Balinese resort hotels. The steep-pitched roof and poolside lanai are key architectural influences. The stepping stones in the pool repeat a design feature at the entrance.

Facing page lower: The large sandstone wall inside the entrance was hand carved in Bali to the designer’s specifications.

Above: Designer Mark Wilson of Masonry Design Solutions also provided a lanai, which incorporates a gas fireplace and synthetic rattan furniture.



Above and facing page lower: Command central – the 5.4m-long island doubles as an informal eating area. The opening in the cabinetry leads to the scullery. The north-facing informal living rooms open to the landscaped pool area. The orientation to the sun and the thermal insulating benefits of the masonry construction ensure the house is cool in summer and warm in winter. Underfloor heating is also provided throughout the house.

Facing page top: Built-in shelving flanks a gas fireplace in the family living area. The 615m² house also has a separate formal living and dining area.

of the steps and cedar-lined canopy. The large sandstone wall inside the entry was custom designed for the project and hand carved in Bali.

Wilson says the five-bedroom house has been designed to maximise both the expansive rural view and the northerly aspect. Both the formal and informal living areas open to a landscaped pool area. Similarly, a tropical-style lanai is positioned beside the pool.

“The lanai is open on two sides, but sheltered from the prevailing winds. The

horizontal slatted detailing above the fireplace is a design element repeated throughout the house. Similar copper slats define the chimney tops.”

To retain the tropical feel, the interior features contrasting dark chocolate and white tones. In the kitchen, the American oak flooring and cabinets are dark stained, to contrast white CaesarStone benchtops.

The kitchen’s galley layout provides a bank of wall cabinets and appliances, with the sink and food preparation area on the island so the owners can enjoy the

view. A large scullery behind the cabinetry provides extensive storage.

The family living room incorporates built-in shelving and a recessed television above the fireplace. Wilson says most of the furniture was custom designed by Masonry Design Solutions, with many pieces manufactured in Bali. Other specially imported items include traditional statues, pots and bowls.

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Designer: Mark Wilson, Masonry Design Solutions (Auckland)
Builder: Glover Developments
Construction: Firth HotBloc
Roofing: Asphalt shingle by Shingle and Shake Roofing
Wall linings: Gib Ultraline Plus
Tiling: Tile New Zealand
Flooring: American white oak from Wood Floor Concepts
Paints and varnishes: Resene
Fireplaces: Real Fires
Underfloor heating: Champion Heating
Doors and windows: Vantage Metro from Vantage

Windows North Shore
Window and door hardware: Assa Abloy
Furniture: Custom designed by Masonry Design Solutions
Audiovisual equipment: Automation Associates
Kitchen manufacturer: Fyfe Kitchens
Cabinetry: American white oak
Benchtops: CaesarStone from The Stone Warehouse
Ovens and cooktop: Bosch
Refrigeration: Fisher & Paykel
Dishwashers: Bosch; Fisher & Paykel
Story by Colleen Hawkes
Photography by Bruce Clarke