

Sharif Abraham

Architects

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Portsea House

2005

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Portsea, Victoria
Photos - Sharif Abraham



Located at the back of Portsea adjacent to the golf course, the house is designed to accommodate a very large extended family to use on holidays.

Our focus was to find a solution which retained a level of intimacy to the spaces, independent of the number of people occupying the house at any given time. We started by locating the main living spaces at the upper levels of

the site in order to establish a direct connection with the land and the views over the golf course, and also to allow for maximum light to the interiors.

The lower levels, containing a combination of living and sleeping spaces are partly built into the site due to planning height restrictions. A courtyard is introduced as a focus for these spaces, providing natural light, ventilation and



establishing a visual connection with the living spaces above.

At the centre of the site an internal staircase, connects a series "platforms", containing additional spaces, located along the various contours. The staircase traverses the site from front to back across the contours. It is designed so that each step is intentionally wide and containing a landing every two steps. The idea is to slow the visitor's movement, in order to create a mood of relaxation as they move between various spaces of the house.

The multilevel layout and visual connection between spaces enables different levels of engagement which are intimate yet connected.

Materially, the house is made of timber, stone and in some places a combination of both. The stone was specifically requested by the client and in order to change it's heaviness we placed it vertically and introduced intermediate timber blanks between.

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