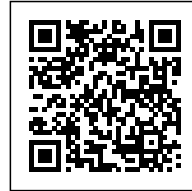




THE BROOK: BARELY TOUCHING THE GROUND

Posted on August 29, 2022 by xavigonzalez



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This house is positioned along the Moyne River in Rosebrook. It sits in a paddock on top of a disused gasometer among the ruins of an old flour mill. Because it is next to a river, this site experiences heavy flooding. It has historical and cultural significance to the Gunditjmarra people so we wanted to barely touch the ground it stands on. When the building is moved again it will look as if it were never there.



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The double height gives the lounge an additional sense of space. The lower section is encased by steel glass windows and pivot doors. Copper and ply louvers run horizontally along the glass, giving the opportunity to hide the flywire but coax the south-westerly winds of Port Fairy to travel diagonally out through the bedroom windows upstairs in the summer. The living room floor floats above the kitchen to create bench seating at the dining room table and provides an enormous storage area hidden below your feet, masked by salvaged ironbark floorboards.



The staircase at the kitchen bench can be moved out of the way by turning the wheel by the entrance. This turning mechanism engages with the house frame during transport but operates the

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staircase during occupation. The curve of the balustrade is purely ergonomic: it runs along a track with chains, folding out of the way.



Rather than making a light and airy space with the obvious size constraints, we instead chose dark and luxurious textures. Comprised of volcanic cobblestones, exposed copper pipes and a slatted timber ceiling, this room is intended to feel more like a sauna than a home bathroom. The windows again celebrate different parts of the landscape. The long rectangular window is positioned to be viewed from the toilet. Windows in the shower can be closed with wooden shutters for the shy, but while open it feels as though you are almost showering outdoors.

The house is completely off-grid, with a water tank, solar system and compostable toilet.

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