The entertainer

With the existing pool taking up half of the back yard, the design intent of this Sydney home was to create an entertaining/dining space that connected with the pool area – the owners love to cook and entertain. We wanted to create the illusion that there was no real divide between the two areas.

The bespoke floating bench seat was designed to border the kitchen area and create seating space without boxing in or dividing the area. This floating/elevated seating area allows for a complete visual outlook, which maintains the open feel of the house and garden. There was also an existing spa that we relocated and sunk into the main deck – we wanted it to disappear, and become a part of the space, rather than apart from it.

Sustainable Spotted Gum was used for all the timber elements in this project, as a way to bring the larger, predominantly masonry house back to earth. Two large Aloe trees frame the entrance off and onto the deck. These were carefully selected to provide scale to the height of the house, without blocking the views from the upstairs balconies. These trees are also extremely hardy and suited to a coastal position, such as this one. They also enhance the subtle Palm Springs note that the landscape sometimes takes on.

Matt Leacy

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER Landart Landscapes

DESIGN TEAM Matt Leacy, Justen Hess

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER Mike Steven

PHOTOGRAPHY Jason Busch

LANDART LANDSCAPES

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FINISHES

Sustainable Spotted Gum timber used for all external timber elements. Bespoke bench top made from Hanex.

FIXED & FITTED

Outdoor cooking area includes Electrolux BBQ and Wildcat pizza oven.

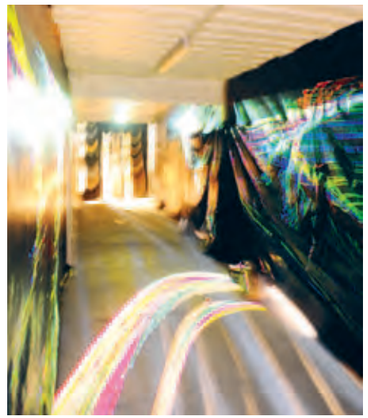
...nature is more than just green forests, rocks, mountains and clear waters.

SEK SAN | LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

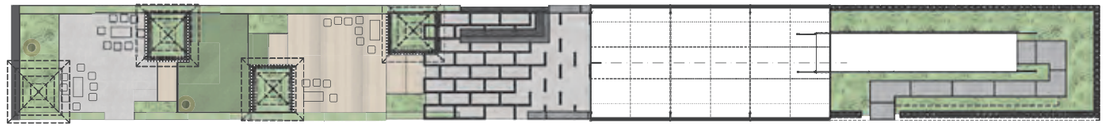
Habitus *the process*

What is *Habitus* as an experience? This question was presented to the creative studios involved in the **HABITUS PAVILION** for The Project at **SYDNEY INDESIGN 2013**.

TEXT ***NICKY LOBO*** | *PHOTOGRAPHY* ***JOHN DOUGHTY, SPY PHOTOGRAPHY***



ABOVE | CARDBOARD BOX STRUCTURE BY LOOPCREATIVE. BELOW LEFT | VISITORS ENJOYING THE GARDEN BY LANDART AND THE HOME EXHIBITION. BELOW CENTRE (TOP) | PROJECTIONS IN THE SHIPPING CONTAINER BY LO-FI. BELOW CENTRE (BOTTOM) | EXTERIOR PROJECTION ON THE SHIPPING CONTAINER. BELOW RIGHT (TOP) | VIEW FROM THE BAR THROUGH THE CARDBOARD 'PAVILION'. BELOW RIGHT (BOTTOM) | THE MULTI-LEVEL DECKING IN THE GARDEN CREATED VISUAL INTEREST AND DEPTH IN THE LARGE SPACE. OPPOSITE | PAVILION PLAN.



HABITUS PAVILION FLOOR PLAN

Context

The Project is a collaborative creative exercise that draws together players in the design community (in this case, *Habitus* magazine) with design professionals to create installations for Sydney Indesign. This event attracts thousands of industry members and design-interested consumers – so the level of quality and visual engagement aims high. This year, The Project asked participating companies and brands to explore the keyword 'Process'.

Brief

Habitus was initially given 100 square metres in the Galleria exhibition space at Australian Technology Park. There were a number of considerations for the project. Firstly, it was the first time the brand had a dedicated space. Secondly, as one of the organisers – being part of the Indesign Media brand – it was important that the space set the benchmark in terms of creativity. Thirdly, being a magazine and a website, rather than a commercial and/or residential product supplier (who were the majority of the other exhibitors) there was quite a different intention, personality and feel required for the space.

Habitus aimed to use the space to communicate the print and digital components of the brand, and explore the notion of home with its signature appeal – which is intelligent, immersive and creative.

Team

Habitus first approached loopcreative, who have an impressive track record in producing engaging hospitality design with a strong focus on interaction. They introduced lighting designers, lo-fi, to bring their expertise to the space. When the opportunity arose for the project to triple in size and scope, the team conceptualised a garden oasis and brought on Landart to work their magic. Finally, Promena building and construction management came on board to help the project come together.

Concept

The initial concept from loopcreative took inspiration from pavilions at La Biennale di Venezia. They proposed a steel structure that referenced the construction element of residential design, which was to be covered in sheets of folded white paper, representing the unwritten pages of the magazine. loopcreative wanted to create "a residential concept with links to the elements that make up the magazine, translated into a built form," as Rod Facheaux explains. "We could have done mock-up rooms of home interiors," he continues, "but we didn't think that's what Habitus is about." From lo-fi's perspective the key goals of the space were "identification, information, entertainment, experience," says Greg Dunk, and a lighting scheme was devised to provide this.

Process

The biggest challenge was a massive increase in the size of the space midway through the project. Wanting to give this extra space a purpose that related to the brand, and to the reader, the 'Habitus Home' exhibition was born. Readers and artists featured in the magazine were asked to submit artworks (both visual and text-based) that represented their idea of home. The Habitus team curated the entries to be displayed in a garden exhibition, fixed with pegs onto Hills Hoist clotheslines, a nostalgic and domestic element of many Australian homes and an icon of Australian design.

Another major challenge, as with any project, were time and budget constraints – made more intense with the extra space that was taken on, and the strict schedule, which only allowed two days for installation and one day for breakdown.

Result

The 450-square metre pavilion was divided into four key areas: a shipping container representing the digital arm of the brand; an area to relate back to the original pavilion concept; a bar area and the garden exhibition.

The container included a laser projection and smoke machine – an immersive experience which invited visitors to begin the intriguing journey through the space. The steel pavilion became a cardboard box structure due to budget restraints and a potential sponsor falling through. Although this amendment to the design was not as originally planned, the team took it on as a challenge and saw it in a positive light. It still bore a relation to the construction element of residential architecture, whilst also relating to the paper element of the magazine itself. Ironically, it was also a complete interpretation of the keyword, 'Process' as the design was revised multiple times on site to best make use of the available materials while providing a sound support.

This space opened up to the bar area, which marked the beginning of the garden exhibition. "We wanted to create a soft and inviting space that would encourage guests of the exhibition to meander and explore, to sit and meet with other business or colleagues," says Matt Leacy of Landart. "*Habitus* magazine has always seemed to explore an alternate route to the common, more everyday, version of design," Matt continues. "It beats to its own drum and doesn't mind showcasing something a little left of field." With the native and exotic planting – some over five metres tall – throughout the industrial space, "the plants gave the feeling that they were reclaiming the building... it was quite surreal in appearance."

■

Creative partners Landart Landscapes, loopcreative, LO-FI Design and Engineering, Promena Projects
Product partners Advance Audio, Alpine Nurseries, Antique Floors, Barco, Classiqe, Garden Life, HG, Hills, Royal Wolf, Wats on Tap
Exhibition Partners Archi-Ninja, KW Doggett, Olsen Irwin Gallery, SOS Print + Media

habitus habitusliving.com
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