

Hilltop House

Richard Cole Architecture

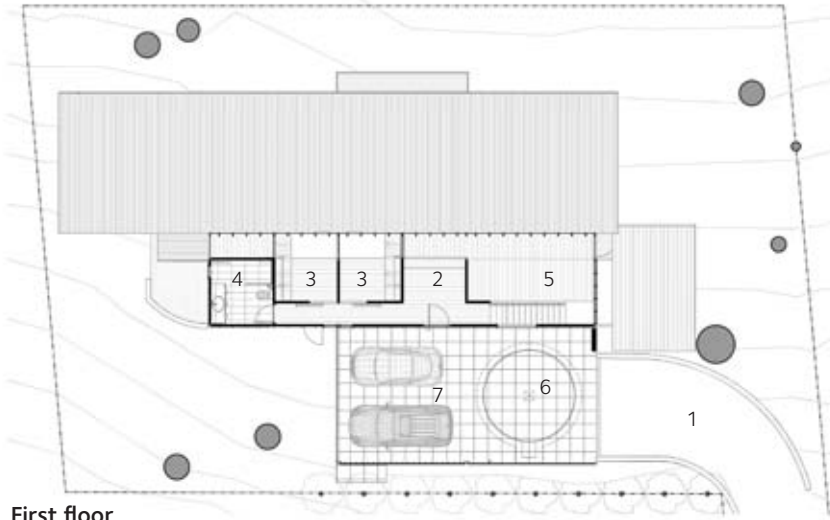
Sydney
Australia

The Hilltop House is an energy- and water-efficient dwelling constructed on the steep eastern slopes of Pittwater, a waterway located within the Spotted Gum Forest in Sydney, Australia. The compact house adopts a steel and timber framing system that cascades down the hillside, taking advantage of the sweeping views from the upper levels. The driveway and part of the home is cantilevered above the ground using piers and beams to minimise the building's footprint and protect the roots of the surrounding trees. Low-pitched roofs and wide eave overhangs shade the house from the western sun.

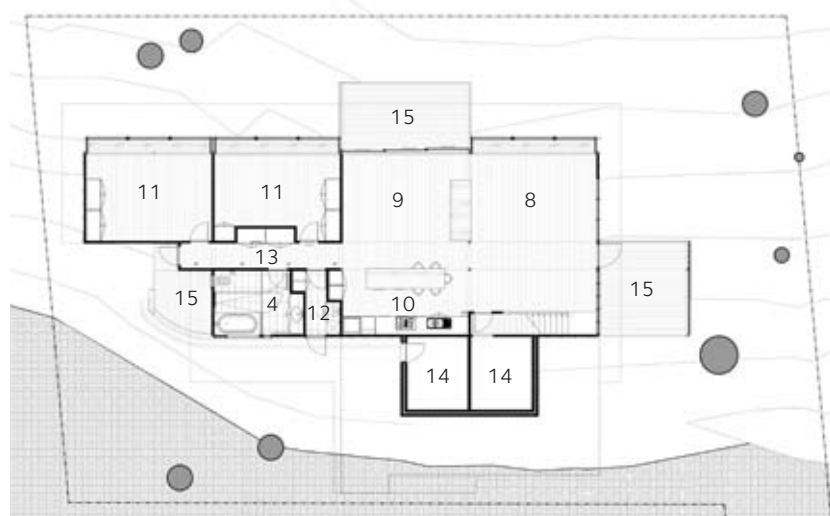
The house was constructed primarily of steel, locally sourced timber and fibre cement sheeting – an expression of the vernacular cottages of the area. The external timber joinery and exposed beams echo the vertical pattern of the surrounding trees, making the home visibly at ease with its environment. The roof of the home has been designed to collect and store rainwater, which is recycled for use throughout the home as well as for greywater purposes. The advantage of the rainwater collection system lessens the demand on the water-main supply and helps to regulate storm water management. Further environmental considerations are integrated into the interior of the home, which is naturally lit and ventilated during the day and uses energy-efficient LED lighting at night.

The result is a sensitively crafted home that saves water and embraces the natural environment, combining contemporary design with a traditional vernacular.





First floor



Ground floor



- | | | |
|------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 Driveway | 6 Car turn-table | 11 Bedroom |
| 2 Entry | 7 Carport | 12 Laundry |
| 3 Study | 8 Living | 13 Hall |
| 4 Bathroom | 9 Dining | 14 Store |
| 5 Void | 10 Kitchen | 15 Deck |







