



Suburban sanctuary

This new home is located on a busy thoroughfare but its owners enjoy peace and privacy behind an unassuming frontage

One of the current major themes in house design is buildings which present a protective, blank face to the street but open up on the inside around a welcoming courtyard or garden.

Architect Peter Crone acknowledges that trend in this new home for a growing family with two children.

The two-storey house gives the

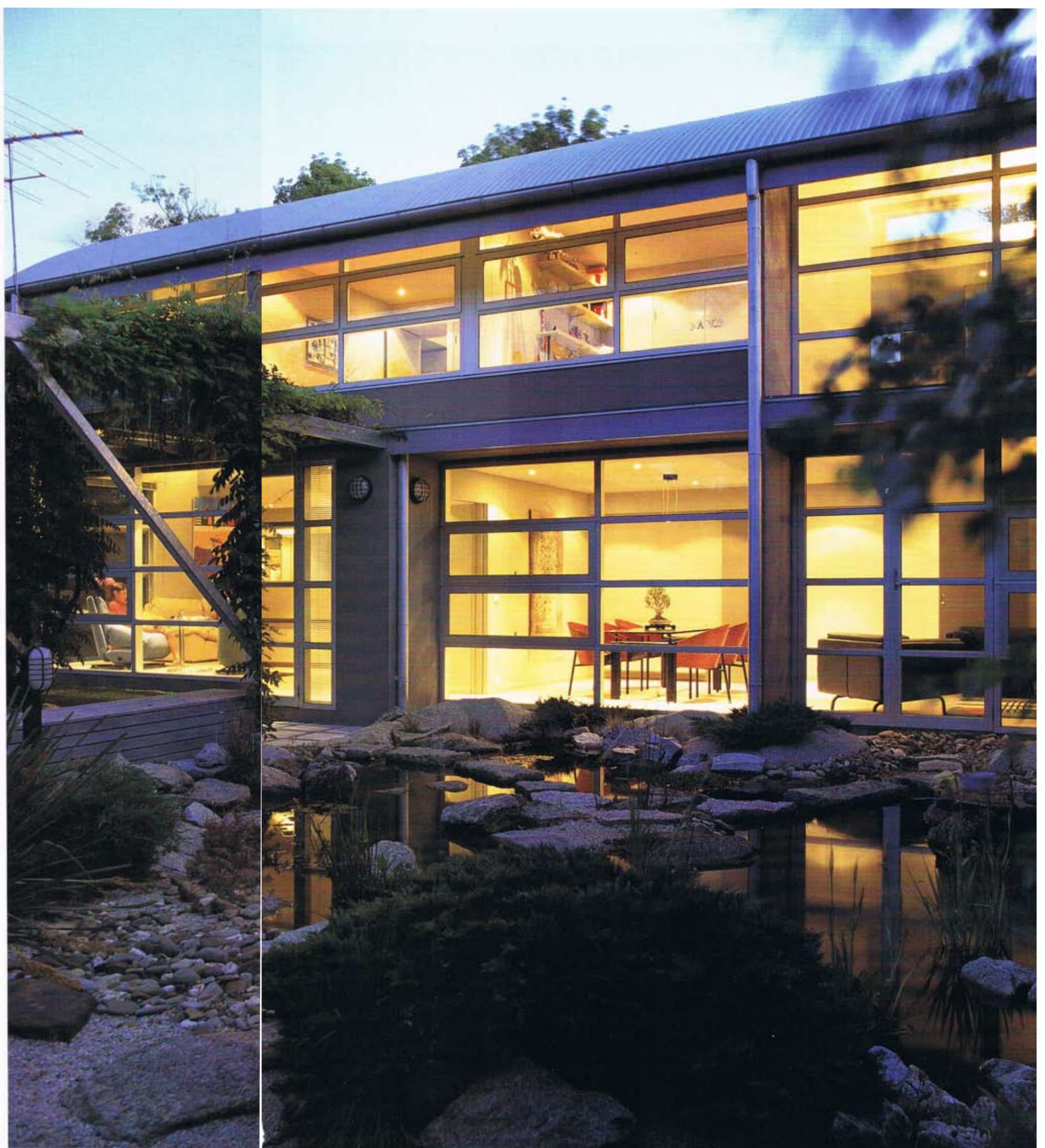
owners the security and privacy they need and is also low maintenance and energy efficient.

Crone aimed to create well lit, open and comfortable living spaces that were well hidden from the street.

The triangular site has its longest boundary along the street and proved an awkward shape to build on. The only specific request the

Above: From the street, there's no way of telling this new house has a sunny, open interior with a tranquil garden outlook. It was designed by Peter Crone.

Facing page: The double-storey wall of windows face north, so the winter sun can penetrate into the house all day long. Large overhangs provide shade in summer.





Above: Full-height windows give the inside a closer connection with the outdoors. Peter Crone also incorporated two voids in the formal living room and the family room for extra light and sun. The owners chose all the furnishings and accessories. Teal leather sofas complement the colours of the garden. The red and gold silk wall hanging is from China and has a teal mount to match the sofas. The rug is handmade by one of the owners. The dining chairs are Philippe Starck. The Porsche light fitting can pivot and has extendable rods. The dining suite and sofas are from Living Interiors, Melbourne.

owners made was to retain a palm tree in the back yard of the north-facing site.

The front of the house has a strong monolithic exterior, creating a blank facade to the public view. The construction is rendered concrete block with some areas of Hardie compressed fibre cement sheeting attached to insulated timber stud framing. A curved rolled steel roof softens the effect of the concrete exterior.

The back of the house has a very different appearance. Here, full

height windows on both storeys overlook a landscaped garden and pond.

Crone's first set of plans was almost spot on – the owners made only two changes. Instead of a two-storey workshop in the garage, the upper level of the workshop became an ensuite for the main bedroom. And the family room on the ground floor was extended out under the eaves for extra space. The plan also separates the parents' bedroom and study from the kids' bedrooms and TV/playroom.

Hydronic heating helps make



the house extremely energy efficient. Thermostatically controlled water is pumped to the radiators, while winter sun heats the concrete floor slabs.

The house also benefits from maximum sun penetration during winter. Large overhangs provide the required shade throughout summer when the sun is higher in the sky.

Crone chose a monotone interior colour scheme as a backdrop for the owners' colourful collection of furniture and accessories.

The grey painted walls match



Above: The fold-out lounge chairs and blue polyurethane dining chairs in the family room are from Living Interiors. The lounge chairs were custom-covered in Italy with the owners' choice of colours. The painting was specially painted by the family for the room. All the windows have slimline venetian blinds.

Left: Crone designed a functional galley kitchen which leads to a side door and laundry. As well as underbench cabinets, there is more storage at bench height behind sliding doors. The owners chose an Angelo Po gas oven and hobs with a separate grill.



Top: The curved ceiling creates soft interior spaces on the upper level. The black lacquered bedsuite and Le Corbusier chaise lounge are from Living Interiors. The lamps are from Studio Italia. The owner made the bedspread. The framed prints are from Japan.

Above, left: The hallway features a handmade rug based on a Miro painting.

Above, middle: The pergola provides a shaded outdoor area.

Above, right: A rock garden at the front of the house is hidden behind a curved corrugated iron wall.

Facing page: All the living spaces have views of the Japanese-style garden and ponds.

the anodised aluminium window frames and the commercial quality pure wool carpet.

The owners have furnished the home with Italian-designed custom-covered sofas and chairs, complemented by artefacts brought back from travels to the East.

One of the owners also designed and made furnishings for specific areas of the house, including colourful rugs, cushions, bedspreads, and a painting in the family room depicting all the family members.

Architect: Peter Crone (Crone Ross Pty Ltd, Melbourne)
Structural engineer: S & L Design
Construction: Rendered concrete block
Exterior finish: Dulux Acratex trowel finish
Roof: Lysaght custom orb & standard deck profile
Window joinery: Alcan St Lucia Series – natural anodised aluminium
Tiles: Bartoloni floor tiles, Johnson wall tiles
Heating: Small bore hydronic
Kitchen cabinets: Grey Laminex laminate
Benchtops: Satin finish stainless steel
Landscaping: Leaver Landscaping, Melbourne
Trendsfax: For more information on these products and services, fax (64) 9 309 1708

Photography by Rodney Hyett

