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The brief called for a flexible and informal contemporary home, making the most of the site's positive features. While being surrounded by suburban houses, the site features the original rock platforms sloping down the site and views out to the northeast over Long Reef and down to Manly.

A simple concept of three pavilions stepping up the site, connected by glazed stairwells creates a clear method of circulation through the house. This configuration allowed maximum advantage for views, light and passive environmental control.

Snapshot.
House, Sydney NSW

Architects' statement.
Playoust & Churcher Architects

Photography.
Brett Boardman



On approach, the first of the three timber-clad pavilions appears to float over a black masonry garage, embedded into the slope. A stepped timber deck welcomes the visitor into a foyer in the base of a glazed stairwell. Moving up the stair, one arrives at the central 'street', which connects all areas of the house. Changes of level and enclosure ensure spatial interest, with open bridges connecting each pavilion allowing views of the garden. The street becomes more introverted as you pass through the centre pavilion, dominated by walls with light spilling down from the clerestory glazing above.

Architects' statement.
Playoust & Churcher Architects

not.
Sydney NSW



Snapshot.
House. Sydney NSW



Living functions are housed in the rear pavilion and extend through sliding doors to decks defined by steel-slatted screens. A double-height space lends the living room a sense of connection to the heavens. Above, the main bedroom shares the double-height space and captures the best of the views. At the rear of the sleeping area is a private light-filled ensuite, while across the stairwell a private roof terrace offers a sunny retreat, also with good views.

Architects' statement.
Playoust & Churcher Architects



The steel-framed primary structure separated from the external timber skin allows the upper two pavilions to hover over the site, featuring the rock platforms and minimising disruption of the ground plane. Rhythm and texture is used to articulate the interior and exterior of the house, tempering the cubic nature of the pavilions. The May Road house was a fruitful exercise in weaving elements of interest through a simple concept, generated by site-specific forces.