

CASE STUDY

Belah House by Jamie Durie



Location

Avalon, NSW

Architect

Silvester Fuller

Builder

Dilcara

Photography

Homeowner and Pablo Veiga

Clients Needs

Belah House is the realisation of a long-held vision by renowned Australian horticulturalist, garden designer and television personality Jamie Durie OAM to create a luxurious, sustainable home for his family. The home's development was documented in the Channel 7 series *Growing Home with Jamie Durie*, which aired in late 2024.

Set on an exceptionally steep block above Sydney's Pittwater, the Avalon home by Sydney-based architect Silvester Fuller and built by Dilcara, was designed to harmonise with its coastal bushland setting while maintaining a steadfast commitment to sustainable building principles, with the ultimate goal of living off-grid.

Acacia was commissioned to design and manufacture an extensive suite of bespoke Spotted Gum windows and doors to frame the sweeping views, establish a seamless connection to the terraced gardens and deliver high thermal performance for year-round comfort. Responsibly sourced Spotted Gum was chosen for its strength, durability and natural beauty, supporting the home's sustainability goals while visually linking it to its surroundings and softening the concrete structure with its characteristic warm tones.

Challenges

Due to filming deadlines, the timeline for design and manufacture of the windows and doors was extremely condensed, requiring precision planning and the ability to adapt quickly as the build progressed.

The steep 37-degree slope of the site posed additional complexities. Access for large and heavy units was limited, making crane operations necessary. Curved window forms presented further technical challenges, with strict tolerances required to ensure a flawless fit with the home's tiered architecture.



Solutions

Acacia developed detailed shop drawings early in the process, resolving every connection and interface before production commenced. Our specialist expertise in producing large-scale and custom-shaped joinery ensured the curved windows and oversized sliding doors were manufactured to the highest performance and aesthetic standards.

A staged delivery program was implemented to match the builder's sequence of works. Our established systems for managing complex installations and coordinating with other trades proved invaluable in keeping the project on track.

The responsibly sourced Spotted Gum fulfilled both the design vision and sustainability objectives, adding a rich, natural warmth to the interiors while withstanding the environmental conditions of the coastal site.

Outcome

Belah House is a compelling example of contemporary architecture that works in harmony with its environment. The expansive sliding doors open the interiors to panoramic views and the surrounding canopy, while delivering exceptional energy performance. Curved glazing softens the structural lines and draws natural light deep into the home. The Spotted Gum frames not only complement the surrounding bushland and terraced gardens but also infuse the interior spaces with tactile warmth. Delivered within a demanding timeline and to exact specifications, this bespoke work played a pivotal role in realising a home that embodies both luxury and environmental responsibility.



“Our building is predominantly concrete. When the timber windows and doors went in, it not only warmed up the entire house, but added a magnificent sense of natural depth. Ameka became very emotional and almost cried when they arrived; it was a big turning point. That’s the reason why I chose timber – and Australian Spotted Gum. Not only is it sustainably sourced, it’s more thermally efficient than extruded aluminium. The service has been amazing. Everyone that enters the home adores the product and I’m always proud to mention Acacia.”

Jamie Durie, Homeowner



Phone: (02) 4284 3502

Email: sales@acaciajoinery.com.au

Office: 25-27 Bellambi Lane, Bellambi NSW 2518

www.acaciajoinery.com.au

acacia
architectural timber windows and doors