

Solis

Renato D’Ettorre Architects

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Queensland
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Sophistication, elegance, and minimalism are the outstanding characteristics of Solis on Hamilton Island, at the edge of the Great Barrier Reef. Constructed of concrete, stone, and glass, the award-winning vacation retreat has a distinctly Brutalist sensibility, with its bold orthogonal forms and poured-in-situ concrete. Clinging to a wooded hillside, it has fantastic views of a tranquil bay below.

Solis has airy living spaces; private, sheltered outdoor zones; and courtyards with still, reflective pools. Galleried living areas overlook large internal spaces. There is very little distinction between indoors and outdoors: sitting rooms flow onto terraces, while one rear corner of the house can be entirely opened up, thanks to sliding doors. Glazing is minimal for a tropical climate, but the glass is there is specially toughened to make it cyclone-proof. Staircases lead up to views of the sky and clouds, or down to the azure swimming pool.

In every direction, vistas are framed, from panoramic perspectives of the surrounding Whitsunday Islands to optical surprises such as the plunge pool within a concrete corridor that seems to lead to nothing but trees, sea, and sky. Water plays an important role, not only as a calming influence and visual connection with the surrounding ocean, but also as a mirroring surface that draws the eye up to the horizon. Various rills run along the outside of the house like a moat; the infinity pool, which is partly glass walled, can be reached from indoor spaces. Sedum roofs soften the hard concrete surfaces, yet another indication that at Solis, the connection with nature is never lost.





