

PROJECT DETAILS	Doghouse
CREATIVE TEAM	Amy Muir and Ross Gardam
SUBMISSION DATE	February/March 2013

ONE FOR THE DOGS

AMY MUIR AND ROSS GARDAM TOOK ON A CANINE CLIENT FOR THEIR CREATE A DATE COLLABORATION. THEIR BRIEF TO DESIGN A DOGHOUSE RESULTED IN A CREATION THAT WILL SERVE FIDO FOR ETERNITY



PHOTOGRAPHER *Lynton Crabb*
RENDERS *James Burrell*

After pleasantries

and coffee, we started sharing dog anecdotes. These included stories of our own, endearing tales found in *Great Australian Working Dog Stories* (by Angela Goode and Mike Hayes) and relayed stories from friends and family. One of these went a little bit like this...

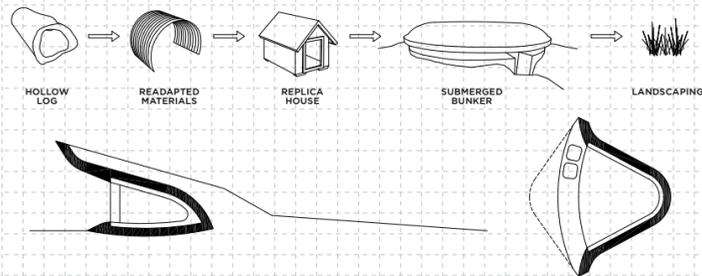
Many years ago a friend sadly discovered late one night that his beloved kelpie had been hit by a tram. As it was late, he decided to place the dog in its kennel with the intention of taking her to the veterinary clinic the following morning. Morning came and the friend went out to retrieve his dog only to discover that rigor mortis had set in. As a result, the dog was wedged inside the timber 'house'-shaped kennel, unable to be moved. The friend then spent the morning dismantling the kennel in order to retrieve his dead dog.

After discovering a close synergy in our design processes, we set about deciding who we were designing for. We began by assessing why the atypical doghouse exists, that being the replica of the 'human' house. Is this for the client being the dog or the owner imposing a condition on the dog? Discussions revolved around issues relating to consumerism and the contradictions that this attracts.

We decided to choose the dog as our silent client who we defined as being not fussy, and one that exhibits a subjective hygiene. In part, this provided a refreshing start for us both. The client's brief was to include the following:

- shelter
- protection from the elements
- comfort
- a space that defines ownership

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE RIGHT: Amy and Ross stand tall in the face of their canine challenge; measuring up the project; sketches and renders are prepared to present to the client; Pepper the whippet sizes up their design.

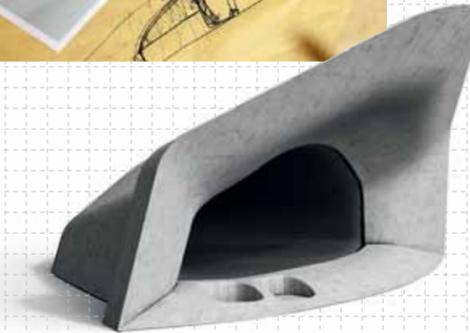


The historical lineage associated with housing the dog was reviewed, from the fox's lair, to the hollow log, to adapted found materials – such as the corrugated water tank cut in half. In each instance, it was evident that the doghouse is used primarily for shelter, sleeping and dreaming, while defining their own domain. We investigated how the doghouse could be integrated into the landscape as opposed to a smaller version of the owner's house.

The form of the structure is derived from how a dog rests. The rear for curling up, the additional height for the circular movement they make prior to finding a comfortable position, and then the open end for 'flopping' out protected by the canopy above. The 'hilled' landscape partially conceals the formed concrete structure allowing for a variety of landscaping options. These could include the veggie patch, the great Aussie lawn or native planting.

To ensure that the structure has a purpose beyond life, the doghouse incorporates stone enclosure panels to permanently seal the structure, forming a final resting place avoiding the need for disassembly. M

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: The evolution of the doghouse design; the form of the design is inspired by how a dog rests – rear curled up, front flopped out; the design allows for a number of landscaping options; Pepper appears interested in the design but her final thoughts are yet to be determined.



M SEE MORE IMAGES OF AMY AND ROSS'S CREATIVE PROCESS AT MONUMENTMAGAZINE.COM.AU AND FIND DETAILS ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CREATE A DATE SERIES.