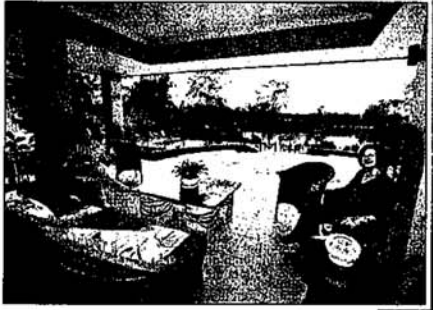


The reflection pool, one of a series of water features in the five-bedroom home, overlooks the swimming pool and disappears into the Brisbane River

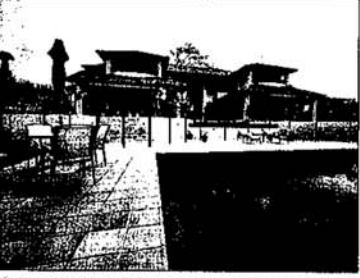
Pictures: Drew Fitzgibbon



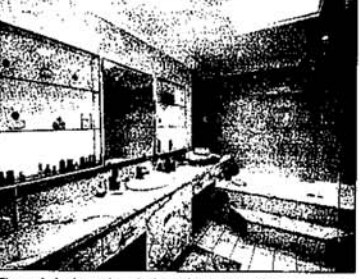
Derek and Barbara Greenland on one of the patios overlooking the Brisbane River at their Bellbowrie home



The grand entrance opens to a statue in the water feature that represents a figure from Thai mythology



Outdoor features include a boat pontoon and landscaped grounds. Underground rainwater tanks have been installed



The main bedroom has dual ensuite where rose marble from Italy has been used extensively



An internal reflection pool, like a moat, edges the formal dining area below a dramatic void



The main kitchen features stainless steel appliances and beech cabinetry

# Temple for the soul

**E**XPATs Derek and Barbara Greenland chose a quiet reach of the Brisbane River to build their retirement home four years ago. Commissioning Brisbane architect Frank Ferro, their brief was to design a functional and stylish home that made the most of the tranquil riverfront vista at Bellbowrie, in Brisbane's outer-southwest.

Favouring the designs of renowned architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Richard Neutra, the couple wanted light-filled spaces and a dominant water theme. Floor-to-ceiling glass walls slide open to soak up the river's peaceful bush setting.

"Frank worked out with us how to make the most of the water view," says Barbara.

After 40 years in southeast Asia — seven in Hong Kong and 33 in Thailand — running five-star-hotel supplies company Prior Thai, the Greenlands were enchanted by the natural environment and abundance of space. Bliss.

"It just worked out that way. Water is peaceful. Derek desperately wanted to live on the water," says British-born Barbara, whose husband was

born in China but grew up in Australia. "We looked to England, came to Australia and decided eventually that the Queensland climate was more akin to the climate we'd been used to. It took five years ... finding the right piece of land on the water is not that easy."

Sited on 1.8ha, the focal point of the five-bedroom home is a series of water elements that deliver all eyes, ultimately, to the timeless beauty of the river. Classic asian tranquillity in the bush.

While the property enjoys 100m of river frontage, it also borrows more than 500 uninterrupted metres of river landscape from its neighbours.

The Greenlands are fortunate that their home looks across to a riverbank reserve on the other side that can never be built out.

**Edging the Brisbane River at Bellbowrie is a water-inspired luxury home that's in perfect harmony with its tranquil setting. Gillian Cumming reports**

The entry is virtually a viewing platform that oversees the cycle of water which starts from a custom-made sculpture based on Thai mythology and flows down to an internal reflecting pool — like a moat — edging the formal dining area beneath a dramatic two-level void.

"The sculpture of the girl is based on a Thai story where once she washes her hair, she wrings it and irrigates the earth," explains Barbara.

The eye is then drawn outside to a patio reflecting pool that cascades downwards to a wet-edge swimming pool that disappears into the river.

The couple wanted their 921sq m home to be a functional space that nurtured the soul — a place of spiritual refuge. "We live in all these areas, even though there's only the two of us," says Barbara.

The lower level has dual guest suites, each with ensuite and walk-in wardrobe. A kitchenette is shared. The main kitchen features stainless steel Branch appliances, including an induction cooktop, plus walk-in pantry and European beech cabinetry. Lit-glass cabinets separate this area from the formal dining space.

Four of the five bedrooms open out to balconies. The main suite has dual ensuites and dual walk-in wardrobes.

There is an office, powder room, media room, wet bar, wine cellar and three-car garage.

Furniture and fittings include Grohe tapware and Kohler bathroomware, natural granite, Italian rose marble, sandstone, red gum hardwood floors and Thai silk blinds and curtains.

Other features include airconditioning, multiple wall insets to display artwork, back-to-base security, central vacuuming, cloak and luggage rooms, intranet connections and satellite/FM wiring to most rooms plus laundry chute, guide lights and delivery access to the wine cellar from the garage.

The entrance has a porte cochere. Outside undercover living spaces total 261sq m. There is a boat pontoon and landscaped grounds, including a rose garden and computerised irrigation connected to a well. Underground rainwater tanks have just been installed.

The Greenlands' love affair with Thailand has continued unabated, hence the couple has decided to downsize so they can live in both worlds — moving between Bangkok and probably an inner-city property in Brisbane. "Thailand is too much in our hearts to cut it off," says Barbara. "But we still want to spend time here."

**FACT SHEET**  
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**AGENT:** Ray White Real Estate's Judy Goodger on 0409 767 377  
**ASKING:** Over \$3.5 million



The Greenlands' library is easily converted to a fifth bedroom