

BUSHLAND retreat

Nestled between Namadgi and Kosciuszko National Parks lies Snowgums – a piece of untouched Australian bush that has become a cosy escape for this young family

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PHOTOGRAPHY HARRY KING, PEITA DEBOER

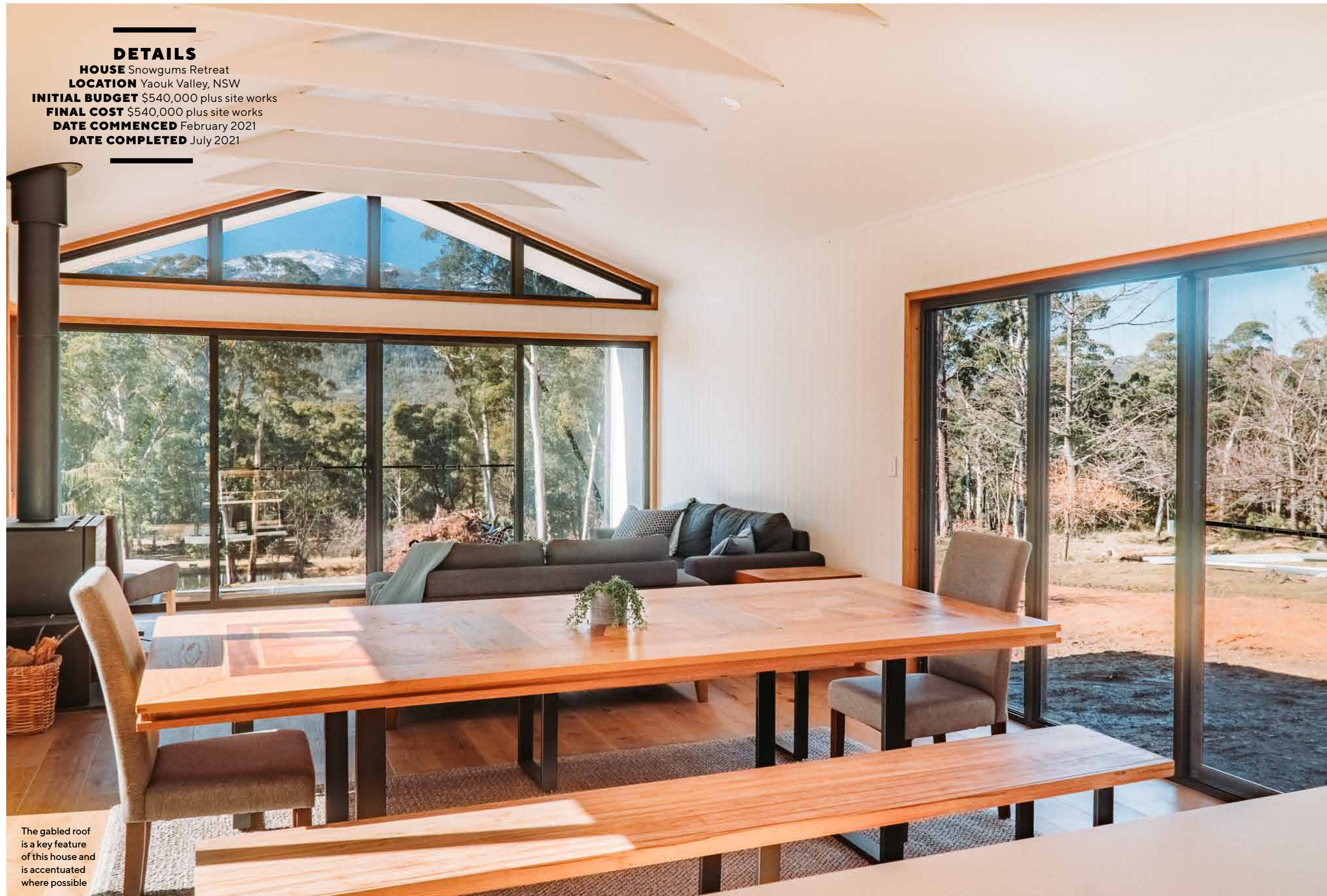


Tucked away in one of the Snowy Mountains' best-kept secrets, the Yaouk Valley, this prefab home holds some incredible memories. A 30-year labour of love and personal form of therapy for a returned Vietnam veteran came to a sudden halt due to ill health. With just an already excavated wine cellar, the Snowgums property was passed to a fellow war veteran, who took the challenge to finish what had been started. However, with new bushfire planning protocols, relentless weather conditions and treacherous terrain, the original desire for a traditional log house had to be rethought. "Bushfire planning changes precluded the original design for the site, so she (the current homeowner) worked with the Prefabulous team to design something that would be as equally at home among the gum trees, while also adhering

The home's interior palette has been kept very simple with natural materials and minimal hues to let the view be the main focus



DETAILS
HOUSE Snowgums Retreat
LOCATION Yaouk Valley, NSW
INITIAL BUDGET \$540,000 plus site works
FINAL COST \$540,000 plus site works
DATE COMMENCED February 2021
DATE COMPLETED July 2021



The gabled roof is a key feature of this house and is accentuated where possible



to modern bushfire and energy-efficiency rules," says Prefabulous managing director, Gavin King.

Surrounded by a unique blend of untouched Australia bush and an arboretum-like garden, complete with deciduous trees, lakes, rivers, wildlife and snow-capped mountains, Snowgums Retreat is a true escape from the daily grind. But the beauty of its remoteness also came with its challenges, including bushfire regulations and inaccessibility. Together with Prefabulous, the homeowner chose to build an architecturally designed, prefab home with modules that could be transported and lifted into place on the property. All the materials needed to be low maintenance and meet the high fire rating of BAL40. Together with Robert L Harding and Cooma Cranes, plus the neighbours' machinery to tow bogged trucks along the 25km of dirt road and rain-soaked paddocks, installation of the home took just three days to complete!

Inspired by Canadian cabins with an off-centre gable, Snowgums Retreat is a four-bedroom, two-bathroom, pavilion-style home, and perhaps the only modular house in Australia that has its own

"THE HOUSE NOW SITS PROUDLY ATOP A ROLLING LAWN, WITH LAKES, CANADIAN REDWOODS, OAKS, ELMS AND MAPLES DOTTED AROUND THE PERIPHERY, AND THE SNOW-CAPPED RANGE ACROSS THE VALLEY" - GAVIN KING



Due to the site's inaccessibility, the homeowner chose a prefabricated dwelling with modules that were transported and lifted into place

underground wine cellar and whisky tasting room. With 360-degree views of the surrounding alpine environment, the most important element of this home was a fluid connection between indoor and outdoor spaces. In every room one can enjoy the view, whether it's looking at the snow-covered mountain ranges through the glass gable or the national park through the home's glass linkways.

"The house now sits proudly atop a rolling lawn, with lakes, Canadian redwoods, oaks, elms and maples dotted around the periphery, and the snow-capped range across the valley," says Gavin. 🏡

PROJECT TEAM

ARCHITECT & BUILDER
Prefabulous, prefabulous.net.au

FIXTURES & FITTINGS

Exterior cladding COLORBOND Matt,
James Hardie Axon
Interior lining Easycraft EasyVJ
Oven Smeg
Sink Artusi
Windows Pentak
Joinery Miotti Cabinets

Accessibility to Snowgums Retreat was very difficult. Trucks constantly got bogged in the dirt roads and rain-soaked paddocks

