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Polish-born Aneta Tobola studied architecture in Europe and received her Master of Architecture and Urban Design from the prestigious Szczecin University of Technology, before immigrating to Australia in 1997. Aneta owns and operates the boutique architectural practice, Tobola Architects, which offers a quality and consultative design service with a commitment to innovation, architectural excellence and attention to detail. Aneta's designs exhibit the grand scale and meticulously designed spaces of her European influences, but they are also highly considered spaces, finely detailed and crafted with sensitivity towards the Australian context and climate. Her designs are infused with sound sustainability principles, which enhance natural ventilation, passive solar effects and, most importantly, take advantage of Australia's unique lighting conditions.

ANETA TOBOLA

"The steeply sloping site of this project presented several significant challenges, both in its design and construction. But its location also offered the potential to realise a simply breathtaking valley view of native bushland and the neighbouring Lane Cove National Park. The answer was contained in the problem. My response was to work with the natural terrain and step the building up the hillside in levels. In this way, the building articulation and orientation could be used to advantage and enable views of the forest valley to be framed and captured in almost every room of the house. In design, I always try

to use all that Mother Nature gives us for free — natural light and fresh air. In planning the building this way, it was possible to draw light and air right into the very centre of the building plan. I'm using direct light, borrowing light and reflecting light to create a house with no dark corners or corridors. Even the internal bathrooms require no artificial lighting during daylight hours. My house is a very comfortable space to live, experience and enjoy nature and the surrounding landscape. It enhances daily life and is a pleasure to share with friends and family any time of the year."