



Sitting on the dock of the bay

Sitting on the sheltered back deck of this Marlborough Sounds bach and watching the tide come and go on a holiday morning is a favourite pastime for its owners. Based in Nelson, they have owned the property for 30 years but realised a few years ago that the original A-Frame on the site was well past its use by date.

“The A-frame was very restricting,” say the owners, “and our three adult children had growing families. There wasn’t much we could do to renovate it so we decided to rebuild.”

Brendon Monk from Arthouse Architecture had worked for the couple before, and they say they were very impressed with his initial concept for the new bach.

Brendon says the site proposed some difficulties, with restrictions on the footprint and a narrow steep section. Significant piling work was required to ensure the house sits on solid ground.

“It was challenging as the new design had to fit on the footprint of the original house due to planning restrictions,” says Brendon. “But it is a wonderful site and my imagination starting racing as soon as I saw it! There is road access to the site and a natural spring on the section so we were able to incorporate a natural water source – a real bonus in the sounds. Plus the section faces north east so it’s ideally situated for the sun and the views.”

The new house stays within the footprint of the original house on one boundary, but extends as far as possible on the eastern elevation to make the most of the coastal outlook.

Brendon said the brief was to create a home that made the most of the sun and the views but that provided sheltered outdoor spaces.

“The new house was to be more dynamic but less obtrusive than the original A-frame. It had to fit in to the site better.”

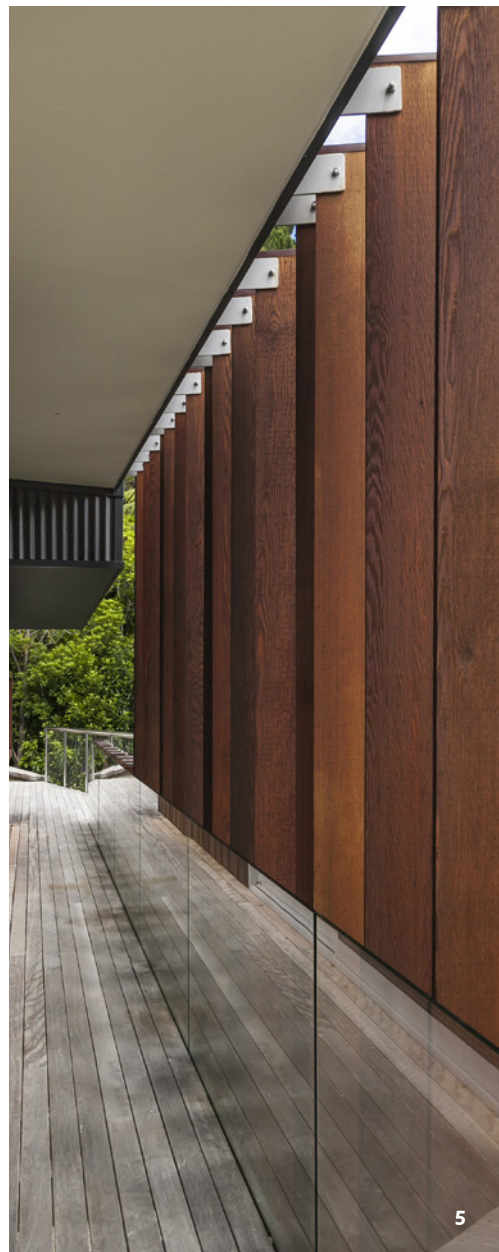
“The owners wanted an outdoor eating area that was sheltered from the wind. The back deck is sheltered between the house and the bush but bifold doors allow a connection through the living area of the house to the sea beyond.”

The design has no garage and the main entry is into the living area, to maintain the feeling of a casual, bach lifestyle. The main living level has the master bedroom, en-suite, living, kitchen and dining spaces. A set back upper level has the remaining bedrooms, including a bunk room, and a bathroom.

The home was constructed as far as possible from timber, which could be brought in by road. The timber pole foundations create a storage space below the house; the exterior cladding is cedar shiplap and colour steel. Decks are purple heart timber and the interior flooring is native saligna. Timber is also a feature in the joinery with macrocarpa trims and native timber kitchen joinery.

The house build was finished in 2011 and after two years of family holidays the owners have spent enough time there to appreciate the design and comfort of the new bach.

“Our builder, Ken Anderson, did a wonderful job. We love the way the house fits into the section. It will do us for another 30 years, it’s a magic spot,” they say.



1 The soothing waters of the Sounds are just a stone's throw from the deck of this Marlborough holiday home **2** The house is set back from the beach giving shelter from the elements **3** The house has stunning views up the Sounds **4** The house stays within the footprint of the original A-frame bach **5** Cedar chiplap cladding offers protection from the elements **6** The timber and colour steel exterior works well in a marine environment **7** The rear deck offers a sheltered dining area



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8 The front deck offers stunning views of the water below **9** The master bedroom is on the same level as the main living area **10-11** The open plan living, kitchen and dining area makes the most of the outlook to sea and bush **12** The main bathroom comes with a sea view



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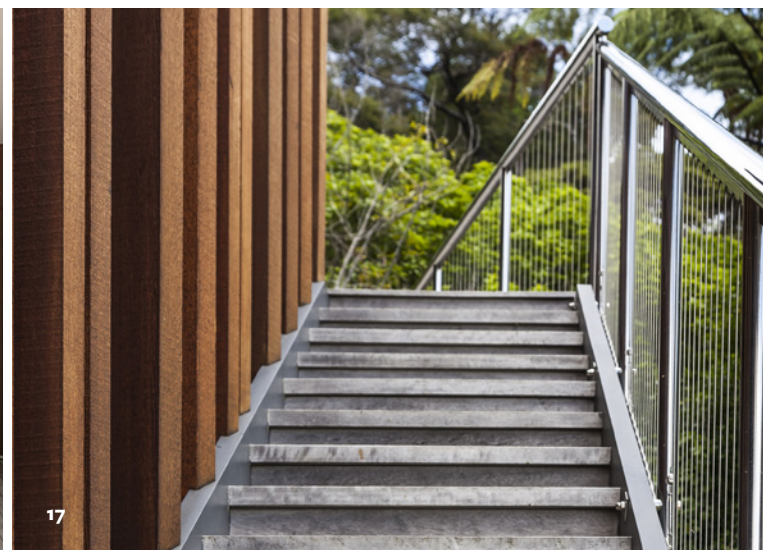
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13 The house nestles to the back of the section leaving plenty of lawn space below for outdoor living **14** An outdoor shower washes the salt off after a swim **15** Timber decking with glass balustrades form a seamless boundary with the water **16** A shady lunch spot on the rear deck **17** Timber outdoor stairs give access to the upper levels from the beach