

timber DESIGN

A U S T R A L A S I A

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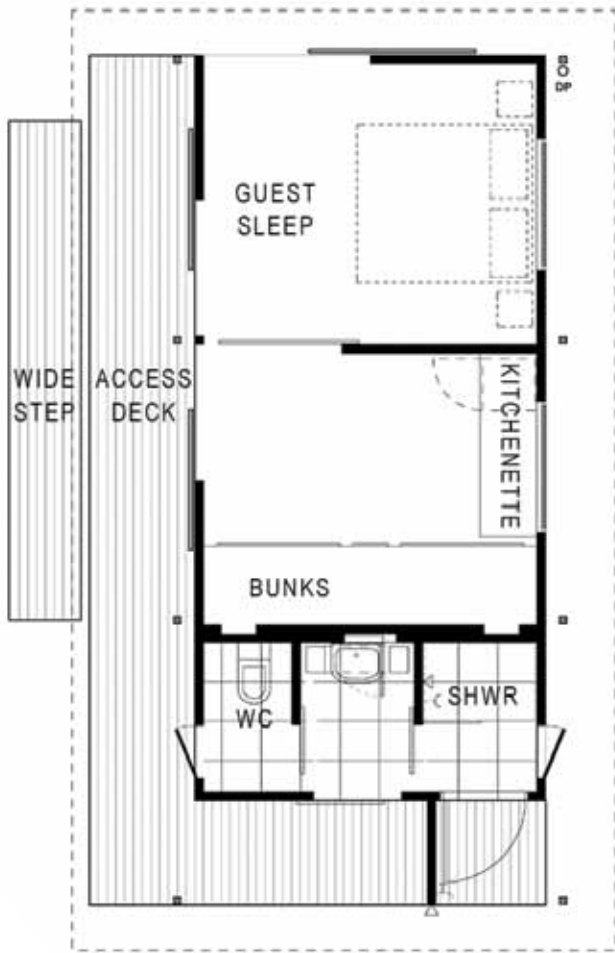
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SUSTAINABLE
BUILDING SOLUTIONS

GOLDEN BAY 'SACRIFICE'

Dealing with living in a forest clearing





“ The clever sacrificial longspan metal roof provides a low-cost and readily replaceable protective layer able to be marked and dinged by falling debris whilst capturing roof water for storage and use. ”



This set of three small buildings and the spaces between provides a second home for a young family within a forest clearing overlooking Golden Bay, at the top of New Zealand's South Island.

Two buildings are inhabited: the larger for the family, the smaller for friends or the kids once bigger, with peripheral decks to connect to the clearing and sacrificial roofing to protect from the eucalypt trees and collect rainwater.

The third building provides independent amenities to the external spaces, which are controlled in volume by the placement of buildings within and to the edge of the clearing, allowing for camping, friends and outdoor activities.

The buildings are set back from the sea within the privacy of the forest, allowing the view to be shared by all. Open external spaces breathe and flow with the clearing canopy above, in contrast with protected rich and shadow-filled withdrawal spaces inside.

The two-roof strategy

Materials were chosen to blend with the surrounding bush and dappled forest light, including oiled cedar, simply finished metals and eucalypt decking outside. Interiors are consistent and pure, with dark ply wall, ceiling and joinery linings providing a sense of retreat from the clearing, paralleling the privacy afforded to it by the forest surrounds.

Building within the eucalypt forest required a strategy to protect the bach (holiday cottage) from falling branches and gumballs. The clever

sacrificial longspan metal roof provides a low-cost and readily replaceable protective layer able to be marked and dinged by falling debris whilst capturing roof water for storage and use.

The roof structure supports the metal roofing over hardwood purlin rafters supported on steel portal frames, which brace and strengthen the structure to the timber building below. Minimal roof members are required, resulting in increased transparency and lightness to the additional roofing layer, with the hardwood purlins carefully scaled to provide richness and texture.

Bracing is achieved through an additional layer of construction ply behind the finishing dark-stained plywood used for interior walls, ceilings and joinery. This allows cabinetry-type detailing with secret fixings to be used extensively throughout internal spaces – providing a seamless consistency and rich material quality as a retreat from the ever-changing dappled light of the forest surrounds.

Timber was limited to a small palette of plantation-grown species selected for their specific finish and feel within the surrounding eucalypt bush colours and textures, and for workability and ease of delivery to the remote site.

Architects Irving Smith Jack were highly commended for this project in the 2008 New Zealand Timber Design Awards.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT Timber was limited to a small palette of plantation species

OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT Dressed cedar batten rainscreen cladding – co-existing perfectly with its Golden Bay setting

OPPOSITE RIGHT MIDDLE TOP An extra layer of construction ply behind the finishing plywood enables cabinetry-type detailing

OPPOSITE RIGHT MIDDLE BOTTOM Interiors are consistent and pure, with dark ply wall, ceiling and joinery linings

OPPOSITE RIGHT BOTTOM A contemporary, eclectic mix of colours and timber materials (stained blackwood ply lining, saligna flooring and eucalypt decking).

PROJECT Bach with two roofs, Golden Bay, NZ

ARCHITECT Jeremy Smith, Irving Smith Jack Architects Ltd

ENGINEER Craig Thelin, CDT Consulting Ltd

WOOD PRODUCTS (Exterior) Dressed cedar batten rainscreen cladding with Dryden wood oil finish; eucalypt decking and sacrificial roof framing. (Interior)

Eucalyptus saligna flooring, Tasmanian blackwood plywood

PHOTOGRAPHY Paul MacCredie