



This beach house retreat offered a chance to design a space in which to live life in a simple, informal, open and uncluttered way.

The home is as open and transparent to its physical environment as possible, but with careful consideration of the weather and prevailing conditions; being sometimes harsh, unprotected and exposed as a wilderness beachfront stand.

The retreat is divided into three scaled down barns forming a protective "open square" courtyard, offering relief from the prevailing summer winds, while allowing for optimal solar orientation to the north. In opening the forms up to take advantage of the views and explore different qualities of natural and dappled light, the house connects strongly with its coastal dune site. Three dimensionally, the spaces offer opportunities to explore, observe and inhabit at different levels, from the refuge of solid basement, to the inhabitable fireplaces, to the terraced decks and built-in seats of the courtyard, to the outlook from the kids' sleeping loft in the floating roof.

Many of the materials are used are either "as found" or recycled. The house is finished with simple natural surfaces, appropriate to a casual barefoot beach lifestyle, tough and with low maintenance.



WEST COAST HOUSE

St Helena Bay . Western Cape . South Africa

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