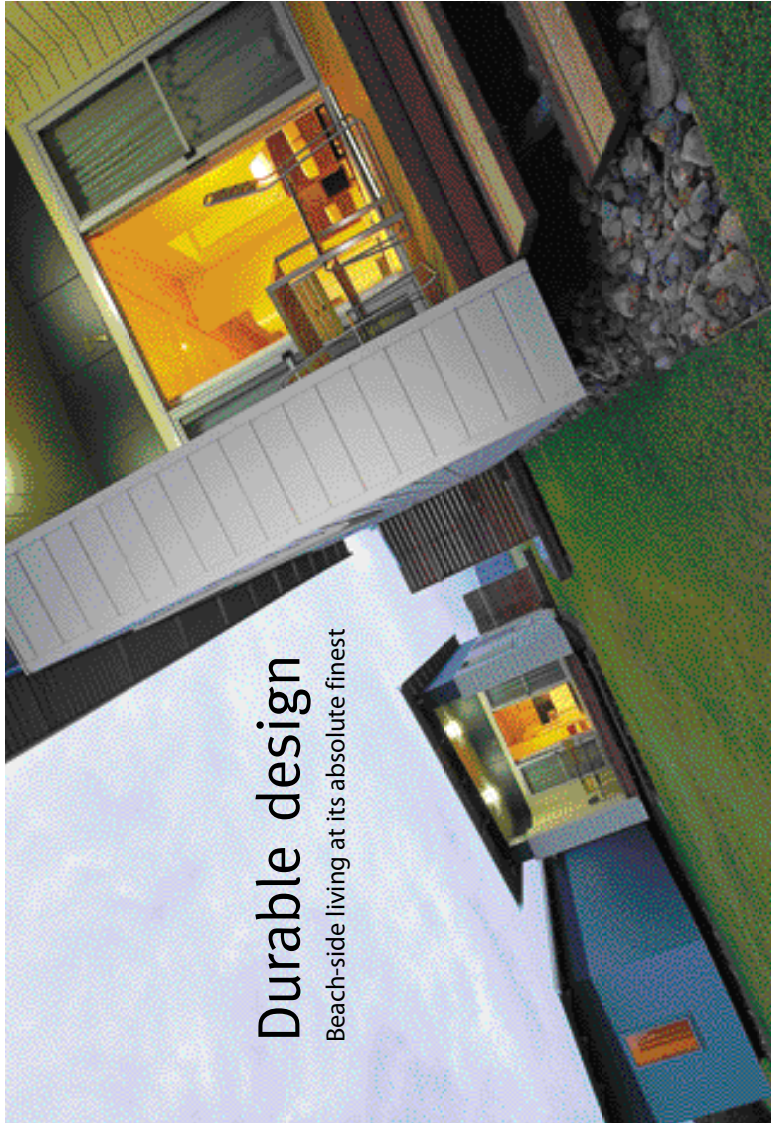


Durable design

Beach-side living at its absolute finest



WHEN THE TEAM

at Parkwood Homes won the contract from The Department of Sport and Recreation to construct a cluster of cabins at Lake Ainsworth in Lennox Head, NSW, they were given an opportunity to think outside the square.

It was a 'Design & Construct' tender and Sport and Rec's brief was for a design that would last, attract a strong rental return and which would be durable and hard-wearing.

Tucked in behind the primary dunes off one of Australia's top surfing locations, the unique site enjoys the inviting smells and roar of the surf, as well as the potentially damaging salty air, so it was clear from the very beginning that durability was going to be an important consideration.

Parkwood had some help with the design. Sport and Rec commissioned one of Australia's leading architectural firms, Allen Jack + Cotter, to develop a concept.

The architect knew the site well, having recently completed construction of a marvellous multi-purpose hall that was judged best country architecture and which was awarded The Blacket Prize. The hall was an 'imaginative, environmentally inspiring, light-filled structure' says a representative from The Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The building also received commendations in the Sustainable Architecture and Public Architecture categories.

The cabins were designed to sleep a family of five, with two bedrooms and a serviceable three-way bathroom, a full kitchen and a compact laundry. Each unit takes advantage of the sun, with deep awning

windows allowing entry of the morning sun. The deck is well shaded from the summer sun but is designed to allow the lower winter sun to stream into the living area.

The units have been divided into two distinct structures and a link bridges the two main buildings. However, extensive landscaping may trick passers-by into thinking they are separate buildings. The architect was keen to distance the bedrooms from the living area. It's an environment where groups can enjoy themselves in the living area and not be too concerned with keeping noise to a minimum if someone is trying to sleep over the other side. The design offers a feeling of substantial separation.

Designed to service the beach, the cabins will inevitably attract sand. Marmoleum floors

throughout the building are easily maintained while hardwood has been used on the sizeable deck and stairs, eliminating the need for balustrading and providing a great place to relax in the sun.

Due to its proximity to the dunes and national park land, the cabins also needed to comply with the Bush Fire Code for construction. The external perimeter was enclosed below the floors. To lighten the appearance, the skirt was painted a dark charcoal grey and recessed to establish a shadow line. The riverstone behind a hardwood mowing edge provides an easily maintained foundation for the cabins.

The cabins travelled up from Parkwood's factory in Somersby, 680 kilometres away. They arrived complete with pc items, kitchens, paint,

tiles and floor coverings on delivery. The link was transported on the deck of the living area and the water tank road on the gooseneck of the trailer. Every other day a complete cabin would arrive onsite and be quickly installed onto concrete piers using a local 80-tonne crane. In no time at all one cabin grew to a whole cluster! +

Details

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