

Keruru Cottage

LOCATION: DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND

The brief was to replace an existing house with a modern cottage able to provide privacy, tranquillity and to cater for disabled functionality.

A walled entry provides focus to the front door and privacy to the spaces within. The broad translucent carport leads to an internal roofed garden that gives indirect access to the house while providing sheltered ventilation and light.

Wide access-ways and doors throughout the house give a sense of elegance while enabling the house to be disabled accessible. The master bedroom, with associated ensuite and dressing room, has been situated to the front of the house with a shuttered opening to the living spaces.

Japanese sensibility of design is reflected in the considered proportions and rhythms to the screens, the roof structure of post and beams, and the yin and yang of light and dark, fine and heavy. Exposed upswept rafters extend beyond the gutter giving a skeletal edge to the roof overhangs. Soffits are expressed using timber and woven bamboo.

The living room deliberately cantilevers forward towards the harbour with low sill windows on three sides providing a visual connection to the unfolding vistas up and down the harbour, and to the boathouse below.

The outdoor areas on the verandah and off the dining room are orientated to maximise enjoyment of the sun and create a private, nurturing micro-climate out of the prevailing winds.