

Waiwhetu

LOCATION: ABEL TASMAN, NEW ZEALAND

A secluded site amongst the beech trees filtering a private view to a golden beach and bright blue water.

This breathtaking position presents a technically challenging steep south facing site. My clients wanted a sanctuary of peace and tranquillity, to make use of available sunlight, to fit into the site rather than perch upon it, and to have a distinctive yet private entry.

The gravelled roof top courtyard provides an area with year round sun and views over and through the tree canopy to Tasman Bay.

From the entrance foyer the stair takes you on a journey down through the unfolding volumes of the house. At each level the vistas of the bush and sea never cease to surprise. A house of few internal walls separation is gained by levels. A fireplace on the living level is the heart of the house with the chimney tying the various levels together. Special care has been taken to place the house gently amongst the beech trees. The result is a natural garden, in place.

Inspired by the sooty trunks of the beech trees the lower level becomes skeletal and open to the trees as opposed to the more solid front presented to the public approach.

The house is a tactile experience through the senses.