



HOUSE AT TE HORO

TE HORO

Location

Te Horo Beach, Kapiti Coast

Program

New House

Time of Project

Start 1987 - Completed 1988

Client

Moller Family

Value of Project

\$250,000

Project team

Gordon Moller,

Awards

NZIA Branch Award 1987

NZIA Gold Medal 1989

NZIA Enduring Award 2014

Project Description

The house is a holiday and weekend retreat situated on four hectares of land fronting onto the beach on the Kapiti Coast, north of Wellington.

The metaphor for the House is a cluster of tents grouped around a common space or clearing. This space forms a courtyard, about which rooms are grouped on a longitudinal axis parallel to the beach, with adjacent connected decks and walkways.

The beach land is rugged and wild, the weather varies from idyllic clear days to on-shore westerly gales. The house is designed to take advantage of the dramatic climate. When there is severe wind, decks to the courtyard hinge up to provide a safe haven, together with a series of sliding shutters, enabling sheltered areas to be achieved, even on the wildest days.

The forms of the house reflect the rolling dunes of the landscape. The construction is white washed concrete blockwork, concrete floors, macrocarpa roof framing and sarking with corrugated iron roofing. Windows are weathered cedar, and the courtyards are paved in hand made terracotta tiles.

The site has been landscaped using structural groups of planting consisting of New Zealand flax, taupata, toe-toe, pohutukawa and cabbage trees

around a courtyard that opens itself to views and sun, or is closed off from prevailing winds depending on changing climatic conditions.



NZIA Jury Citation:

This building is the ultimate New Zealand holiday house. It is a building, which in form and plan rolls so easily across the lupin covered sand dunes that it seems to be born of this particular place and in complete harmony with it.

The facts of this place are sun, salt and storm. The Architect makes a frame for shelter and organises common materials; white block-work, rough sawn timber, curved corrugated iron into a spine along the shore.

He allows the building to open and close to weather and view, adjusting to extreme conditions. At once he makes wind break, a tent or a shed. He uses the familiar and only his imagination makes the difference.

The plan was formed using the metaphor of a group of 'tents', is brilliantly organised



Structure

Peter Johnstone

Contractor

Brian Mason

