

A CAREFUL
DEVELOPMENT IN
THE BAY OF ISLANDS
MAKES THE DESIGN
OF A SERIES OF
BEACH PAVILIONS
AND SEPARATE WINE
CELLAR BY MAP
ARCHITECTS AN
EXERCISE IN MAKING
THE MOST OF
SOMETHING SMALL.

WORDS TOMMY HONEY
/PHOTOGRAPHY BRIAN CULY

Builder - Dave Crabb
Circle D Construction
Kerikeri
021 804889

PRIVATE EYE

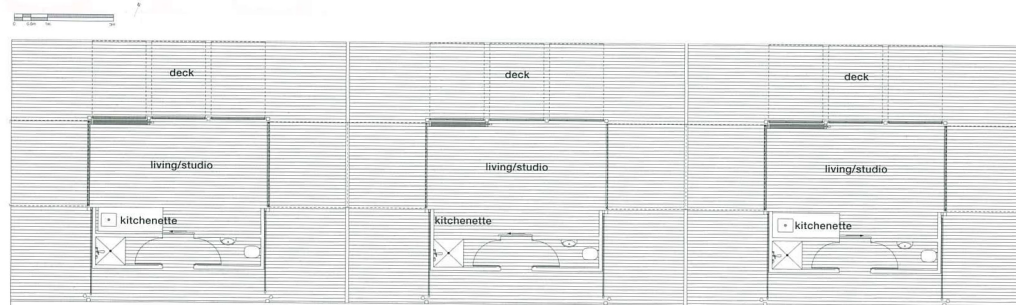


NORTH OF KERIKERI ON a headland overlooking the Bay of Islands, sit three beach pavilions and a wine cellar. Nestled in to the hillside they are at once quiet and unassuming and yet potent statements of how to relate to the landscape.

These buildings are not a happy accident but a result of careful planning on the part of the developers and their architects, Modern Architecture Partners of Christchurch. MAP's first work was to assist with writing a design code and guidelines for the development of twenty-five sites. The developers are keen to create a place that is environmentally sensitive with elegant shared facilities for the owners. The challenge for the architects was to create a framework that would allow this, defining a relationship between the landscape and the buildings; it had to be flexible enough to be open to creativity but still have some constraints to prevent rampant development.

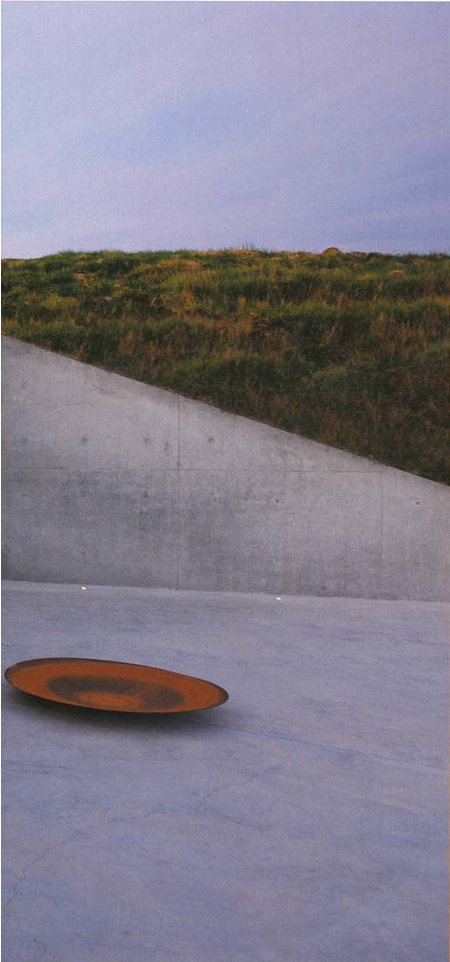
The architects' second challenge was to design two buildings according to this code. The first is a wine cellar set into a hill near the ridgeline. Because of coastal restrictions the maximum size was 25m². This precluded the possibility of cellaring so the space is used for tasting. The building is tucked into the hillside and is made entirely of in situ concrete. The walls splay out to the view, creating a broad deck open to the stunning views. MAP designed the wooden table and chairs which give the space presence. A back-lit wall of holes provides ample space for temporary wine storage. Concealed behind this are a bathroom and kitchenette. A thin clerestory throws light on the rear concrete wall

OPENING SPREAD:
The three beach pavilions in their secluded environment on Wiroa Station. **FACING PAGE:** The pavilions nestle into the hillside just above the water. **BELOW:** The 25m² pavilions open out to make use of generous decks.



BEACH PAVILION PLANS





giving the illusion of greater space. This is an accomplished building that serves its singular purpose extremely well.

The companion piece to the wine cellar is a series of three beach pavilions set 30m back from the high water mark. These were also constrained in size at 25m² each. However, their light louvred walls can be lifted on hydraulic arms to create a single roof and a single space. Together with the shared rear retaining wall and the deck they sit on, this can be used communally or privately. Each pavilion has its own shower and toilet and bench for food preparation (the barbecue is shared). The light steel framework holds up a plywood and membrane roof allowing the walls on three sides to be closed or open depending on your mood and the weather. Sliding doors at the front echo this flexibility and transparency.

The materials of the pavilions reflect their environment – cedar weatherboards externally and bandsawn cedar-faced plywood inside. The deck is kwha and is continuous inside and out of the pavilions. The use of these materials is understated and elegant but there is also a confidence that makes this a very assured piece of architecture, aware of its place.

The developer is to be congratulated for having the foresight to provide such elegant communal spaces for the future homeowners. Although they both dig into the earth to different extents, the wine cellar and the beach pavilions do so carefully and with restraint. This is architecture that negotiates its position with the landscape, which is all the better for it. For this, congratulations are due to the architects. **U**

www.williamsland.co.nz/wiroa.html

FACING PAGE:
The wine cellar is a dramatic wedge of cast in situ concrete buried into the hillside.
BELOW: The wine 'cellar' is used more as a tasting room than a cellar, but a small collection of bottles are displayed in the holes along the wall; a bathroom and kitchenette are tucked behind this.

