



# Islands in the sun

Designing a house to capture a 300° view presents its own challenges, says the owner of this island retreat. But the results speak for themselves

**Holidays are all about escape, and there is probably no greater escape than an island retreat accessible only by boat – or helicopter.**

But even with his pick of building sites, the owner of Hurakia Lodge says making the most of the spectacular views from Rakino Island in the Hauraki Gulf presented a challenge for the designers. John McCullough says the location has an obvious wow factor, and it was important that this wasn't diminished by the building.

The solution lay in three long, low

pavilion-style wings that form a Y-shaped building, with expansive glazing providing a transparency through the house.

"It is possible to stand in the central living pavilion and look down either wing and through the glass walls to the sea beyond," McCullough says.

The design brief given to concept architect Greg Boyden of Jasmax specified a modern, flat-roofed house that would blend in with the surroundings in terms of its colour. But McCullough says the house also needed to have its own presence.

**Above left and top:** Modern castaway – this island retreat in the Hauraki Gulf near Auckland is just minutes from the city by helicopter but a world away in terms of peace and privacy. To maximise the spectacular views, concept architect Greg Boyden designed the house as a Y shape with a central living pavilion. The curved pathway leads down the hill to a private jetty.

**Above:** The two bedroom wings semi-enclose a large, sheltered pool courtyard and outdoor living area. The main living pavilion also opens directly to the pool terrace. Glass balustrading minimises the visual impact of the pool fence.





“The house needed to make a strong statement in itself, while also providing a tasteful, warm and welcoming retreat.”

In keeping with the requirement for a contemporary architectural form, the main living pavilion opens up on four sides to a large terrace that wraps around the building. Large eaves provide shelter from the summer sun. And the owners can open the large sliders to suit prevailing weather conditions.

The two bedroom wings semi-enclose a sheltered pool courtyard and outdoor

living area. Freestanding concrete block walls at the opposite end of the pool are positioned to frame the best view of a picturesque group of small islands.

“Sometimes, leading the eye to a key aspect of the view is more dramatic than simply exposing a never-ending vista,” says McCullough.

The exterior is also defined by the cladding, which features Aluart anodised aluminium panels. Many of these are designed as permanent artworks. Connecting panels between the bedroom

wings and main pavilion, for example, feature a textural fibre pattern, while the anodised panels on the bedroom wings are decorated with the a bubble pattern that conveys a sense of movement.

The interior, by Stewart Harris of Martin Hughes Architecture Interiors, was designed to complement rather than detract from the view.

“A simplified palette of colours and materials was the best way to allow the view to dominate – it also lets the architecture shine,” says Harris. “We opted



**Preceding pages:** The pool landscaping is designed to provide a framed view of the Noises islands in the gulf beyond.

**Above left and above:** Transparency is a defining feature of the house, with floor-to-ceiling windows ensuring the view can be enjoyed in all directions. The main living pavilion can be opened up to a terrace on all four sides.

**Left:** The house features anodised aluminium cladding, which incorporates Aluart panels, such as the fibre-patterned panels linking the main pavilion with the bedroom wings.



**Above:** Interior designer Stewart Harris of Martin Hughes Architecture Interiors created a warm, neutral colour palette, with contrasting textures providing added visual interest.

**Right:** The central pavilion provides an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area. The double-sided fireplace provides a glimpse of the view beyond.

**Facing page, top and lower:** Designed as a luxurious private retreat, the master suite opens up to the view – from both the bedroom and the his-and-hers bathroom.



for natural colours, which have a subtle New Zealand flavour, but the interior also reflects international design influences.”

Harris says natural linens and hand-woven 100% New Zealand wool carpets were specified. Timber was sourced from a renewable resource.

“There is a strong consistency of materials throughout the house. Similar colours provide a visual connection, and the use of contrasting textures adds interest. We avoided a look that is too conservative, frequently mixing classic elements with

quirky accent pieces.”

These items include sculptural lamps and artworks, a coffee table made from native tree trunks, and a Dedon Yin Yang chair on the terrace.

Comfort was also a priority, with the spacious, uncluttered living areas providing several grouped seating areas, each positioned to maximise a different slice of the spectacular view.

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- Architect:** Greg Boyden AINZ, Jasmox; and Pete Bossley AINZ, Pete Bossley Architects (Auckland)
- Landscape design:** xx
- Builder:** xxxx
- Pool construction:** xxxx
- Cladding:** Aluart anodised aluminium panels
- Doors and windows:** xxxxxx
- Roofing:** xxxxxx
- Decking:** xxxxx
- Flooring:** xxxxxx
- Lighting:** xxxxx
- Furniture:** xxxxxx
- Fireplace:** xxxx
- Benchtops:** xxxxxx

- Bathroom tiles:** xxxxx
- Bathtub:** xxxxx
- Basins:** xxxxx

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