



## BEACH HOUSE

Avoca Beach, Australia

Situated at the Avoca beachfront, the purpose of the Beach House was to create an interpretation of experiencing life at the beach. The different aspects of beachside living are captured in various ways throughout the house, and we had the opportunity to talk to Steven Isaacs about the project.

“The brief was to create a home to accommodate a small family yet flexible enough to expand to house multiple guests, being mindful of varying levels of privacy and a sense of scale for minimum number of occupants. There was a wish for a variety of spaces to experience different aspects of beach life. It had to be a home which responds to its environment both functionally and aesthetically, with a preference for raw, natural and robust materials. Maximize the connection – visual and physical – to the beach”, Steven says. The response to the brief was a series of spaces that were maintaining the focus and connection to the beach. The public spaces have been designed as a range of indoor/outdoor pavilions while courtyards have been treated as outdoor rooms blurring the lines between inside and outside. “Each pavilion and courtyard houses a different function; for an example an entry or car court, a living pavilion, a games pavilion, a sand and fire courtyard creating a sheltered heart or a breezeway”, Steven explains. The transition from house to beach is manifested

6 in an operable veranda space, which can be enclosed during winter and





completely open during summer. When taking a closer look inside, the interior follows a palette of natural and raw materials. “We stuck to natural, raw materials selected with robust longevity, low maintenance and recyclability in mind; from exposed concrete floors to recycled iron bark and stone. To achieve the spaces, we used the elements of interior design, tools of sculpting light, space, line, forms, color texture and pattern”, Steven mentions. These elements also highlight the fluidity between the exterior and the interior. “There is no differentiation between the architecture and the interiors. The interior becomes exterior, joinery becomes space definer and modulator, and materials become textural art brought to life by the sun”, Steven continues. The materials create a strong sense of quality as well as conceptual direction; from the ceiling timber following the central circulation spine and connecting the spaces through movement; to the highly textured natural stone wall addressing the principle of emphasis.

The site also presented a combination of a challenge and an opportunity to the design: the consideration of the wind. “The site is facing the eastern sea, so the house is naturally ventilated by the breeze from the ocean. Yet, it was necessary to shelter the accommodation from the harsh afternoon winds. On top, we needed to minimize overshadowing to the southern property, which we solved by designing a predominantly single storey with a first floor setback”, Steven concludes. Due to the generosity of the site, there was enough space and opportunity to create these courtyards and breezeways that inevitably created a comfortable environment while providing direct access to the most spectacular and unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean. And in combination with the materiality of the building, the house lives up to its promise: to mimic beach life.

Architecture by **Architecture Saville Isaacs**

Photography by **Kata Bayer**





# RESTLESSLIVING

*"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."*



VOLUME 9



## **Words of the Week**



*"This week, I was supposed to have spoken at Architect@Work in Oslo, but the event was understandably postponed due to the current COVID-19 crisis. And, this made me think: Could the event have been hosted online? When the world faces a crisis – regardless of the circumstances – we need to think. Think differently and in most cases change our habits. I mean, we now experience a much greater emphasis on digitalization; from virtual meetings to virtual offices. Before the crisis, most employees had to be physically present at the workplace. Now, this has changed to prevent the spread. There is a problem, and there is a solution. Architects are used to be problem-solvers since lots of things can go wrong throughout a building project; whether the project is a skyscraper or a small cabin. This agility – and flexibility – that makes people want and capable to adapt is important for our society. From design to the way we choose to live our lives. If we can all understand the advantages of changing our habits and doing something differently, I believe there is no crisis we cannot beat.*

*With that being said, I really hope you will all stay safe in these difficult times. Make the right decisions. I wish you all the best!"*

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH  
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

