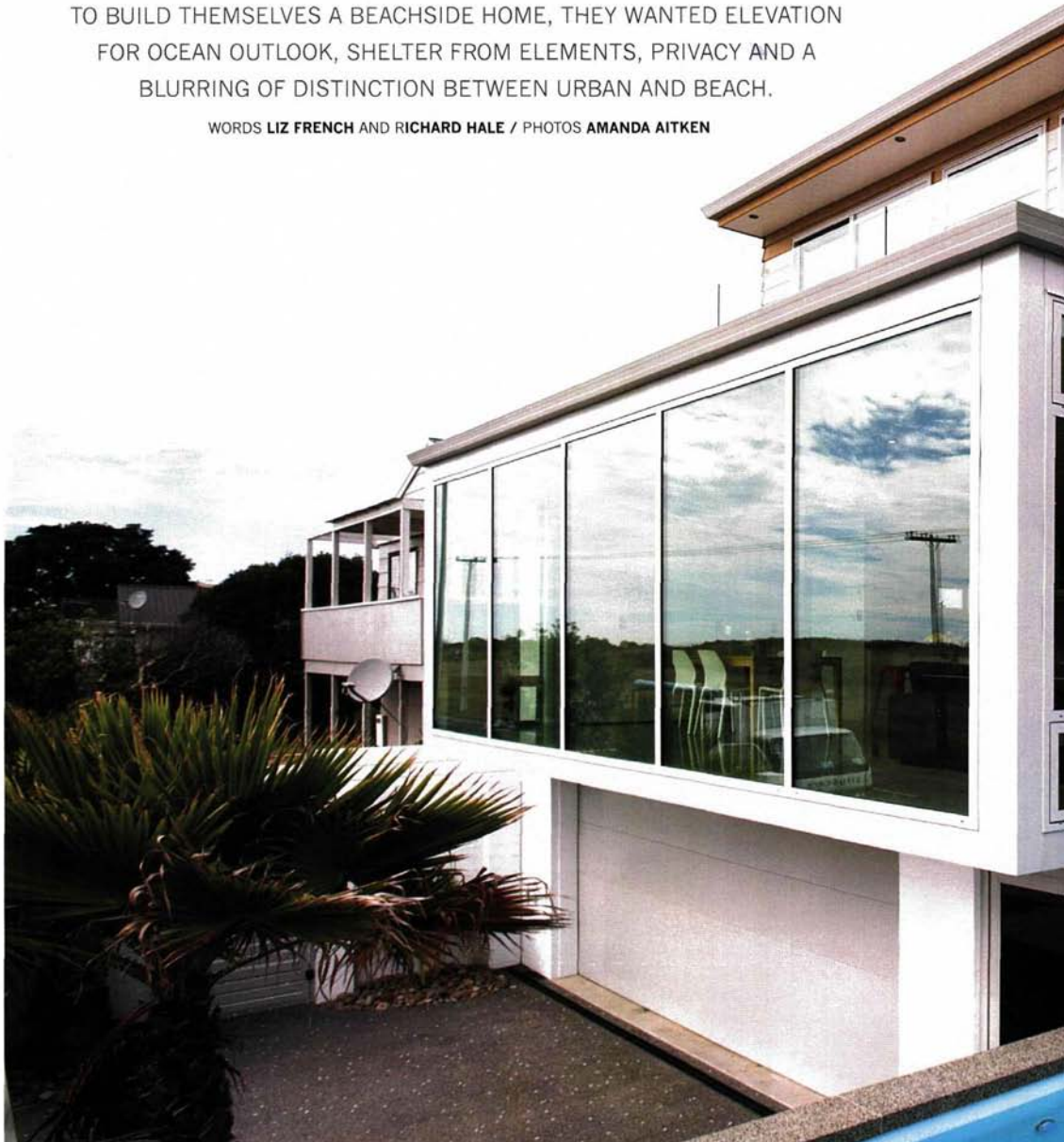




Making Waves in Beach Design

WHEN PHIL AND NIKKI MOULDEY OF WAVE CONSTRUCTION SET OUT TO BUILD THEMSELVES A BEACHSIDE HOME, THEY WANTED ELEVATION FOR OCEAN OUTLOOK, SHELTER FROM ELEMENTS, PRIVACY AND A BLURRING OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN URBAN AND BEACH.

WORDS **LIZ FRENCH** AND **RICHARD HALE** / PHOTOS **AMANDA AITKEN**



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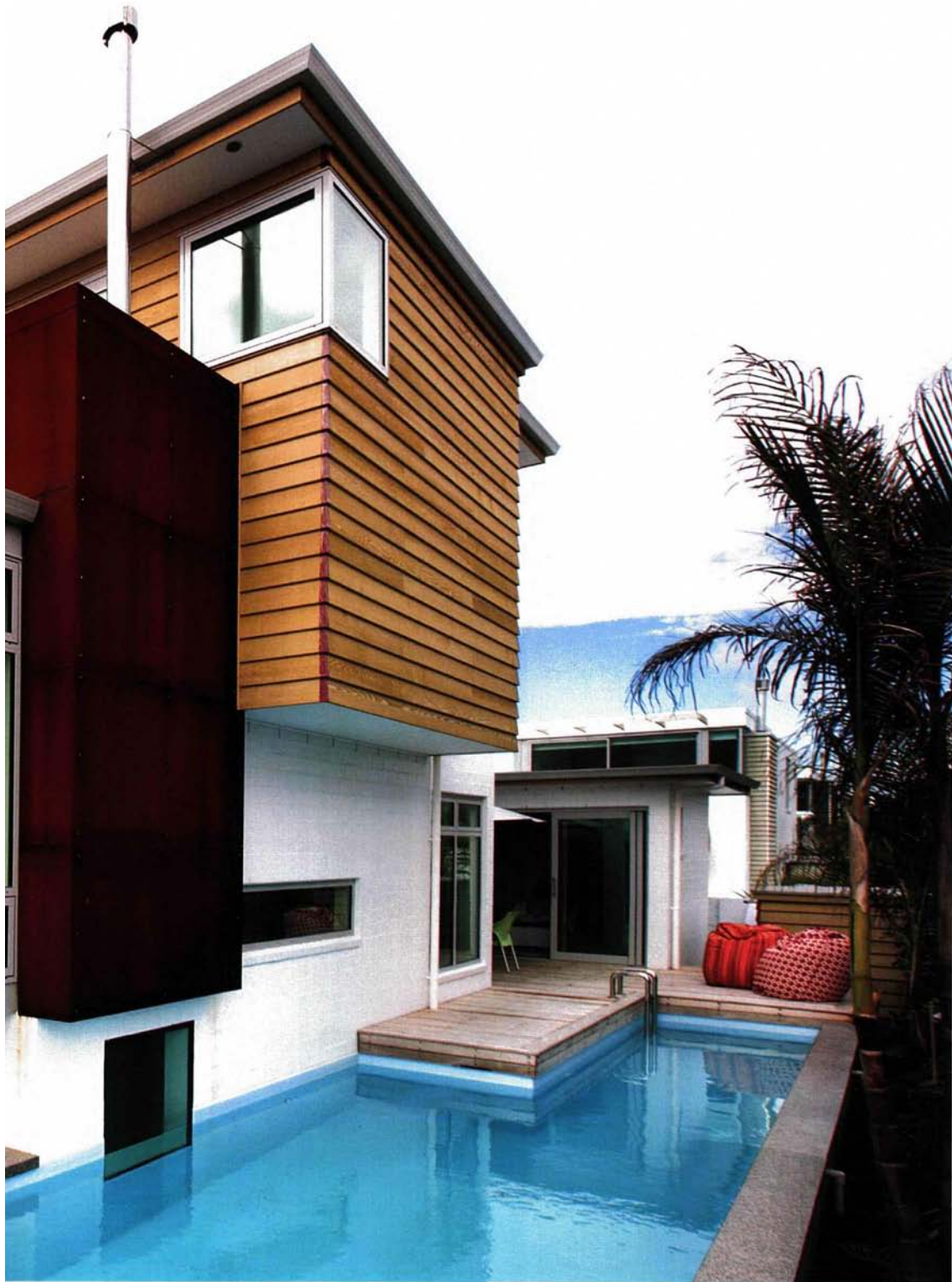
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Designing a beach home in a harsh environment on a small site presents its own challenges. When the client is a respected bespoke builder the stakes go up even further. Richard Hale of Insight Architecture rose to the challenge with very satisfying results.

The success of the design solution was endorsed when the home was a national finalist in the 2014 Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ) Awards and winner of the 2014 Bay of Plenty Regional ADNZ Awards for a residential new home between 150 and 300m².

Richard describes the architectural journey.

What was the owner's brief?

The client, a respected bespoke home builder, had completed four homes in a five lot development with tight resource consent conditions and small lots. This final home on the beach side was to be his own home, and to be the best of them, taking into account all the features of previously built homes. A walk through of these homes enabled relatively easy design research into materials and what worked as far as flow and outdoor spaces.

Did the site dictate the architectural response?

Having a previously resource consented design, a site of only 325m² and the need to go to three levels posed its own problems. The client also wanted to use natural materials like cedar, corten steel, polished concrete and painted brick, keeping low maintenance in mind, given the environment it was to be built in.

The site has been fully maximised with the entry at street level offering privacy and security and allowing second level living to have the views of the dunes.

During the design process, a computer modelled sun study and daylighting envelope ensured the clients enjoy a light filled home as a finished product and previous consent conditions were adhered to.

Materials used in the construction?

The materials chosen had to reflect the beach side location and a selection of NZ traditional mediums were chosen in the form of cedar and brick, but used in more contemporary ways. A key component of the brief was bringing the outdoor materials inside with the use of polished concrete floors, an internal wall of bevel back weatherboards and a corten steel fireplace surround.

Describe the layout of the home?

In response to the brief and the site I designed a 288m² four bedroom three level beach haven with split level access from the entry up to the gallery which wraps around the courtyard to enable multiple room access to the lap pool and outdoor areas. The gallery then leads up to the main living area via polished concrete steps and a unispan floor. In behind the designer kitchen, another stairway leads up to the master bedroom retreat which takes in the sea views from a private balcony.







A key feature of the living space is the use of full width windows to take in the view of the dunes and a glimpse of the pool area and outdoor spaces through low windows.

The entry features a window looking directly into the pool, giving a deflected light effect and offering a sense of space to an otherwise poky area. Utilizing the split level landing for gallery and outdoor access along with the wider stairs to the living space and a hidden third level stair minimises vertical travel clutter normally associated with three level dwellings.

All rooms have slider doors to allow an open and light environment and prevent slamming doors when the home is opened up in summer to allow the sea breeze through.

All areas of the home have storage solutions to reduce clutter and the minimal clean lines of each room allow easy use of each space to achieve a low maintenance lifestyle, allowing you to relax in the evening watching the dunes or laze around the pool seeing the sun disappear.

What were the challenges/benefits of working with the builder as owner and builder's wife as interior designer?

To start with there was no miscommunication in the design team by having third party involvement. Decisions were quick, outcomes effective and the result...Gorgeous!

Nikki Mouldy comments:

What aspects work particularly well or particularly please you?

The industrial metals used are clean and simple and really show the house off. We love the minimalist look inside as it allows the house to speak for itself. It is easy to clean and uncluttered but still full of character and warmth; just love it!

What were the advantages of being owner and builder?

Being the owner builder of the property gave us the opportunity to express creativity and take risks to work towards an appealing and unique home. We had a wonderful crew of contractors working on site under the supervision of Phil to achieve the details and convey his craftsmanship.

On creating the interior design for their home...

I was doing something I love, so it didn't feel like work. I am not a professional interior designer; instead I am from a teaching background, but I always felt in control of my design choice for our lifestyle and environment.

You have enjoyed this home for a couple of years now.

Has it lived well and delivered everything it promised?

It is warm, light and great for entertaining. The concrete floors are a success; warm and show no mess. Having a separate area for guests is great as they have their own space but we come together to eat and socialize which is just great. ■



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