As exquisite pavilions on the top of a sand dune, these houses at the south end of Boomerang beach on the New South Wales north coast offer some unique accommodation. The various spaces of the houses are separated by decks and outdoor space, allowing vegetation to come between the buildings, blurring side and outside. The pavilions are highly crafted timber boxes, evoking a tactile and human scale. The proportions of the spaces vary depending on use: a soaring ceiling for the living spaces, a low rising plywood ceiling to provide intimacy for the dining space. A centrally dynamic bunkroom provides delight for children of all ages. There are several ways to bathe here: fully outdoor on dining from the beach, a bath partially outdoors with privacy, or open bath in the ‘turret’ bedroom. There are several ways to live, too: on top of the dune, with built-in seats and screens, or aided from the elements with the living room closed up, or in the sheltered court, away from the breezes. The climate dictates how various spaces are used. The brief was to design two compact units, side-by-side. The clients are two couples, who intended to use one of the homes as an investment holiday rental property and the other for their own use. The other priority was that each of the dwellings be designed to thoughtfully accommodate two families, as the two homes have a mirrored layout. A central spine connecting the two dwellings contains utility spaces such as bathrooms, powder rooms and kitchens. Each dwelling has a two-storey apartment at the rear of the site containing bedrooms and a separate bed bedroom overlooking the beach.