

PROJECT

OUTER CONSCIOUSNESS

• BOURNE BLUE ARCHITECTURE •

With a seaside village its location and inspiration, this home is robust and humble and overlooks a spectacular piece of coastline.

Words by [Anna McCooe](#)

Photography by [Simon Whitbread](#)



01 Those with their backs to the ocean can still enjoy the view, reflected in the glass splashback.





02 A deck with an integrated barbecue extends the kitchen space to the outdoors.

03 Sliding doors transform the kitchen into a verandah-like space, open to the ocean view.

It may be nestled into prime real estate overlooking an idyllic stretch of sand, but this new build in Seal Rocks eschews opulence. Instead, it takes its aesthetics from the fibro shacks that define the New South Wales village.

Already fluent in the local vernacular, architect Shane Blue of Newcastle-based practice Bourne Blue was appointed to design an engaging holiday home that would sit comfortably with the spirit of the area. "This is the land of unpretentious fibro fishing huts. We didn't want the new house to jar with that," Shane explains.

The tipped roofline of the house continues past the north-facing windows; Shane likens it to the brim of an Akubra hat. The move minimizes the perception of the house from the beach while also providing protected outdoor living, bathing and circulation spaces. Shane dressed down the exterior in mature timber and painted fibre cement sheet to suit the context. "The view is all-encompassing and so the building didn't have to be overly impressive. It's not elaborate, it's just simple forms and materials."

Simplicity is also the driving strategy behind the compact kitchen and living space. The joinery was finished in 2-pac polyurethane in the same white as the walls, while the stainless steel benchtops against the wall tie in with the sink, appliances and polished concrete floor.

The solid pine-topped island bench matches the lounge and dining room table. Each is finished with soap flakes, inviting the salt

air to interact and build character over time. Shane shaved precious centimetres from the bulk of the building by cantilevering the benchtop so stools could tuck below.

The mirrored splashback is a savvy choice that reflects the view through to the dining area, so that even those sitting with their backs to the ocean can enjoy the outlook.

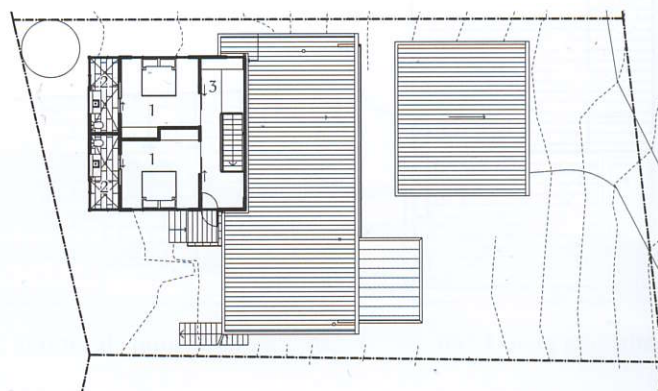
Shane orchestrated the bathrooms to work together as an ensemble, with each serving a different time of day. The outdoor showers are utilized throughout the day to wash off salt and sand. With a paver embedded in river stones underfoot and a copper shower mounted on a hardwood post overhead, the experience is luxurious without being lavish.

The main bathroom is employed after the last swim of the day. Timber slats to the north are spaced just close enough to provide privacy while admitting light and ocean views. The hardwood plank floor and compressed sheeting used as spatial divisions, much like an amenities block, ground the down-to-earth space. Shane chose plain brass garden taps and an unpolished copper shower to carry through the robust aesthetic to every detail.

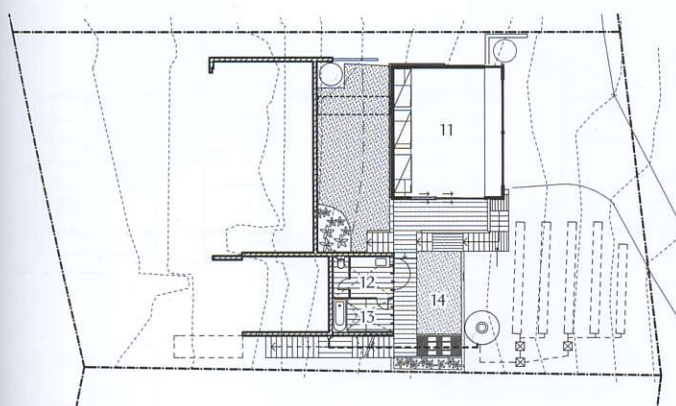
The matching ensuite off the two main bedrooms are used at night or on wet weather days, their sandblasted Oregon pine benches and stone basins are a reminder of the outside environment. Shane also included shoulder-height windows in the showers, so, as he says, "you can always see what the ocean is doing." K+B



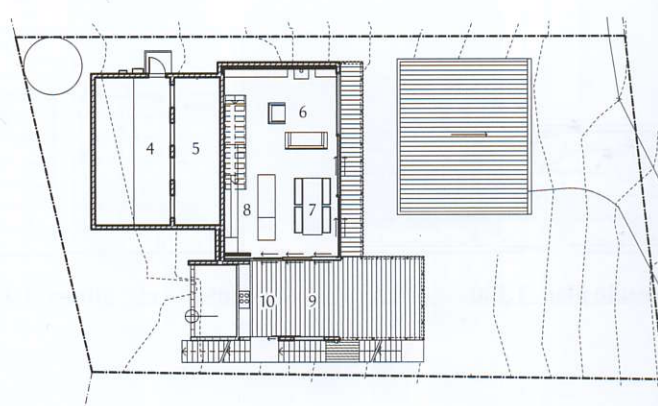
- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 1 Bedroom | 9 Deck |
| 2 Bathroom | 10 Barbecue |
| 3 Study | 11 Bunkroom |
| 4 Store | 12 Laundry |
| 5 Tank | 13 Kids' bathroom |
| 6 Living | 14 Outdoor shower |
| 7 Dining | |
| 8 Kitchen | |



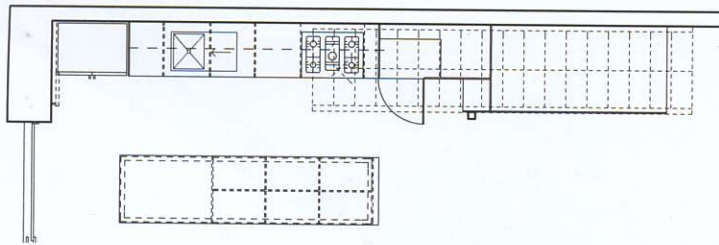
Level four 1:400



Level two 1:400



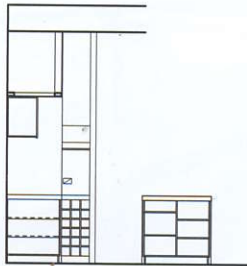
Level three 1:400



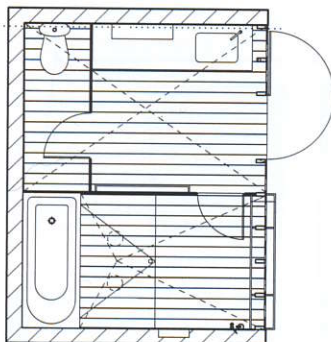
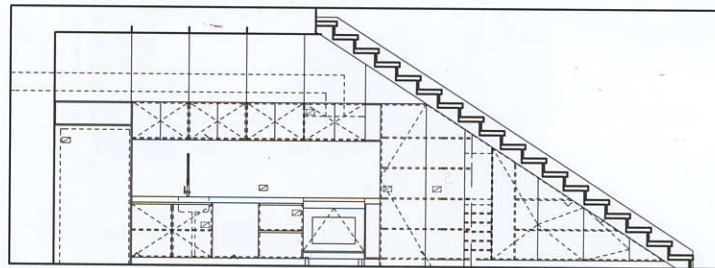
Kitchen plan 1:100



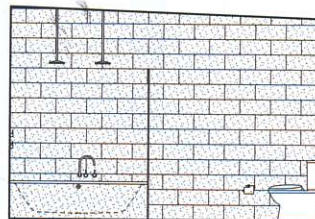
- 04 Brass taps and copper shower heads lend a rustic, outdoor feel to the main bathroom.
- 05 Stone basins and wooden benches in the ensuites are further nods to a connection with nature.
- 06 The luxurious copper outdoor shower, built for two, is mounted on a hardwood post.



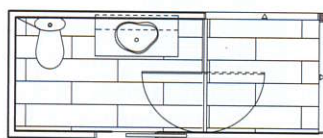
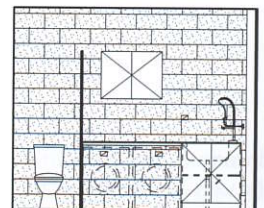
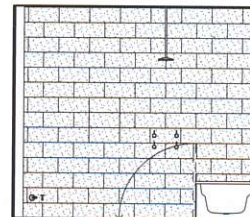
Kitchen elevations 1:100



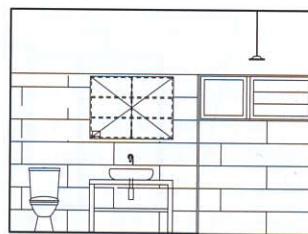
Bathroom plan 1:100



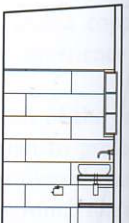
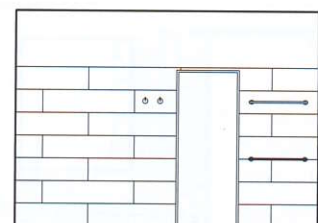
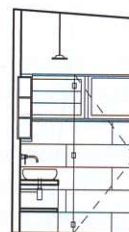
Bathroom elevations 1:100



Ensuite plan 1:100



Ensuite elevations 1:100







Architect

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Practice profile

A small design-based practice that has worked on projects from small residential alterations and additions to large school faculty buildings.

Project team

Shane Blue, Rachael Bourne, Sarah Manners, Claire Lavis

Builder

Sugar Creek Building Company

Consultants

Joinery: Bulmer and Lemaire
Furniture: Mark Tuckey

Kitchen products

Internal walls: Plasterboard
Flooring: Polished concrete
Joinery: Brushed aluminium kickboards; mirror splashback; 2-pac polyurethane drawer and door fronts, in white; stainless steel benches with formed sink; radiata pine benches with soap flake finish
Lighting: LED bulkhead downlights
Sinks and tapware: Gessi pull-out sink mixer
Appliances: Fisher and Paykel fridge; Bosch dishwasher; Ilve oven; Qasair rangehood

Bathroom products

Internal walls: Color Tile rectified tiles in Opus Satin (ensuite); cement render painted off-white (main bathroom)
Flooring: Color Tile tiles in Grey (ensuite)
Joinery: Oregon pine bench, sandblasted; recessed mirror cabinet (ensuite); compressed cement sheet (main bathroom)
Lighting: LED downlights (ensuite); plastic spotlights in black (main bathroom)
Tapware and fittings: Methven minimalist wall-mounted tapware (ensuite); copper shower heads; brass bib taps with Astol spinners (main bathroom)
Sanitaryware: Ici et là basin and Porcher Heron toilet (ensuite); Caroma Shark bath, Porcher Heron toilet, Clark laundry tubs (main bathroom)

07 The robust aesthetic is evident in every detail, like the garden taps featured on the showers.