

The Whale Bay House

NORTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND

JASMAX ARCHITECTS, ARCHITECT PIP CHESHIRE

146

This beach house was created after architect Pip Cheshire, director of Jasmx Architects, was requested to check out the suitability of the site for a holiday house. As Cheshire had designed a number of homes in the area, it was familiar territory for him. As Pip says, "I have a beach house about two kilometres up the coast and I'm familiar with a number of the geotechnical and climatic issues in the area".

The curved A-frame house was given the name *bure*, the Fijian word for house. The *bure* is stage one of a long process which involves the long term settlement of the site, one that is proposed to spread over generations. "The *bure* is a 'base camp' providing basic sleeping, bathing and cooking facilities and allows for immediate occupation of the site while long term discussion of the main house continues. The *bure* will eventually become guest accommodation", he adds.

While the construction of this house matches those of its neighbours along the coast, its relative rawness makes a welcome alternative to the slick city abode. The plywood walls that extend into the roof line exaggerate the form of this unusual house. Rather than segment the space, the only enclosed rooms are the bathroom and store room. The mezzanine-sleeping platform is open to the living areas below. "The *bure* is considered an intrusive form in the land, combining the raw with the cooked (the raw of a rough shelter combining with the cooked interior), a place for everything and everything in its place", explains Cheshire. Large window and door openings are shuttered to filter light and to exaggerate the feeling of enclosure engendered by the steeply pitched roof.

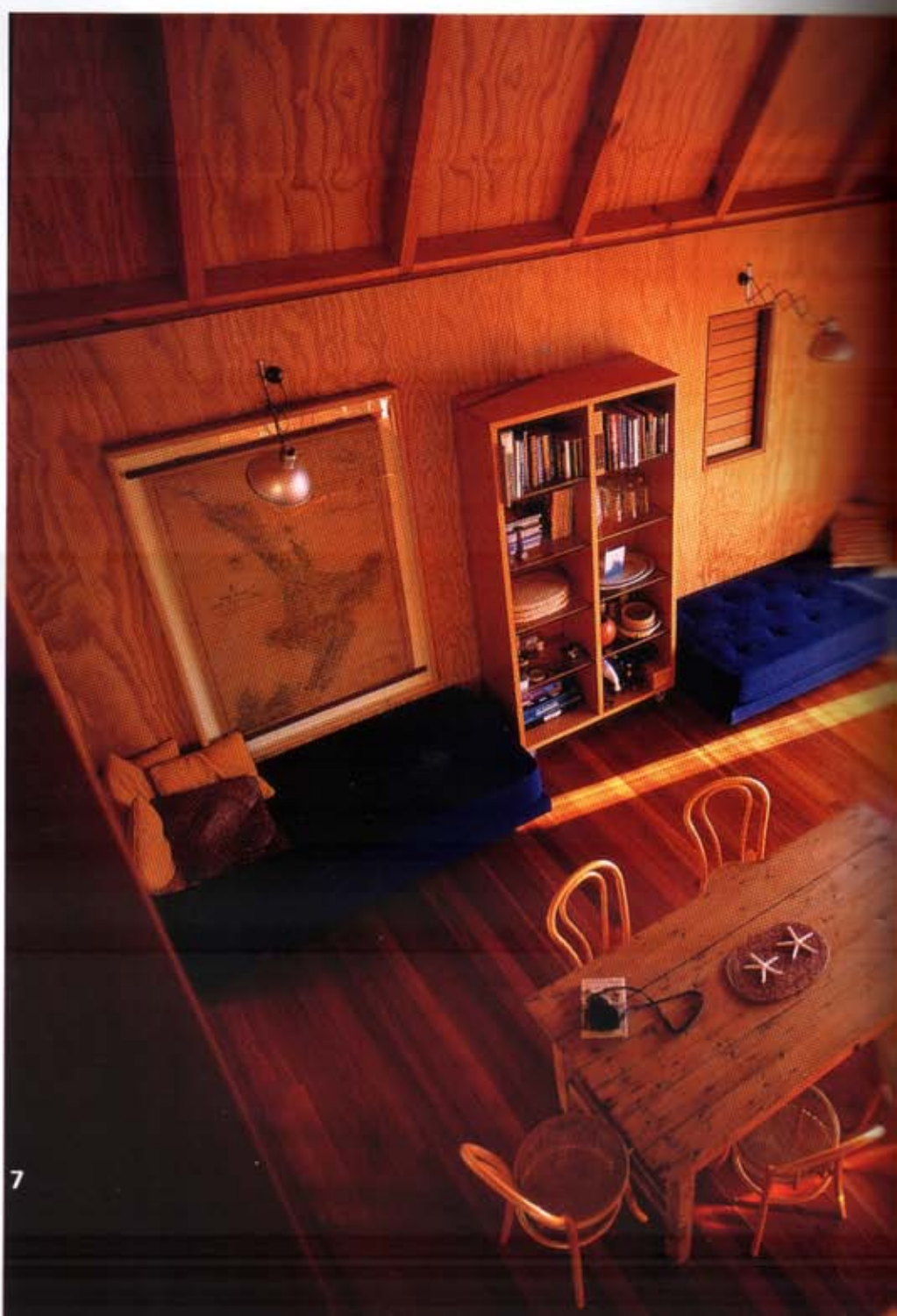
The house might be raw in comparison to the main house which is currently being designed on the same site however, finishes such as the stainless steel bench tops in the kitchen together with the fine detailing of the stairs, make this guest accommodation an enviable one.



- 1 Mixing materials
- 2 Simple form
- 3 Street facade

Photography by Patrick Reynolds







- 4 Glimpses of the ocean
- 5 A unique setting
- 6 Kitchen/living area
- 7 Open plan living area
- 8 Site plan
- 9 Open plan living area
- 10 Defining the roof

Photography by Patrick Reynolds

