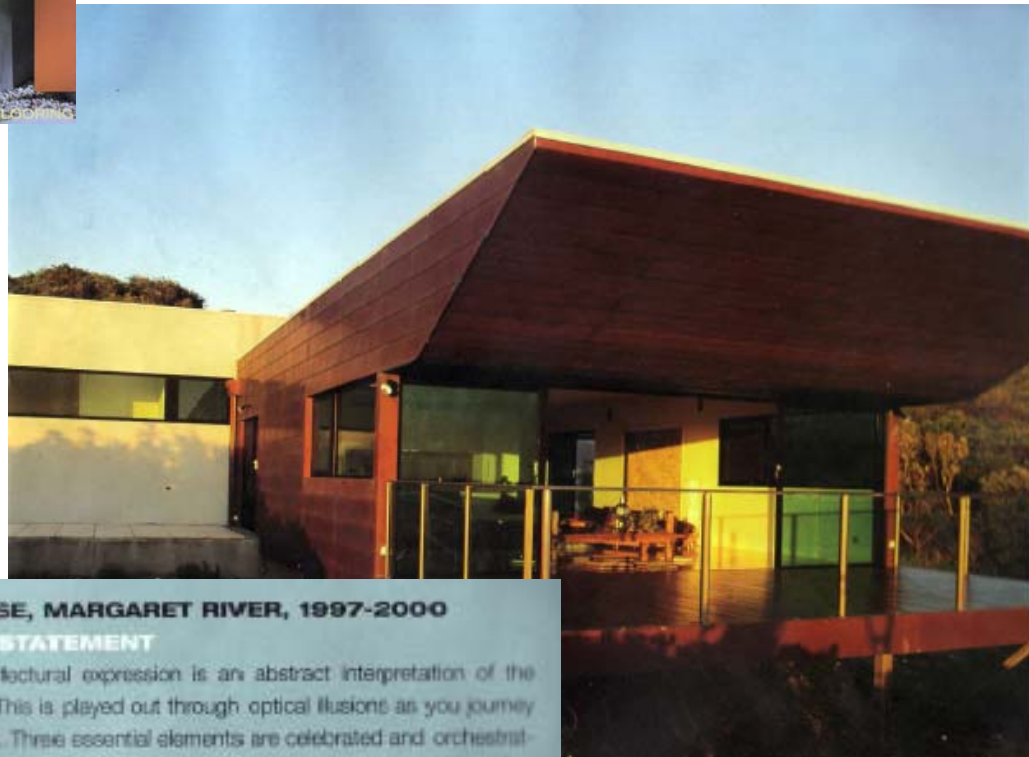




Houses | The Residential Architecture Magazine Feature Article 2002



ROOZEN HOUSE, MARGARET RIVER, 1997-2000

ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

The building's architectural expression is an abstract interpretation of the 'magic' of the site. This is played out through optical illusions as you journey through the building. Three essential elements are celebrated and orchestrated into views: the primary axis of the triangular site is directed to the Indian Ocean; the line of the Cape Leeuwin Ridge to the southeast forms another sea; and that of green flora and a small Greek church stands to the northwest. These elements are reframed through the composition of spaces the building makes as it bunkers down and projects out of this raw and beautiful landscape and makes the experience of that landscape more picturesque.

Designed in plan as a simple cruciform form, the building affords a myriad of carefully considered internal and external spaces from which to both reach into and retreat from the circumscribing land and seascape. The living zone acts as a 'sacred place' – a projectile platform oriented directly at Western Australia's premier big wave spot – the Bombie. The interior spaces are raw, esoteric, a refrain from the prevailing elements and a neutral platform on which to view them. Specific window apertures act like cinematic frames.

The two opposite sensations of bunkering into, and floating over, the landscape are reinforced by the material choices of heavy masonry and lightweight copper elements respectively. The building is designed to age and crust, the cement render will soften and leech salt, the copper will oxidize green – both taking on the hues of greying limestone and the dunal plant cover this region is famous for. While the building's skin and texture will patina, the building's architectural form remains assertive and bold.

The horizontality of the land and seascape is reflected in the building's form and horizontal strip windows. The plan form directs a journey through the building. The journey is a highly orchestrated set of optical illusions and experiences, designed to dramatise one's presence in, and reading of, the landscape.