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BEACH CULTURE Ron Roozen's Place in Western Australia (above and left). Opposite page, Cliff House on Kangaroo Island (left) and Katz at Byron Bay.

laundry. If you made use of the king-size divan in the lounge room the house would sleep six, but four is comfy. Cairns Airport is an hour's drive, Port Douglas 10 minutes.

When it came to designing the perfect beach house, Ron Roozen had a few natural advantages. A dedicated surfer as well as an artist, it was only to be expected that when he commissioned Sydney architect Dale Jones-Evans to design a beach house, the result would be dramatically different. Ron Roozen's Place is an ultra cool beach retreat.

Rising from sloping bushland above Prevelly Beach on Western Australia's Margaret River coastline, the house is stark and angular. Every room in the three-bedroom house has panoramic ocean views. There's also a huge outdoor deck and lounging space, and the open-plan kitchen/lounge/dining area with widescreen TV, CD and DVD player. The decor embraces the minimalist ethos, with a selection of Roozen's works on display. You can even have an in-house chef – not your average surf shark.

BEACH RETREATS

THE BEACH SHACK GOES CHIC

Designers and architects have invaded an Aussie icon, MICHAEL GEBICKI writes.



ss louvres all around to let in the Coral Sea breezes. Both bedrooms are air-conditioned. There's heaps of lounging space, and at the front a huge, shaded veranda with big columns and arches that frame views of the coconut palms at the front of the house.

At the back of the house is a rock-lined pool. There is a Smeg top for grilling ocean produce from the fish shop down the road, BBQ and two. The barbecue and full