



Location 2: seaside

The beach is a big part of Australian life and all of us have a dream of the ideal beach house. However we imagine it to be, clearly somehow the beach environment has to be brought into the house. To be in harmony with its setting, the house must be a part of that casual, uncomplicated, open and outdoors way of life.

The seaside atmosphere and the layout of the existing house on the block formed the architects' main design considerations. The old house determined the basic shape of the new building, but in the rebuild all the living areas were moved to the first floor and bedrooms relegated downstairs. The first floor has therefore become one large, sprawling room that is the epitome of beachside living.

The result is a house with perfect north-facing views of the ocean. The entire first floor is one simple, uninterrupted room bathed in natural light. The room's lofty location is emphasised by the outlook from a generous terrace, as well as by the view through the upper windows to the surrounding trees and

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sky. The fabric membrane over the terrace and corrugated iron roof over the rest of the house seem to be a continuation of one another. The roofing structure is supported on steel columns and struts of slender proportions. These branching columns were inspired by the tall coastal gums surrounding the house.

The overall effect is similar to a tent – a lightweight, almost floating, canopy. By allowing both the location and the lifestyle to set the mood, the resulting house is perfectly at home in its setting.



5 The floating roof shape projects over the terrace in the form of a solid curved centre with fabric membrane wings to either side.

6 Neatly placed in a south-facing corner of the upstairs space, the kitchen's blond and shiny finishes are in keeping with the freshness of the whole house.

7 The terrace continues across the entire width of the first floor. Its fabric membrane canopy is stretched on steel cables and anchored to outward tapering stainless steel corner struts.

8 The roof structure seems suspended on its branching columns. The room's plan is as simple as possible – just as a beach house should be.

