



## A beach bach in the bush

Tucked into the curve of the hill above Golden Bay's Tata Beach, this bach is a cricketing six from the beach, but its simple, boatshed-inspired architecture leaves you in no doubt that this is a house for holidays.

Architect Amy Hendry, of Auckland's Four Walls Architecture, was briefed to design a home that would provide space for three generations – grandparents, three daughters, partners and grandchildren – to holiday in, relax and spread out without having to fight over bedrooms or queue for the bathroom. "The brief was for simplicity, low maintenance and a relaxed, casual feel," says Amy.

Nelson building company Kennedy Construction undertook the job of making the idea a reality.

The bach, which has now seen 10 Tata summers, has four separate sleeping cabins, each with en-suite, and a central kitchen/dining/living area. The buildings form a U shape around the decked courtyard, with a 'wharf' extending west from the dining area out to the edge of the property, connecting the indoor and outdoor spaces and bridging the gap between ocean view and bach. Timbered catwalks join the outside bedrooms to the main pavilion.

The exterior cladding is board-and-batten. The interior has painted marine-ply flooring and exposed trusses throughout the house. Steep roof pitches and corrugated Colorsteel interior ceiling linings mean it really does feel like a boatshed. The building's enduring design and

materials and the quality of construction mean it looks as good today as it did when first built.

Builder Neil Kennedy says that because the bach site was in a prime position overlooking the beach it has become a highly recognised building that ultimately changed the landscape of Tata Beach. "This also meant that excellent management of the site during the build was essential – keeping it clean and safe. And despite building in what was then quite a remote spot, we were able to access local staff and materials, which meant project management was a lot simpler."

Neil says he and Amy worked very well together on the project. "The quality of Amy's drawings and my ability to envisage what the client wanted resulted in an end product that I am very proud of. The bach is made up of well-balanced, relaxing spaces, which needed strong attention to detail from us as builders."

The tough painted floors mean no-one panics if a bit of sand is walked into the house. The owners say that they eat lunch or breakfast out on the decks, but at night they share dinner around the family dining table. The dining room exterior walls are folding timber doors. When open, they access a roofed outdoor eating area, and the table is on wheels so it can be wheeled out onto the wharf on a whim. When the walls are closed they create a private, cosy dining area that can be a relief after a sunny Golden Bay day, or give shelter from an onshore wind.

The family say they take their shoes off when they arrive and often don't put them back on until they leave. "It's not a precious space. It's designed to be lived in," says Amy.



1 The bach overlooking Tata Beach was inspired by boat shed architecture 2 Individual sleeping quarters are connected by timber decking 3 Exterior seating provides a lunch spot in the sun 4 The jetty connects the living spaces to the sea view 5 Board and batten cladding has weathered well 6 Exposed trusses and Coloursteel ceilings continue the boat shed theme 7 The sunlit interior is perfect for holiday relaxation

Designed by Amy Hendry [www.fourwallsarchitecture.co.nz](http://www.fourwallsarchitecture.co.nz)





8 Hard wearing floor and work surfaces mean the interior is designed to be lived in 9 & 11 Neutral colours flow through the interior, enhanced by plenty of natural light  
10 Bifold timber doors connect the dining area to the jetty. The dining table can roll outdoors on a sunny day 12 & 13 The log burner is put to good use on cooler winter days

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