

*escape | seclusion | luxury*



HURAKIA LODGE

Auckland's Island Retreat



Accessible only by helicopter or boat, Hurakia Lodge sits like a gem in the sparkling waters of the Hauraki Gulf, near Auckland, New Zealand. Its secluded, tranquil position on Rakino Island, and the sleek, contemporary architecture create an unprecedented level of vacation luxury.



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# Blue horizon

There are many ways to maximise a spectacular sea view while also providing shelter from prevailing winds – this pavilion-style house presents a contemporary solution





# Islands in the sun

Designing a house to capture a 300° view presents its own challenges, says the owner of this island retreat. But the results speak for themselves

**Holidays are all about escape, and there is probably no greater escape than an island retreat accessible only by boat – or helicopter.**

But even with his pick of building sites, the owner of Hurakia Lodge says making the most of the spectacular views from Rakino Island in the Hauraki Gulf presented a challenge for the designers. John MacCulloch says the location has an obvious wow factor, and it was important that this wasn't diminished by the building.

The solution lay in three long, low

pavilion-style wings that form a Y-shaped building, with expansive glazing providing a transparency through the house.

"It is possible to stand in the central living pavilion and look down either wing and through the glass walls to the sea beyond," MacCulloch says.

The design brief given to concept architect Greg Boyden of Jasmx specified a modern, flat-roofed house that would blend in with the surroundings in terms of its colour. But MacCulloch says the house also needed to have its own presence.

**Preceding pages and facing page:** Modern castaway – this island retreat in the Hauraki Gulf near Auckland is just minutes from the city by helicopter but a world away in terms of peace and privacy. To maximise the spectacular views, concept architect Greg Boyden designed the house as a Y shape with a central living pavilion.

**Above:** The house features anodised aluminium cladding, which incorporates decorative Aluart panels. The pool landscaping is designed to provide a framed view of the Noises Islands in the Gulf beyond.





"The house needed to make a strong statement in itself, while also providing a tasteful, warm and welcoming retreat."

In keeping with the requirement for a contemporary architectural form, the main living pavilion opens up on four sides to a large terrace that wraps around the building. Large eaves provide shelter from the summer sun. And the owners can open the large sliders to suit prevailing weather conditions.

The two bedroom wings semi-enclose a sheltered pool courtyard and outdoor

living area. Freestanding concrete block walls at the opposite end of the pool are positioned to frame the best view of a picturesque group of small islands.

"Sometimes, leading the eye to a key aspect of the view is more dramatic than simply exposing a never-ending vista," says MacCulloch.

The exterior is also defined by the cladding, which features Aluart anodised aluminium panels. Many of these are designed as permanent artworks. Connecting panels between the bedroom

**Preceding pages and above:** Transparency is a defining feature of the house, with floor-to-ceiling windows ensuring the view can be enjoyed in all directions. The main living pavilion can be opened up to a terrace on all four sides.

**Facing page:** Interior designer Stewart Harris of Martin Hughes Architecture Interiors created a warm, neutral colour palette, with contrasting textures providing added visual interest.



**Top and above:** Designed as a luxurious, secluded retreat, the master suite opens up to the view – from both the bedroom and the his-and-hers bathroom.

**Above right:** The two bedroom wings semi-enclose a large, sheltered pool courtyard and outdoor living area. The main living pavilion also opens directly to the pool terrace. Glass balustrading minimises the visual impact of the pool fence.

wings and main pavilion, for example, feature a textural fibre pattern, while the anodised panels on the bedroom wings are decorated with a bubble pattern that conveys a sense of movement.

The interior, by Stewart Harris of Martin Hughes Architecture Interiors, was designed to complement rather than detract from the view.

“A simplified palette of colours and materials was the best way to allow the view to dominate – it also lets the architecture shine,” says Harris. “We opted

for natural colours, which have a subtle New Zealand flavour, but the interior also reflects international design influences.”

Harris says natural linens and handwoven jute and wool carpets were specified. Wood was sourced from a renewable resource.

“There is a strong consistency of materials throughout the house. Similar colours provide a visual connection, and the use of contrasting textures adds interest. We avoided a look that is too conservative, frequently mixing classic elements

with quirky accent pieces.”

These items include sculptural lamps and artworks, a coffee table made from native tree trunks, and a Dedon Yin Yang chair on the terrace.

Comfort was also a priority, with the spacious, uncluttered living areas providing several grouped seating areas, each positioned to maximise a different slice of the spectacular view.

➔ See more images online at [Trendsideas.com/go/21192](https://www.trendsideas.com/go/21192)

**Architect:** Greg Boyden AINZ, Jasmac; and Pete Bossley, Pete Bossley Architects (Auckland)

**Interior design:** Stewart Harris, Martin Hughes Architecture Interiors

**Builder:** Savory Construction

**Spa:** The Spa and Pool Factory

**Cladding:** Aluart anodised aluminium panels installed by Thermosash Commercial

**Roofing:** Fletcher Dimond aluminium

**Doors and windows:** Thermosash Delta Series; blackbean veneer doors

**Flooring:** Bamboo laid by The Specialist; carpet from Source Mondial

**Lighting:** Halycon; and Nimbus

**Furniture and furnishings:** Lounge seating from Designers' Collection and Trenzseater; dining table from Sefton Powrie; coffee tables from Republican and Advantage Interiors; outdoor furniture from Domo

**Blinds and drapes:** Inner Concepts

**Bathroom floor and walls:** Flamed Asia basalt tiles from Original Stone; Orito white ceramic tiles from European Ceramics

**Bathtub:** Foster from Franklin Plumbing

**Basins:** Robertson Agencies; Hansa Design Lino taps

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