



THE WORLD'S BEST  
**BEACH  
HOUSES**

edited by Mandy Herbet

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# Unfolding Views

USA // Stelle Architects

This waterfront property unfolds in a sequence of views – both revealed and concealed – and was conceptualised as a kind of Kabuki shadow play that starts at the driveway and snakes down the entire length of the 2-hectare (5-acre) lot.

A narrow wooden boardwalk leads from the parking area up to and under the house, continues through a thicket of brambles, and ends at the beach.

All plant materials used in the project were native species and have been orchestrated for maximum effect, and sand has been sculpted into wind-blown mounds surrounding the house. The main level is a 27.5-metre (90-foot) slab of glass and steel raised to gain water views and summer breezes. Specially fabricated screens of horizontal teak lattice break up the expanse of glass and serve as *brise-soleils*, blocking the sun along the south side and providing privacy. A staircase is subtly concealed behind another wall of lattice and leads up to the main living area.

Inside, the house is furnished with Spartan restraint, ensuring that the views of water and wild sunsets are the real decoration. The central living area has been geared for entertaining with freestanding kitchen islands and a seating area clustered around a fireplace. A master bedroom suite lies to the east while guest rooms and a bathroom are located to the west. The central living area extends out towards a terrace with a swimming pool that spills over the edge of a retaining wall to form a gently splashing waterfall. In a protected corner beneath the house is a terrace with an open-air fireplace that provides shelter on rainy, blustery days.

Photography by Jeff Heatley





