

denizen

An aerial photograph of a vast teal sea filled with hundreds of small, white sailboats of various sizes and colors, scattered across the water. The boats are seen from above, showing their masts and hulls.

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Land & Sea

Nestled in native bush overlooking Waiheke Island's Waikopou Bay, this spectacular home by Daniel Marshall Architects has evolved from bach to beachhouse to sophisticated residence.

by **Margie Cooney**

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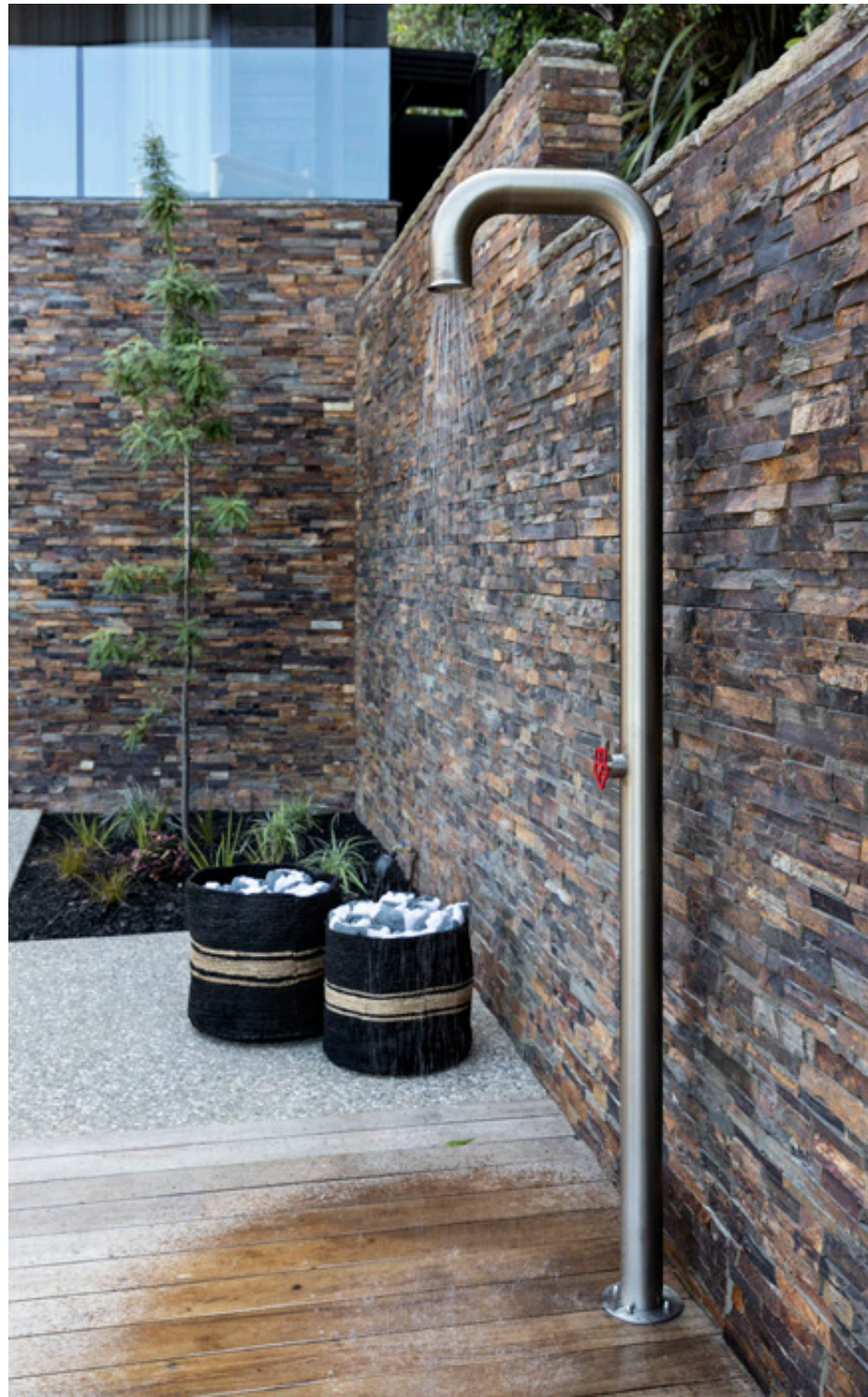
It was back in 2004 that Daniel Marshall (of Daniel Marshall Architects) was originally approached to design a holiday home overlooking Waiheke Island's remote Waikopou Bay. Inspired by the idea of camping, and cautious of the fact that the site (a hill just up from the water's edge) was essentially a dried-up stream bed, Marshall conceived the home as three separate pavilions — a main house, a guest house and a car port — surrounding a shared living area and built around an existing stand of Nikau palm. This not only allowed for the water on the land to flow downwards but imbued the structures with a sense of space and permanence in relation to their surroundings — as



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if they had been there forever. Importantly, when this home was first conceived, the owners undertook extensive native planting, which has paid off massively with time. Now, the environment surrounding the pavilions is lush, verdant and quintessentially New Zealand — a testament to the crucial importance of environmental stewardship in contemporary design.

Fast forward a decade or so, and Marshall found himself returning to this Waiheke Island property with a new impetus. Having changed hands a number of times, the home's new owners required more space and asked Marshall to revise the property's original



layout. "It was such an interesting process for me," Marshall explains, "we wanted to keep the original structures and honour the existing language, but we also had an opportunity to revisit and revise some of our original designs and really add something new."

To fulfil the new owners' brief, Marshall and his team created a new living pavilion on the site of what was originally a car port. The addition offered living that was spacious, sheltered from the wind, bathed in late-afternoon light and allowed the owners more accommodation for kids or guest overflow. Not stopping there, DMA also worked alongside US-based interior design firm StudioM to reconfigure the aesthetic of the original pavilions (with assistance locally from Trinity Interiors) — ensuring they felt as equipped for



family life as they did for extensive entertaining. Further to these requirements, another outdoor area was added to the seaward side of the house, complete with a resort deck and spa. Just like their predecessors, the new owners undertook extensive planting and pest control measures to ensure the continued evolution of their natural landscape, yielding results that, roughly five years on, are just as spectacular when looking at the property from the water, as they are when viewed from inside the house itself.

Necessary additions aside, the overall aesthetic of the Waikopou property has remained largely unchanged since its inception. Constructed by the team at Dash Build from materials that would work with the landscape — walls made from locally-sourced stone, solid concrete by Peter Fell, carefully-tinted windows to limit reflection and timber stained black to blend seamlessly into the background — this property is a masterclass in lasting design and will only get better with time.



The Waikopou Bay house features Peter Fell's PFL 673 Concrete
(peterfell.co.nz)

Get the Look

Relaxed outdoor furnishings that don't compete with the surrounding environs are the key to attaining this look.



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