

The Ultimate Beach House Casuarina Beach



lahznimmo architects were one of the fourteen architects invited to participate in a paid short listed competition to design the Ultimate Beach House at Casuarina Beach. lahznimmo architects's design was one of three designs selected to be built and construction was completed at the end of 2001. lahznimmo architects were also commissioned to select furnitures and artworks for the house. The artwork selection was done in conjunction with the Artworkers Alliance in Brisbane.

The design has a simple strategy - that of an open breezy relaxed living pavilion juxtaposed with a two storey shuttered timber box for sleeping in. The design aims to integrate the house into the whole site by pushing parts of the building fabric to the extremities of the site and capturing external space within various levels of enclosure. The house creates a series of spaces that can be inhabited in differing ways, experiencing different aspects of the same site depending on time of day, time of year or predominant breezes. Some spaces are not clearly defined as internal or external. Some focus outwards toward the beach - whilst some focus inwards toward to the activities of the house.

The two storey "sleeping box" is pushed back on the site away from the Beach and has a series of shutters and timber louvres allowing it to be opened up or closed down depending on the occupant's daylight requirements. The main living area is then contained in a floating pavilion which hovers over the landscape, allowing the occupants to see over the primary dune to casuarina filtered views of the beach and ocean.

The house also incorporates a serious ESD agenda and is almost completely self-sustainable, with no water either entering or leaving the site.

Client:	Consolidated Properties
Country:	Bundjalung Nation
Location:	Casuarina, NSW
Completed:	2001
Awards:	Commendation in RAIA Gold Coast Regional Architecture Awards, High Commendation ES Marks Sustainability Award, RAIA (QLD Chapter) and the Courier Mail Peoples Choice Award, Award for commitment to Sustainable Development, Commendation for Interiors and Finalist in National Timber Design Award Timber Development Association