

# Two sculptures by the sea.

## Beauty, craft and utility abound in a modern coastal retreat.

Press Release  
For immediate distribution  
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High resolution photos  
for publication are  
available on request.

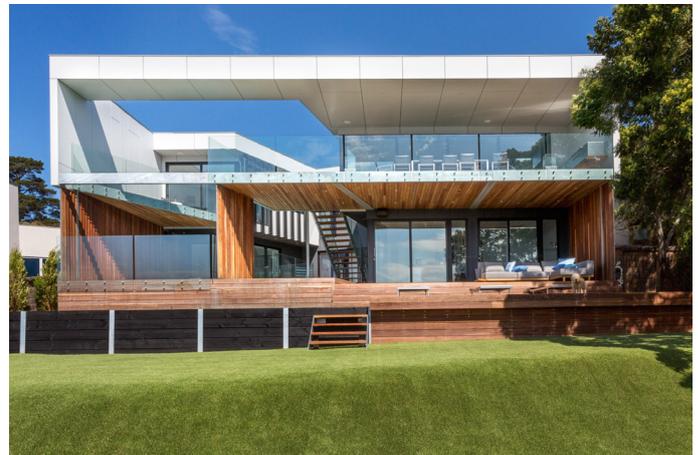
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One Shearwater Drive, the newest addition to the Peninsula's architectural milieu, sits comfortably into its coastal lookout in Mt Martha. The work of contemporary building design practice Vibe Design Group, and high-spec builders Icon Synergy, deftly embodies decades of experience designing for the coastal environment. An elemental palette of materials and finishes that will weather well provides a stylish and hardy skin to the luxury within. This building is a machine for wringing every last drop of enjoyment from the ever changing view, and not shy in creating a few stunning aspects of its own.

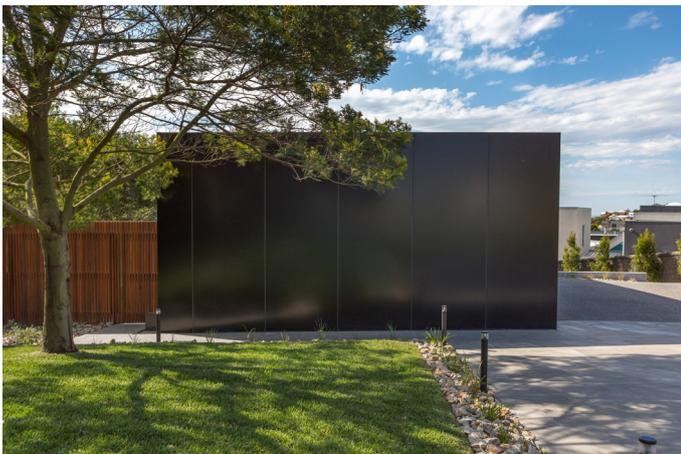
On approach, the house hunkers down into its surrounds, ably aided by Vibe's landscaping of the site. Visitors are greeted by a totemic rectangular form clad in black Alucobond. It has function as a garage, but could just as easily be an abstract sculpture, a geometric outcrop on the coastal terrain. This welcome is indicative of a deliberately ambiguous, understated entry.

You are guided down, and into the immediate surrounds of the house, via a custom boardwalk and stairs which echo the materials of the building. The change in elevation gives a sense of being enveloped by the site. As you proceed, you pass a work sculpted in steel by Australian artist Russell Petherbridge. The piece was specified by Vibe as part of the comprehensive design scheme; the weathered finish slots comfortably into the colour gamut of the house. Collaboration with artists and makers is a recurring theme in Vibe's design practice, and one of the keys to the success of the unique buildings their clients demand.

Onward, and in through an entry that is more pivoting wall than front door, hinting at the generous scale within. The interior is a series of volumes connected to decking platforms over two levels, all oriented to the expansive views of Port Phillip Bay, and collected around a central double-height void. An equally vast bookshelf houses the owners' expansive library. The bathrooms are a play in luxury, and feature

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a beautifully balanced, sophisticated palette of natural materials. The kitchen's clean architectural lines and crisp white cabinetry are reminiscent of the forms of the building that houses them.

The quality of the interior spaces is formed out of an understanding from the design team of the appeals of coastal living, and the capacity to draw the sea into the building. The details of every room are testament to the working relationship between designers and builders; the finish is exacting. At times it is tempting to be distracted from the ever present Bay views, to take in small details or moments that the building creates.

The sea facing elevation is every bit a contemporary coastal villa. The forms and materials are evocative of the modern movement; refined geometry, elegant, wide proportions. The levels of decking terrace gently down to meet the ground. From the front, an exercise in modest, minimal chic. It is a fundamental sense of style and proportion that ties these two faces together into one cohesive, and completely local building.

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Design Details

1. Black Alucobond was used for the garage and is echoed in several banks of brise-soleil around the property, affording sleek lines, and durability in the coastal climes.
2. A sensitively balanced palette of luxury materials brings glamour to the bathrooms, a signature of Vibe Design Group.
3. The surrounds have been as meticulously considered as the house itself, down to specifications and layout grid for native plants. This extends the design beyond the front door, and maximises the experience of the entire site for the owners.

Vibe Design Group – [vibedesign.com.au](http://vibedesign.com.au)  
Icon Synergy – [iconsynergy.com.au](http://iconsynergy.com.au)  
Artist – Russell Petherbridge