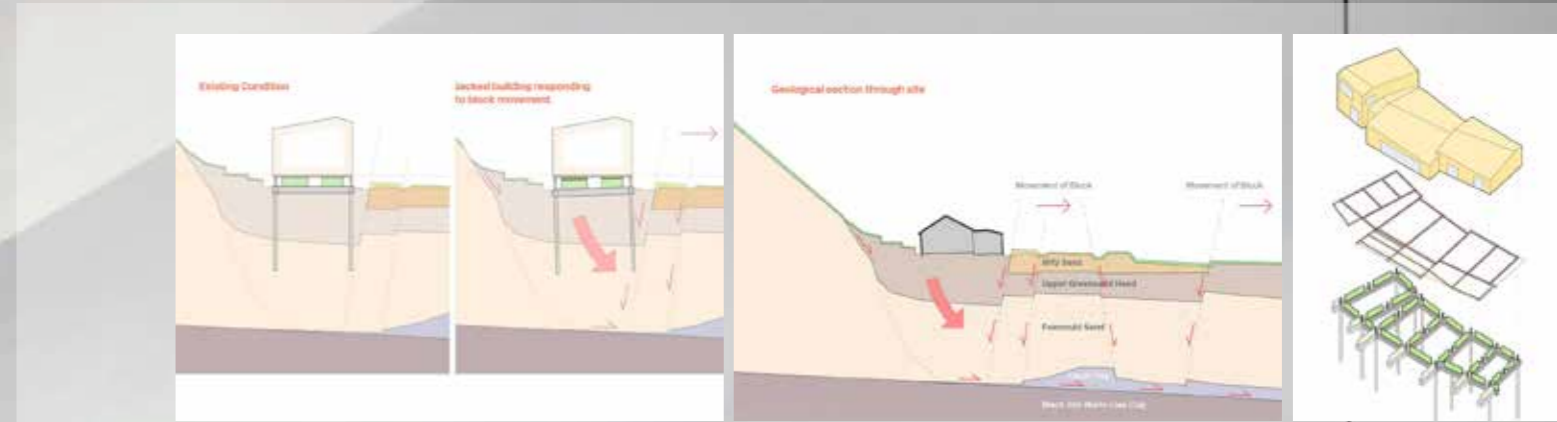


Photography: Martin Gardner

# Shifting Sands

A holiday home built with user versatility and futureproofing in mind makes the very most of its spectacular coastal location



Hampshire-based architects practice AR Design Studio was approached by clients who were looking to extend their holiday home on a cliff top on the South Coast. During the planning process, and due to an unprecedented amount of rainfall during the winter months of 2014, concerns about movement in the land were raised and a decision was made to replace the house entirely.

With AR Design Studio now tasked with designing a completely new home, the circumstances that led to that scenario prompted the thinking behind the design scheme, with the idea of movement and



fracturing forming the backbone of the concept. Working closely with engineers Eckersley O'Callaghan, an imaginative structural solution was proposed to prevent future failure. A concrete slab was built into the ground, a series of strategically placed dwarf walls were then built on top of it. A floating structural frame was then laid on top of the walls to act as an adjustable raft in case of future movement. Beneath the frame, there are specific places for mechanical jacks to be positioned so that the house can be securely re-levelled.

The design concept starts as a traditional cabin-like-form that then splits, twists and rotates, resulting in four pods. The outcome is a beautifully haphazard rough-sawn larch clad house that silhouettes against the wooded backdrop. The clearly-defined entrance pod (the smallest of the four), guides the visitor through the hallway into the central pod which is the main living space comprising of kitchen, dining and living room.

The extensive sliding glass draws the view towards the stunning coastline setting, with uninterrupted views of the English Channel

beyond a floating timber deck. The tower pod houses the large open plan master suite, situated on the first floor above a children's bedroom, utility room and shower room on the ground floor. The right-hand pod, at the opposite end of the house, consists of the guest quarters; a bedroom, two bunk rooms, and a bathroom. This entire section of the house can be closed off when not required.

The result is a playful and calm space for the owners to enjoy weekends with family and friends whilst taking in its spectacular and isolated location.



**Heart of the Home**  
Designer Helena Myers of The Myers Touch, explains how the kitchen concept within the house came about...

"The property was the client's coastal family holiday home – ultimately, they wanted a large open plan kitchen space for the whole family to enjoy, cook and relax in together when holidaying there.

The project was designed and installed in collaboration with architects, AR Design Studio. We had various open

and constructive meetings together to ensure we were all working towards the same end goal and to achieve cohesive design. It was preferable for the central island to be clean and practical with minimum storage needed due to this property being the family's second home.

Choosing kitchen cabinetry from kitchen furniture brand Burger, the cabinetry we specified was Wild Oak Matt with a laminate finish and matching 40mm Wild Oak matching worktops – the colour blends perfectly with

the outdoor setting and increased the connectivity with the coastal landscape of its exterior.

Families increasingly want to increase the connectivity and communication with each other, and at the same time connect with their surrounding environment to create more harmonious spaces. Clever internal zoning within this kitchen example enables the right amount of separation mixed with the right amount of togetherness.

Appliances within the space included fridge freezer, dishwasher, induction hob

and Teppan Yaki from Siemens, and two Bosch ovens, with sink and taps from Blanco.

My favourite aspect of the kitchen is perhaps the seamless window that frames the kitchen sink run area, and the natural raw finishes of the cabinetry doors and worktop finishes which add such warmth and textural interest to the room. The scheme zoning allowed the family to eat, dine and relax together in one space throughout the day."

**The Myers Touch /**  
[themyerstouch.co.uk](http://themyerstouch.co.uk)

