

RM Reference: 2011012572
NPA2
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“Coolum House”

Research Component

Research Background

“Demolish or adapt” – the perennial question that hangs over many existing buildings at the outset of a project discussion.

The brief for this particular project called for a complete reappraisal of an existing modest masonry 1970's house with underutilized panoramic ocean views on a steeply sloping block spanning two access roads. In this case it was decided to keep and adapt the sound original building structure. The clients' wish to divide the building into two separate fully self contained units led to a protracted series of ultimately successful negotiations with local town planning Authorities.

Research Contribution

The original house had not taken advantage of its spectacular location. This was amended primarily with the addition of 4 metre deep decks to both levels in addition to gutting the interiors and replacing the majority of the roof structure in order to establish an expansive and open flow between inside and out. The rejuvenated house facades break the former substantial mass of the building and the new interiors form a sequence of generous highly livable spaces.

Research Significance

The embodied energy of the existing infrastructure was valued and rejuvenated in this substantial alteration and addition project that demonstrates the benefits of reinvention as opposed demolition.