



PROJECT

04

Parau HOUSE by Context Architects

• AUCKLAND •

In this west Auckland house, designed by Context Architects, a series of solid buildings are lightly linked.

Words by *Claire Ellery*
Photography by *Jacqui Blanchard*

01 The west elevation of this Parau house, designed by Context Architects



02 The linkway and bedroom pavillion viewed from the eastern side of the site.

03 Looking along a linkway to the kitchen and living pavillion.

04 The main staircase appears to float.

05 Looking at the lit-up living pavillion from the eastern side of the site.


The owners of this west Auckland house, designed by Context Architects, had lived on the site for seven years in two old army barracks and a cottage. They knew the new house needed to create protected outdoor spaces to avoid the spring winds. They wanted a house that had a rustic but contemporary look and feel. From this the architect, Stephen Voyle, came up with a plan made up of a series of tent-like pavillions. These are linked together with thin, light hallways.

There are four pavillions, made of heavy Pacific Jarrah. The portals are solid rough sawn 400x300mm sections that were cut and milled in a South American forest and then designed to be grounded into the earth. They are impressive at double height and act as strong visual anchors for the tent forms of the buildings.

The first is a double height entryway, with a waiting/sitting room tucked behind a display wall. On the east side of the hall a linkway leads to a large open plan pavillion with the kitchen, dining and living spaces. The timber used in this room is the same as the exterior, creating warmth and a nice visual connection. The clients were interested in the use of good materials that would wear well and weather nicely.

Above the display wall in the entry hall is a mezzanine office that can be reached via a cleverly stepped and very steep staircase. On the west side of the hall is a link to the lounge that serves as a cosy winter space.

The third pavillion houses is the sleeping wing. There are two bedrooms on the west side. They both look out onto a green native bush setting. On the other, east side of the house, the bedroom enjoys spectacular views out to the sea.

The house has a feeling of solid permanence and shelter while still being lightly linked, and light throughout. 



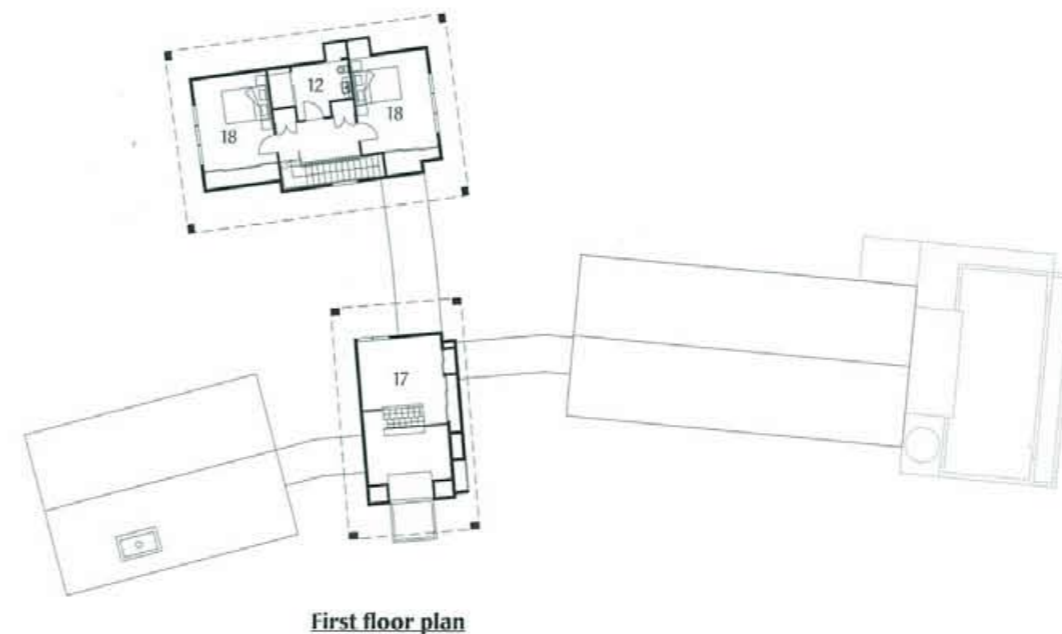
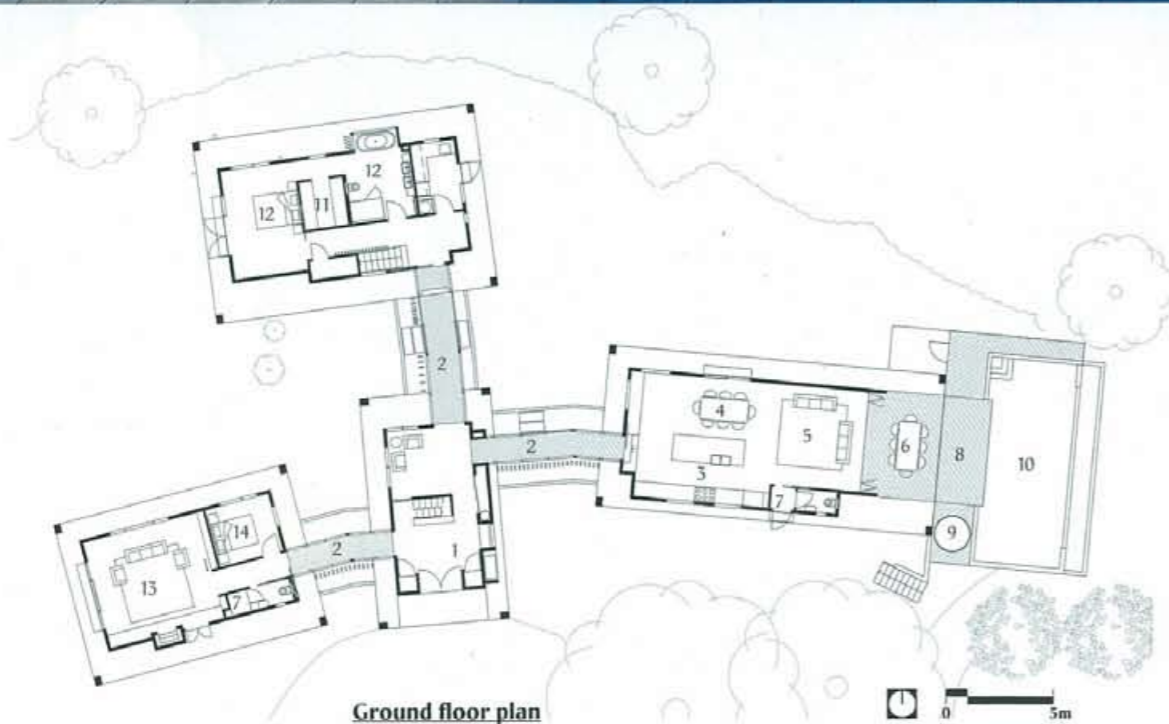
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06 The pool is a deep, natural blue and drops off at the edge to showcase superb views of the dense bush that runs all the way to the beach and sea.

- 1 Entry
- 2 Linkway
- 3 Kitchen
- 4 Dining
- 5 Living
- 8 Outdoor dining
- 7 WC
- 8 Deck
- 9 Spa
- 10 Pool
- 11 Walk-in wardrobe
- 12 Master bedroom
- 13 Family
- 14 Guest room
- 15 Bathroom
- 16 Garage
- 17 Study
- 18 Bedroom



Architect
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Practice profile:
 Context Architects has offices in Auckland and Christchurch. They are passionate about working with wood; creating designed and engineered wood solutions that fit within the context of a site.

Project team:
 Stephen Voyle, Cameron Shields, Vicky Freeman, Nick Chan and Anna Travaglia.

Consultants
Structural and civil engineers: Markplan Consulting
Geotech Engineer: Ormiston Associates
Surveyor: Axis Consultants
Eco advisor: Righthouse
Arborist: ArborVista
Timber supplier: JSC Timber Group
Electrical and audiovisual: Singer
Builder: Stehr Brothers
Joiner: C&R Swales

Products
Hardwood portals: 400x300mm solid pacific jarrah
Cladding: Rusticated cedar weatherboards; vertical cedar shiplap
Louvres: Solid cedar boards
Concrete floors: Peter Fell
Timber Flooring: Taukyaan floor boards
Windows and doors: APL metro thermal heart
Ceilings and soffit: Painted/stained grooved eco-ply
Roofing: Dimondek 400; Dimond corrugate
Wastewater: Wormerator

Time schedule
Design and planning: 9 months
Construction: 14 months

Project areas
 Site size: 40,537m²
 Building area: 405m²