This project offers its dwellers (one to three couples simultaneously) an unusual dilemma in a beach house: in order to enjoy the view, it becomes necessary to be isolated from the house, and in order to enjoy the house, it becomes necessary to be isolated from the view. Thus, the decoupling of view and pleasure alters the imaginary of a retreat while offering a new approach to the relationship between the object and its surroundings.

Keywords · vacation house, motel, cabin, doors, wood

This project is by a long, open beach, on a desert dune rising in front of a wetland. It is a seasonal house to accommodate up to three couples, and can be leased or bartered the rest of the year. Its intermittent occupation and location led us to think of it as an overlapping of two models: the motel and the cabin. The motel suggests self-sufficient rooms served from outside by a second access, while the cabin presumes a centralized space that brings the community together. A set of four rooms come together in a shared central kitchen, forming a larger compact structure enclosed by mobile panels opening different possibilities of use according to their position.

Each room is connected to an equivalent-sized courtyard. Both spaces open to the outside, are covered by a beamed ceiling and separated from its adjacent unit by a wall. These four rectangular structures are set next to one another and rotated 90° from their neighbor, assembling a cross-shaped plan sitting on a square base with four courtyards in its corners. The tip of the cross facing the horizon contains the living room, connected to the central kitchen and the dining room in a singular continuous space. In the other
end, facing the wetland, there is a guest room. On both sides, two bedroom-bathroom-courtyard units face the peninsulas in both ends of the beach.

The construction is entirely conceived in pine wood without knots. The joints are solved with glued junctions without metal joints exposed to the sea oxide. The beamed ceiling is developed in 4 separate rectangular structures, settled over the walls and a perimeter porch avoiding diagonal main beams. Their rotated position on the base produces a square skylight over the central kitchen. The outer columns sequence is displaced half a module with respect to this skylight. Thus, the span between columns that defines the focus of the exterior view is perceived diagonally from the center of the kitchen, emphasizing a perception of the outside as a moving panorama.

Behind these pillars, distanced by a corridor, 72 wooden doors delimit the project. Opening them to the landscape involves closing them to the neighboring unit. When opened outward, each room-courtyard is a private space connected to the outside by a row of portals framing the horizon. When closed, instead, they become an intimate space, protected
Arquitectos / Architects
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Colaboradores / Collaborators
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Ubicación / Location
Duna de Morrillos, iv Región de Coquimbo, Chile

 Cliente / Client
Particular

Ingeniería estructural / Structural engineering
Cristián Izquierdo – Osvaldo Peñaloza

Construcción / Building contractor
Danilo Saldibar

Superficie construida / Built area
208 m²

Año de proyecto / Project year
2015

Año de construcción / Construction year
2015 - 2016

Fotografías / Photographs
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from the wind and views, opened to its neighbors through a perimeter porch. An open door allows for a possibility and closes another. A closed door rules out a possible use to open a new one. Some doors ought to be closed to find what is outside. ARQ