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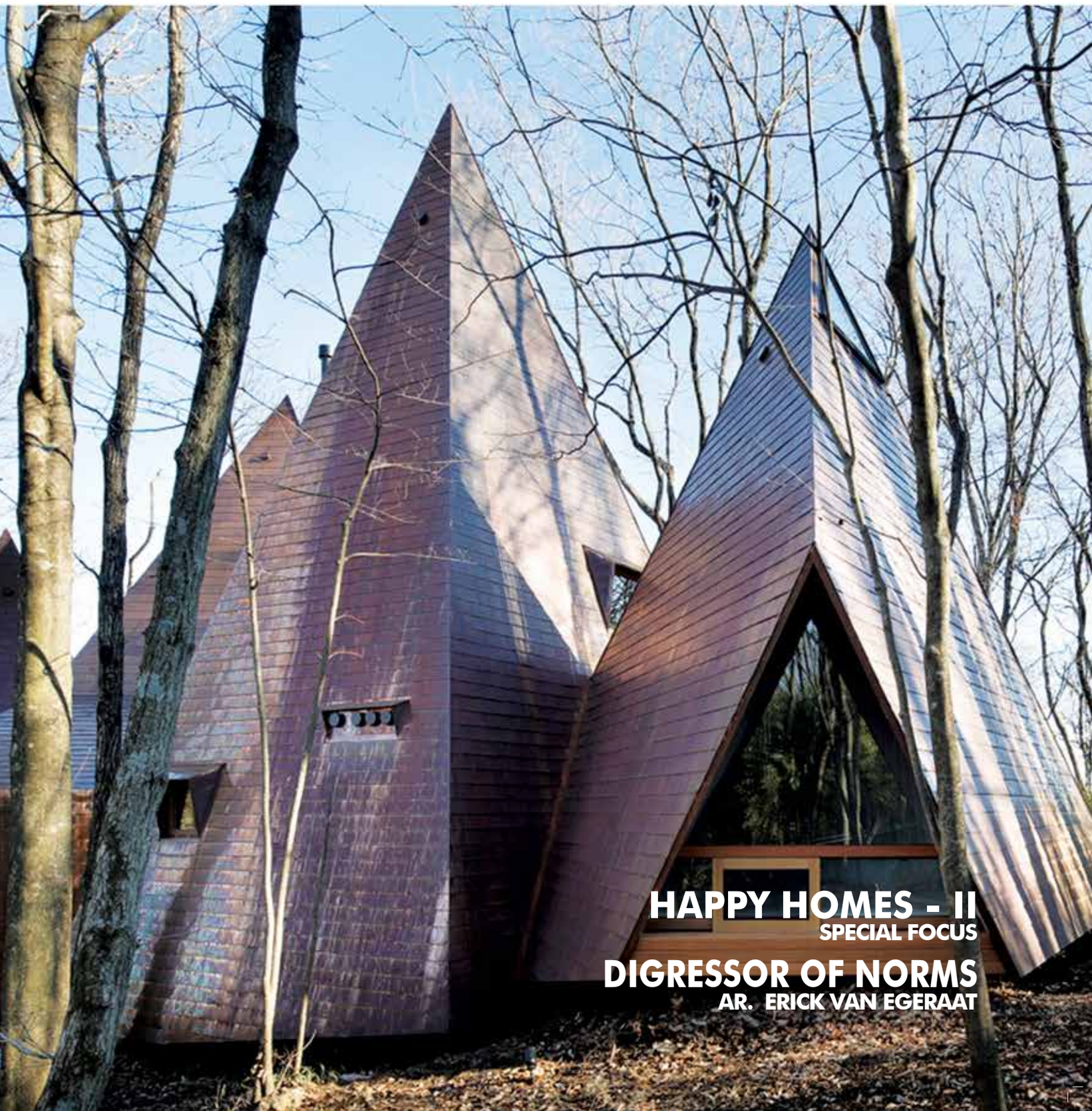
DESIGN detail

the architecture magazine



HAPPY HOMES - II
SPECIAL FOCUS

DIGRESSOR OF NORMS
AR. ERICK VAN EGERAAT

1) *The carefully designed cantilever gives a unique aesthetic character to the house*

2) *The minimalistic space design compliments the client's needs and the surroundings*

BLISS IN THE WOODS

Text : ***Team Design Detail*** */ Photos :* ***Martin Gardner, Michael Sinclair***

Laid out in the larch clad English countryside, 'The Quest' residence is simplicity, elegance and contemporary design aesthetics integrated by a context responsive sustainable design philosophy. The new-built home replaces an ageing bungalow that had been on the site since 1917.

With a requirement for a retirement house by the client, the modest 250 metre square private house breaks loose all the stereotypes of the conventional. The architectural language adopted by Ström Architects simply speaks the mind of the client in the most apt vocabulary. With a humble material palette; mainly consisting of concrete, timber and glass the project brilliantly takes advantage of the natural conditions of the site to the fullest potential. Set amidst the woods, the site consists of a sloping profile with a beautiful view over the Durlston Country Park.

The profile of the slope was an integral part in dictating the position of the house. The requirement of the client's future needs and also the needs of their disabled daughter were kept in mind during the conceptualisation of the 'single storey' house. The single storey was seen to be the most logical design solution to the client's requirements as an open and simple plan will comfortably suit the lifestyle of the client and his wife who are in the early 70s. The design reduces the visual impact from across the valley when looking back towards the house, and has helped the scheme from a planning point of view.

The access is via the front of the property to the South. A retaining wall faced in local Purbeck stone was used to define different levels and visually mask the vehicular route, maintaining a clear view from the living spaces across the valley. The house cantilevers over the retaining wall to accommodate the level changes and views and in the process creates a sheltered undercroft parking area. The large cantilever has been achieved through two concrete planes: the floor and roof acting together like a space beam. The concrete structure is then in-filled with simple timber dry-lining, leaving the concrete frame visible externally.

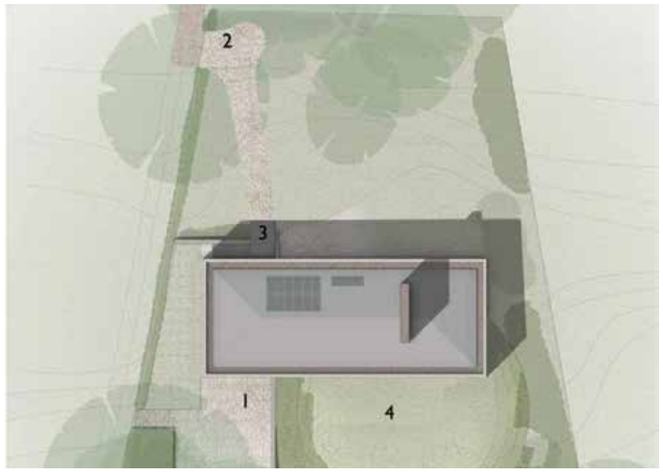
Internally, a large open-plan kitchen-dining-living area occupies the centre of the plan, with a covered terrace spanning its length and giving a sheltered outdoor area overlooking the Southern views. To the Eastern end of the house, sits the guest accommodation and studies with the master suite sitting within the cantilevered Western end of the house.

Overhangs create shade in the summer, and along with the huge glass sliding doors and MVHR, remove the need for any air conditioning in the house. The highly insulated building envelope requires very

SITE PLAN

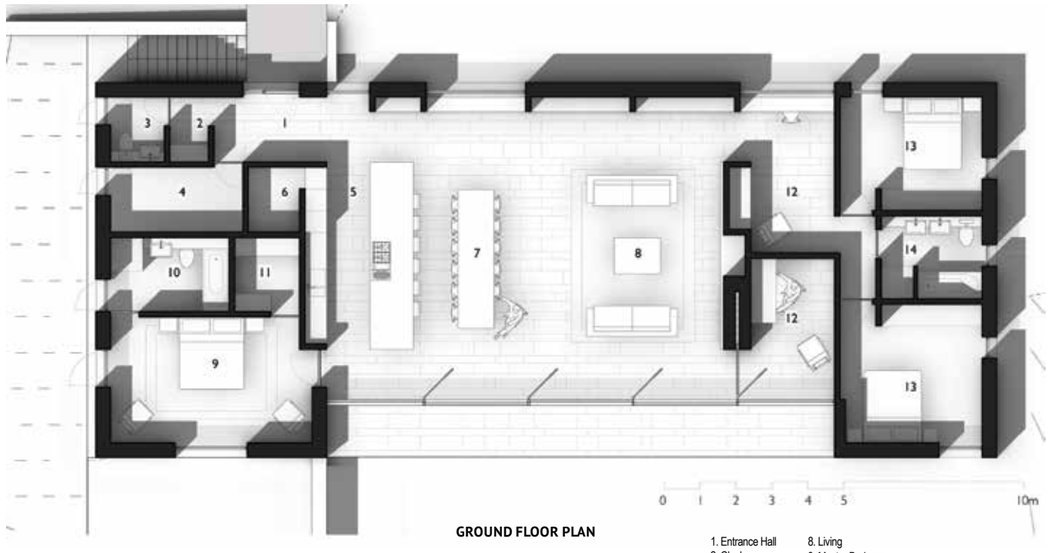
3) *The orientation of the house is in such a way that the need for atificial illumination is reduced to the minimum*

4&5) *The design of the interiors and the choice of the furnishings resonate the client's need for a simple and hassle free home design*



1. Primary Vehicular Access
2. Secondary Vehicular Access
3. Entrance
4. Terraced lawns

ROOF PLAN



GROOUND FLOOR PLAN

1. Entrance Hall
2. Cloaks
3. WC
4. Utility
5. Kitchen
6. Larder
7. Dining
8. Living
9. Master Bedroom
10. Ensuite
11. Dressing Room
12. Study
13. Guest Bedroom
14. Guest Bedroom

MATERIALS / PRODUCTS

Construction Type:	Concrete frame (waterproof concrete ground and roof slabs), with timber stud infill
Cladding Materials:	Open-jointed Siberian Larch
Flooring& Hearth:	Purbeck Capstonefloor tiles with brushed finish internally Purbeck Capstone with flame textured finish externally Stone panel above hearth – all supplied by Landers Quarries Ltd.
Glazing:	Raynaers CP155 system supplied by Bournemouth Glass and Glazing Co.
Timber Flooring:	Bridport Timber & Flooring Ltd.
Kitchen:	Harvey Jones
Other:	Done-effecernal walls in guillotined Purbeck stone Concrete hearth with fireplace stone panel in bush-chiselled Purbeck CapstoneBathroom tiles by Fired Earth

little input in terms of heating or cooling, keeping a steady temperature within. The large rainwater-harvesting tank buried in the garden provides automated irrigation of the gardens – designed to limit the amount of watering required.

In all aspects, the house was designed to be as low-maintenance as possible, primarily due to the needs of the clients. This lack of required maintenance adds to the sustainability of the project: the exterior surfaces consist of exposed waterproof concrete, untreated larch cladding and Purbeck stone - none of which require any maintenance or treatment.

With a simple design and with no extraneous elements or convoluted surface areas: the very volume and fabric of the building envelope is reduced, thereby reducing the embodied energy in the house. The design firm has not only succeeded in producing an understated elegance in its aesthetic, but also to physically reduce the amount of manufactured materials and components being built into projects.

With an open plan, a low maintenance and energy efficient architectural design and a effortlessly sleek and stylish aesthetics, the 'Quest residence' sets an example to follow with respect to the architectural design solutions concerned with retirement houses and similar spaces.

6) *The centre of the plan is an integration of kitchen, dining and living area*

STRÖM ARCHITECTS

A contemporary boutique architecture practice in Hampshire, the Ström Architects specialises in design and execution of unique modern houses, complete renovations, as well as multi-occupancy residential projects. Founded in 2010, Ström Architects is a chartered practice recognised by the Royal Institute of Architects accreditation scheme currently working on several private houses within the UK ranging from Devon to Norfolk, as well as projects in Sweden and the US.

A large part of the practice ethos is about focusing on the client and their needs, relating to them and listening to them so that they can live in, and be inspired by the spaces created for them.

The director of Ström Architects, Magnus Ström, (BA(Hons) DipArch ARB RIBA SAR/MSA) studied architecture at Portsmouth University in 1995, graduating at the top of his class with a first in his BA (Hons) Degree, and winning two awards for degree projects. After working for a time in London and Winchester, he continued his studies and gained a distinction in his diploma. He also received the post-graduate RIBA South Region Award for outstanding design work, and was nominated for the RIBA Silver Medal.

Magnus's passion lies in the area of small scale works - in particular one-off houses. In order to be able to refine his vision he set up his own practice with a strong focus on the design and delivery of unique homes, both in the UK and abroad.

6

FACT FILE

PROJECT	: THE QUEST
LOCATION	: SWANAGE, DORSET
LOCATION TYPE	: RURAL / COASTAL
PROJECT SIZE	: 205sqm
COST	: £750,000
YEAR	: 2015
CONSULTANTS	
MAIN CONTRACTOR	: MATROD FRAMPTON LTD.
STRUCTURAL	: BARTON ENGINEERS CALCINOTTO CONSULTING ENGINEERS
COST CONSULTANT	: STOCKDALE
LANDSCAPE	: ROSS ALLAN DESIGNS