

MANOR

The Region's Premium Publication
High Summer 2017
Issue 20 | £4.50

SOUTH WEST

Angela Hartnett

As I see it

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THE QUEST

RIBA SOUTH WEST ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR

Architect: **Magnus Ström of Ström Architects**

Client: **Private**

Region: **Swanage, Dorset**

The Quest is a single-storey dwelling for octogenarian clients and their disabled daughter. The clients wrote a two-page brief, which they gave to the architects and said, "Get on with it."

The design surpassed their aspirations. It boasted an almost effortless sense of space with no split levels and deep (as much as 8m) open-plan living in a comfortable, warm environment, with a fantastic view.

There are solar panels for power discreetly placed on the roof, with underfloor heating throughout the house, bar the pantry. The floor of the main spaces is locally sourced Purbeck limestone, while the glazed facades maximise natural light.

The design is already attracting the attention of the international media and shows bold enlightenment of clients at a late stage of their life, and an architect who delivered to the brief with tenacity (the discovery of an old mineshaft delivered unexpected structural challenges) and vision.



PHOTOS: MARTIN GARDNER