

THREE OF THE BEST

WATEGOS BEACH

"A holiday home, 9272 miles from London, has to offer a very different environment, a true escape from urban London norms," says British architect Ken Mackay. Not quite your casual weekender, the getaway, at Wategos Beach at the eastern end of Byron Bay in northern NSW, was conceived and designed by Mackay during a Christmas holiday as a space worthy of a regular 20-hour flight.

Anchored to a headland for complete seclusion and with a cantilevered bedroom hovering over an infinity pool, the house is a true break from reality.

The process started with a review of local and international coastal architecture; the Ogilvie house in Queensland, by



architect Kerry Hill, providing particular inspiration, as did homes of the Mediterranean.

The two-level house takes the simple form of one open-sided box casually stacked upon another. The open glazed sides capture ocean breezes for cross ventilation while the off-kilter stacking sits well in

the steep terrain.

"We wanted to design a contemporary house that controls and orchestrates its setting," Mackay says. "It sits lightly on the land with all prime rooms open to the views and breeze."

"The house opens up to the landscape and brings the inhabitants closer to the fantastic Australian coastline."

