

HAZARDS AT COLES BAY: PROTOTYPE UNIT
Terroir (Project Architects: Richard Blythe and Shaun Miller)
Builder: VOS

In June 2003 *terroir* was awarded Coles Bay Competition. *Terroir's* design for a 5-star hotel in the pristine location of Coles Bay was the winner in a state-wide competition. The design is inspired by the site's natural elements of granite and water, as well as being sensitive to the environment. The opportunity to design a large hotel in a world-class landscape area is a significant one but also comes with a great responsibility. The site is located approximately 2 kilometres north of the town of Coles Bay, with only a beach and single connecting road between. The dominant feature of the site is the expansive view along the beach and across the bay to 'The Hazards' – a famous landscape that makes the Freycinet Peninsula one of the most visited wilderness areas in the state.

The master plan evolved from an analysis of the key characteristics of the site. These characteristics - geology, landscape form and climate - led to the development of a series of written strategies and diagrams. One strong component of the design is the use of linked 'units', each of which was angled on the site for maximum view and maximum privacy. The prototype for these units has recently been built and fitted out and is the subject of this article.

The prototype is, at first examination, extremely robust; constructed of a steel frame weighing in at 10 tonne, this would be expected. However, it is the interior, which is revealed to be delicate in the use of timber veneers and details. Two types of myrtle veneer are used; the first is figured and colour/grain matched, and in a mid-red tone (selected by the builder at the mill at Somerset). This veneer is used primarily in the bedroom on the cupboard doors and around the bed. Myrtle was chosen to reflect a local character in the design scheme and for its range of beautiful colours.

The second veneer, used in the bathroom, took a more interesting journey from mill to installation. Second grade myrtle was selected, sent to Italy, bleached, reconstituted and then dyed to match the figured timbers in the bedroom. In this form it is known as 'Flame Myrtle', and replaces the original choice, Tasmanian Oak, which was considered too dark in colour for this project. In both locations the myrtle veneer is polyurethane sealed.

The exterior deck is constructed of unsealed Western Red Cedar, which will, in the coastal sun, weather to a silvery grey tone

