

2014 BEST OVERALL HOME/ UNDER \$2 MILLION

SEAGRAPE WEEKEND RETREAT TRACTION ARCHITECTURE

The Seag p e House is a weekend retreat on the Gulf of Mexico. The home was designed to be a gathering place for multiple g nerations of an extended family. Situated on a barrier island, the shape of the site shifts with each pa sing storm. During the course of the project, dunes emerged and multiplied, and the distance between the hos e a d the coa tline more tha doubled. Architects conceived of the house as a physical anchor along the blu red edge between la d and sea a tool to understand the landscape and one's place within it. Permanence is expressed by selectively exposing the home's poured concrete construction which resists hurricane forces and enables dramatic cantilevers. Livable spaces are elevated on concrete columns to protect the home from storm sn g a d to a low the dune vegetation to meander below. A megaphone-shaped deck is subtracted from the volm e of the building to amplify the sound of crashing waves. Small details, such as an aluminum line inlaid into h e concrete floor orient you due West, and carvings in the cypress wall cladding triangulate your position across h e Gulf of Mexico to Tulum a d Veracruz, a nod to distant civilizations. A time capsule containing family mementos was cast into the concrete shear wall, reinforcing the notion of the house as a constant as time passes a d children g ow. The home's wedge-shaped form was derived from the desire to achieve both volumetric and h ermà efficiency while maximizing views of the Gulf. Bedrooms were envisioned as spaces of quiet respite with cypress built-ins that frame the sea to promote contemplative study. Photovoltaic panels provide the bulk of the home's energy needs. The Seag p e House is the first LEED Platinum certified home on Anna Maria Island. It was recently awa ded a Desig Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, Tampa Bay Chapter. Architect: Traction Architecture. Builder: Whitehead Construction. Photographer: Moris Moreno.

