

A photograph of a modern building at night. The building features a mix of light-colored horizontal siding and dark grey brickwork. Large, rectangular windows are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. A large, leafless tree stands in the foreground on the left, its branches silhouetted against the building and the dark sky. The ground in front of the building is covered in grass.

**MALABAR**  
ISLE OF WIGHT

**FLETCHER CRANE**  
ARCHITECTS



**MALABAR**  
ISLE OF WIGHT



**Type Of Project:** New Private House  
**Client:** Malcolm Beckett  
**Selection Process:** Invited Design Competition  
**Start on site date:** August 2011  
**Completion Date:** September 2012  
**GIA:** 385m<sup>2</sup>  
**Procurement:** Traditional Contract  
**Total cost:** £950,000  
**RIBA Award:** Best Building Isle of Wight 2013

Final Photo | Front Elevation ↻

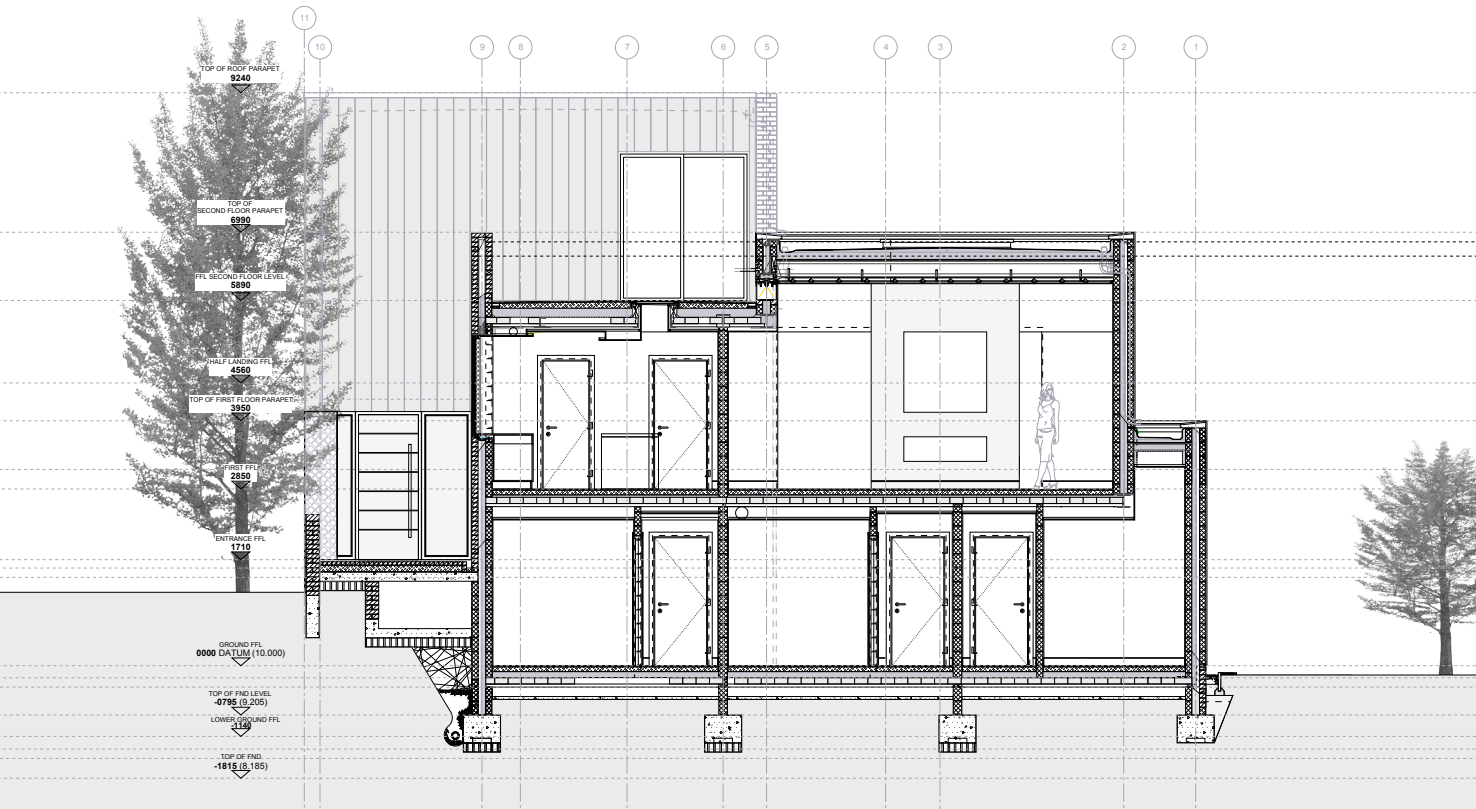




Concept Render | Front Elevation ◀

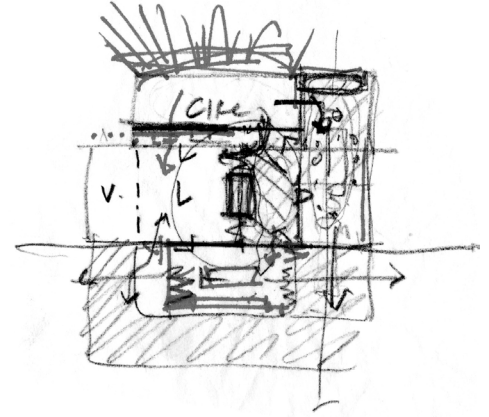
Site Plan | Early Concept Sketch ▶





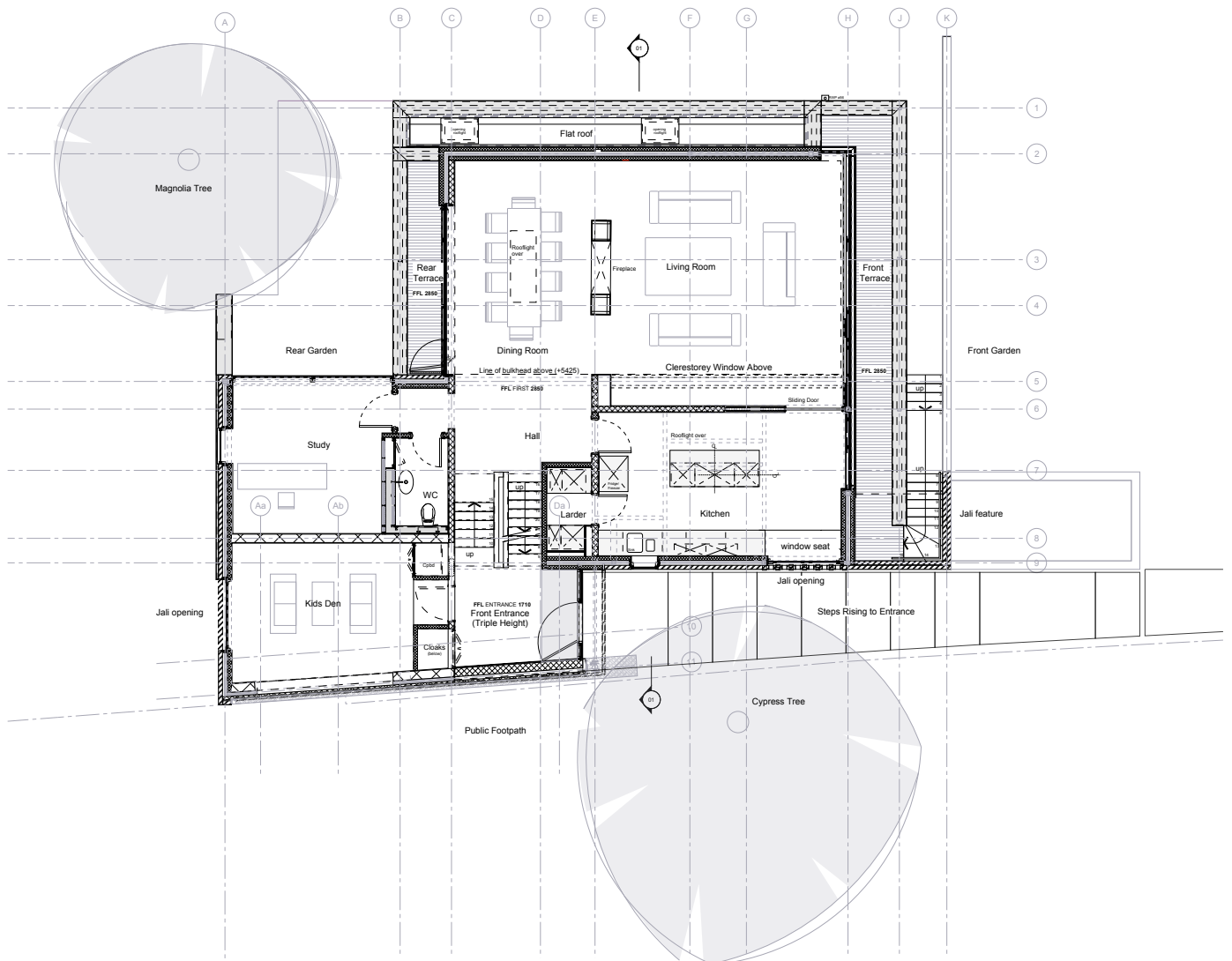
● Construction Section | Living Room  
● Concept Sketch | Section





Concept Sketch | Plan

Construction Plan | Ground Floor

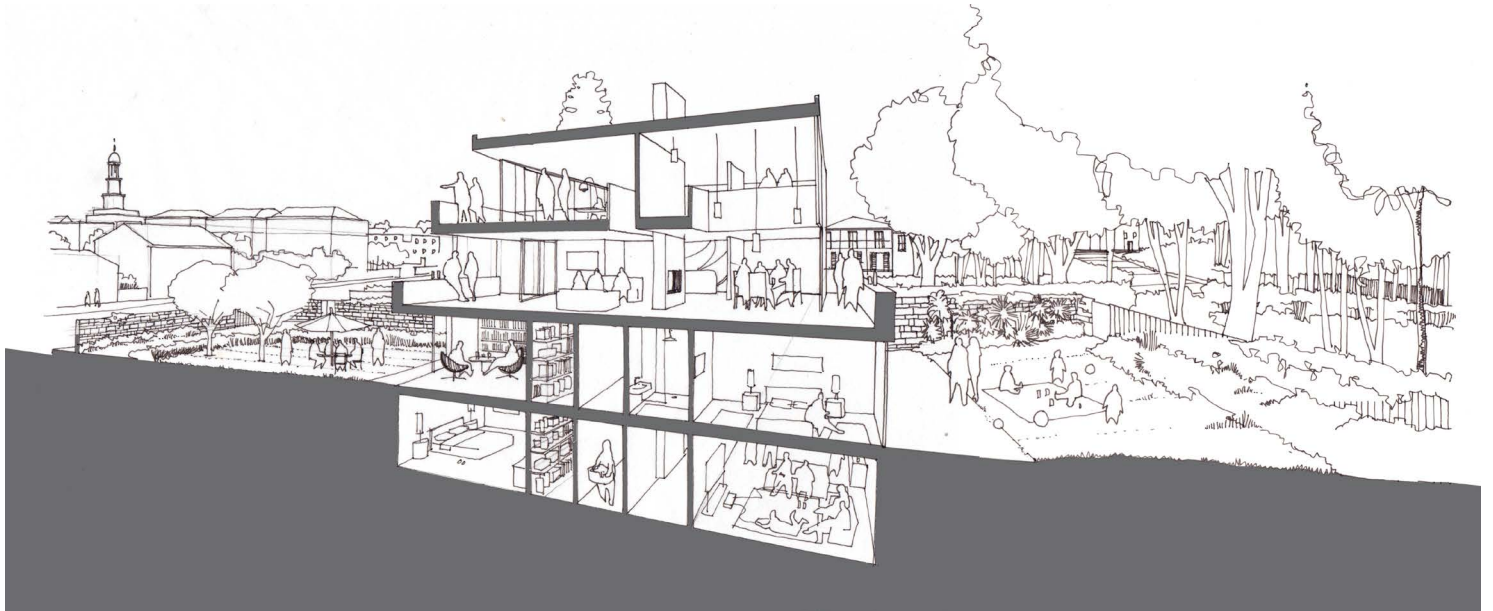




## MALABAR ISLE OF WIGHT

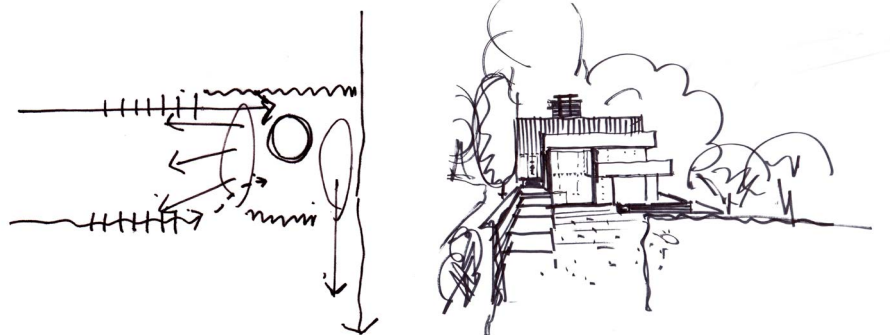
The architectural language of the new building has been developed as an intersecting assembly of translucent glass and solid white volumes that transforms throughout the day as light passes through the building skin.

Internally, the main 'white box' living accommodation are linked by a sequence of "gallery" like spaces; open and flowing between living, dining, entertaining and cooking spaces as the focal point of family life. The spaces emphasise functionality and privacy, with a continuous connection of outside and inside spaces; all designed to maximise the fantastic views and light from an elevated every level.



Sketch Section | Through Main Spaces ➡

Concept Sketches | Plan & Elevation ➡







Final Photo | West Elevation

Final Photo | Materials





**MALABAR**  
ISLE OF WIGHT



Final Photo | Living Room Terrace ◀

Final Photo | Side Entrance ▶

To the South, the translucent façade and sculpted staircase spaces provide a buffer to the internal spaces from the public footpath whilst allowing natural light to penetrate deep into the plan. An a ever changing play of light on the facade is expressed externally and internally from the moving shadow of the branches of the mature trees beyond, linking the built and natural environment.

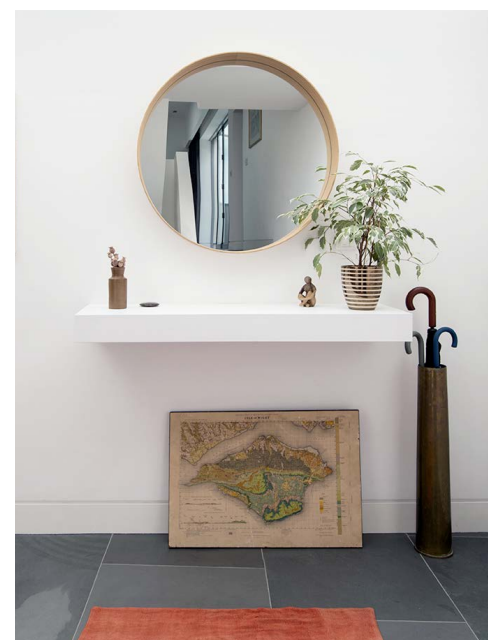






Final Photo | Stairwell

Final Photo | Entrance Lobby



Final Photo | Kitchen



To the East and the morning sun the building opens up with expansive views over the blossom trees and towards the Solent. To the West a more secluded private environment framed by the mature trees beyond; a dining room taking in stunning views North with the sun setting amongst the tree line on the Western boundary. At the upper most level a sanctuary for contemplation and tranquillity, for peace and harmony, commanding spectacular views in every direction.

## MALABAR

ISLE OF WIGHT



📷 Final Photo | Living Room Terrace

📷 Final Photo | Dining Room

Quotation taken from RIBA Award Night: Isle of Wight Judge: Martin Pearce:

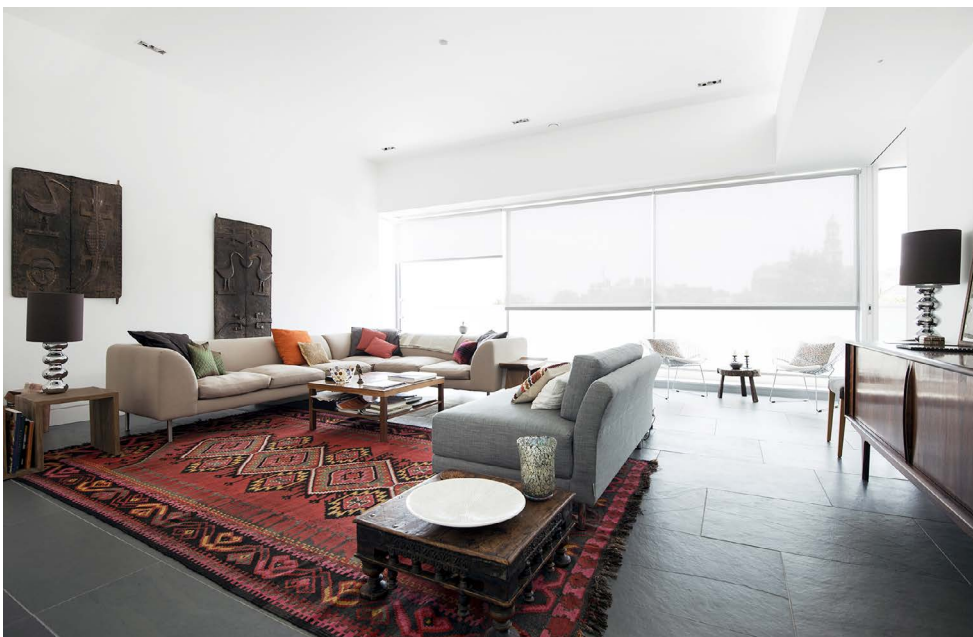
*"This is a new house which demonstrates how much a client can inspire great architecture. Here the clients drew up a short list of some of the best architects and through careful selection found Fletcher Crane architects who although a relatively new practice gave the clients a vision for their new home. Architects are artists and like all art it is dependent on good patronage. The Medici family are known as much through the commissioning of Leonardo Da Vinci to paint for them and Michelangelo to design chapels for them as for their banking prominence. In being aspirational and demanding these patrons might not have yet, achieved the same prowess but have given a fledgling practice the opportunity to create a work of exquisite grace and subtlety. The house which replaces one that existed on this steeply sloping north facing site uses the topography to its advantage creating a series of split levels that respond to existing trees on the site and capture magnificent views across the Solent. Perhaps this is in the tradition of the many fine villas that surround Ryde as fine materials and simple details give a new interpretation of the villa typology. The lattice of brickwork contrasts with the pure form of white boxes and anchors the building to its site. The honeycomb pattern a modern day interpretation of the perforated lattice screen or jali found in Indian architecture which hints to the clients eastern origins.*

*The existing tree around which the building is shaped.....at night the building glows and the tree falls into silhouette. The brickwork extends to the elegant processional pathway that leads to a dramatic double height entrance hall of opalescent white glass which gives the building a sense of dignified calm. There are some extremely innovative and carefully considered architectural devices at work as the raised kitchen and living room are linked to the garden by a staircase carefully hidden behind the jali screen. This screening and use of diagonal vistas make the building a very good neighbour to the surrounding buildings avoiding overlooking and with a beautifully executed stone plinth to the northern boundary giving something back to a forgotten alleyway. I think this is the mark of good architecture, to be innovative, to respond to the site and to speak of the client, their personality and aspiration. And in so doing Malabar is a work of art or perhaps more accurately, a work poetry made material, space and light."*

FLETCHER CRANE  
ARCHITECTS







Final Photo | Living Room

Final Photo | Living Room



Final Photo | Stairwell ◀

Final Photo | Materials ▶







Final Photo | Linnet at Night

Final Photo | Linnet Form