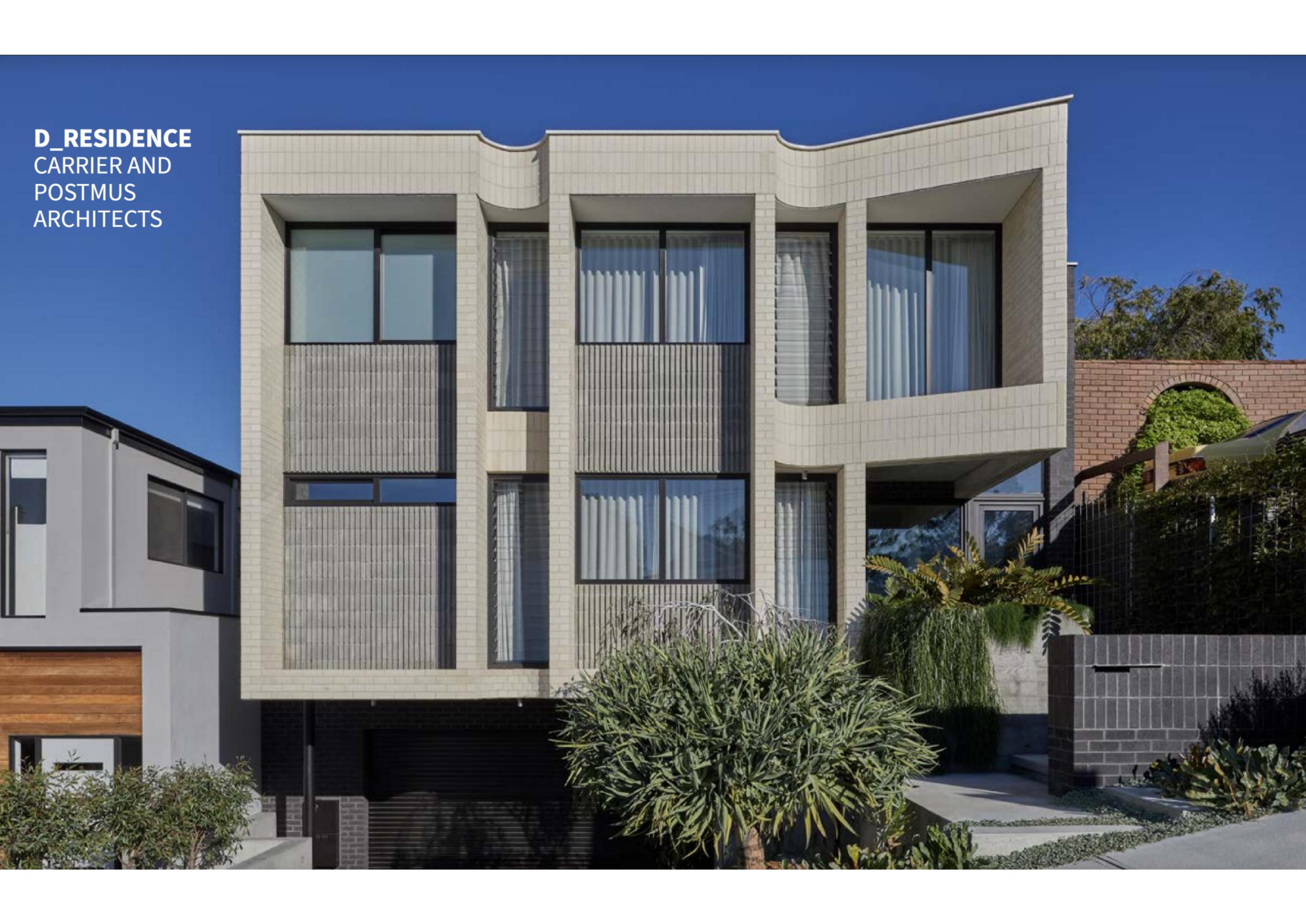


**D\_RESIDENCE**  
CARRIER AND  
POSTMUS  
ARCHITECTS





WORDS: RYAN BERUT  
PHOTOGRAPHY: DOUGLAS MARK BLACK

Nestled in coastal dunes, D\_Residence by **CAPA Architects** is a thoughtfully articulated home that contributes to the redefinition of Scarborough as the suburb continues to undergo a transformation.

The clients approached CAPA's Justin Carrier and Steve Postmus in 2017 with the dream of building a home that would facilitate their outgoing and playful lifestyle. With an extensive collection of artworks and artefacts, as well as aspirations for a family, there was a fundamental drive that the home would be robust and able to facilitate the couple's changing lifestyle.

D\_Residence is about the importance of our coastal landscapes and the manner in which the undulating natural topography provides protection for the landscape to endure. "Our West Australian coastal landscapes are often over-exposed to the elements, existing within harsh and corrosive environments," says Justin. "We had to consider the harsh nature of this environment on buildings and provide something that was robust, lasting."

The site of the home, which had been vacant since 1961, presented Justin and Steve with further challenges. In particular, a four-meter fall diagonally across the site. "The difference in levels between neighbouring lots is seven metres," says Justin. "Due to the steep topography of the area, there is a lot of overlooking into the site from neighbouring homes and so designing for privacy and minimising suburban noise was key."



In response to these harsh coastal and site conditions, architects Justin and Steve focused on the concept of sanctuary. Their approach to the home worked against the norm of blurring the thresholds between inside and out. Instead the design actively creates a barrier from its harsh surrounding context and, through considered internal planning and placement of openings, allows for curated views outwards as well as allowing natural elements of light and wind into the home.

Ground floor living spaces and the private rooms above are all centred around a double-height void that extends throughout the house. The void acts to visually connect spaces and allows for a lofty experience within the smaller-sized block.

The void also acts as a thermal chimney where hot air can be flushed out of openings to the rooftop terrace and drawn in from the ground and basement levels. This is assisted by natural cross-ventilation and taking advantage of the prevailing ocean breeze, with all living and private spaces fitted with louvers so that the house can be purged of hot air during the summer months.

The West Australian sun is harsh and in coastal locations this is exacerbated by the reflectivity of the water and white beach sand. Rather than exposing internal spaces to direct sunlight, Justin and Steve allow natural light to gently wash over surfaces by providing indirect sunlight to internal spaces. This is evident as you move through the home – where natural light washes over the face bricks and off-form concrete, or the steel treads of the suspended staircase.

At the request of the clients, Justin and Steve have created a gallery feel to the house allowing the clients to fill the spaces with their photography and art collections. The fact that the space has now been rented out for fashion and surf photography shoots is testament to the success of this approach.

This thoughtful and elegant home works beautifully with the changing lifestyles of its inhabitants, including the family doubling in size since the project's inception. ■



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



## D\_RESIDENCE / CAPA

PHOTOGRAPHER Douglas Mark Black

STYLIST Amy Collins-Walker

ARCHITECT [www.carrierandpostmus.com](http://www.carrierandpostmus.com)  
Email: [admin@carrierandpostmus.com](mailto:admin@carrierandpostmus.com)  
Instagram: @capa\_studio

DESIGN TEAM Architecture, Interiors and Landscape  
Justin Carrier – Project Director | Kah Wai Leong – Project Leader |  
Steven Postmus | Steven Johnson

KEY CONSULTANTS Structural Engineer: ACCE | Energy Consultant & Building Compliance: CADDS Group

BUILDER Alita Constructions / Completion date: 2020

SITE Hastings Street, Scarborough, Western Australia

KEY SUPPLIERS Bricks: Austral Bricks Indulgence in French Brie, Austral Bricks Metallix in Carbide, Archistone concrete ribbed blocks | Cabinetwork: Nathan's Cabinets, Lamitak, Laminex, Polyrey | Stone benches and external stone work: Bernini Stone | Tiles: Myaree Ceramics, Artedomus, Original Ceramics | Floors: Designer Floors WA | Lighting: Alti Lighting, Christopher Boots, Editeur | Plants and Trees: Benara Nursery, Ellenby Tree Farm, Coast Road Palms, Waldecks | Bathrooms: DevSpec, Pheonix, Rogerseller, Reece | Windows and Doors: ARCO windows | Exterior cladding & roofing: Lysaght, Fielders Paint: Dulux, Feast and Watson | Plywood Interior Walls: World Wide Timber Traders | A/C: Joondalup Air | Other: Solatube, Rockcote, Fisher & Paykel, Regency Plaster

SUSTAINABILITY NatHERS rating: 6.7 stars