

DESIGN

Rooms with a sea view: the best British seaside architecture

It's goodbye to the big white box — the latest coastal retreats offer a twist on traditional styles and blend in with the rugged landscape



Crest of a wave, Cornwall

Nowhere reflects the changing zeitgeist in coastal design better than Serpentine. It nods to the local landscape: its curved design echoes the crescent of Whitsand Bay below (the house is in Portwrinkle, eight miles west of Plymouth); and the roof is covered in wild flowers. The rough-hewn interior, with chunky Cornish stone walls, a suspended woodburner and a shaggy rug, is enough to make you pray for rain so you can loll around in front of the fire. “The sound of crashing waves attracted us to the site,” say the owners, a family of four from Oxfordshire who built the four-bedroom home last year with the local architects Arco2. “It’s the first thing we hear when we wake up and the last thing we hear at night.” Serpentine is available to let. uniquehomestays.co.uk; arco2.co.uk