



GORDONS BAY HOUSE CASE STUDY

ARCHITECT:

Renato D'Ettorre Architects

PROJECT BUILDER:

Dimark

MANUFACTURER:

PGH Bricks and Pavers

COLLECTION/RANGE:

Dry pressed Architectural

COLOUR/TYPE:

Balmerino Blend



Background

Located in the tranquil area of Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, Gordons Bay House (GB House) provides a secluded sanctuary from Sydney's bustling environment. This sophisticated property reveals an expressive yet functional use of brick façade design that complements the natural landscape of Sydney's rugged coastline.

GB House highlights the versatility of brick in both the exterior and interior spaces. The exterior of GB House expresses different orientations of brick, showcasing its raw character and connection with the Australian coastal environment. Inspired by an Italian hay barn, a hit and miss brick screen using perforated bricks allows for a mottled entry of natural light into the living space, imitating

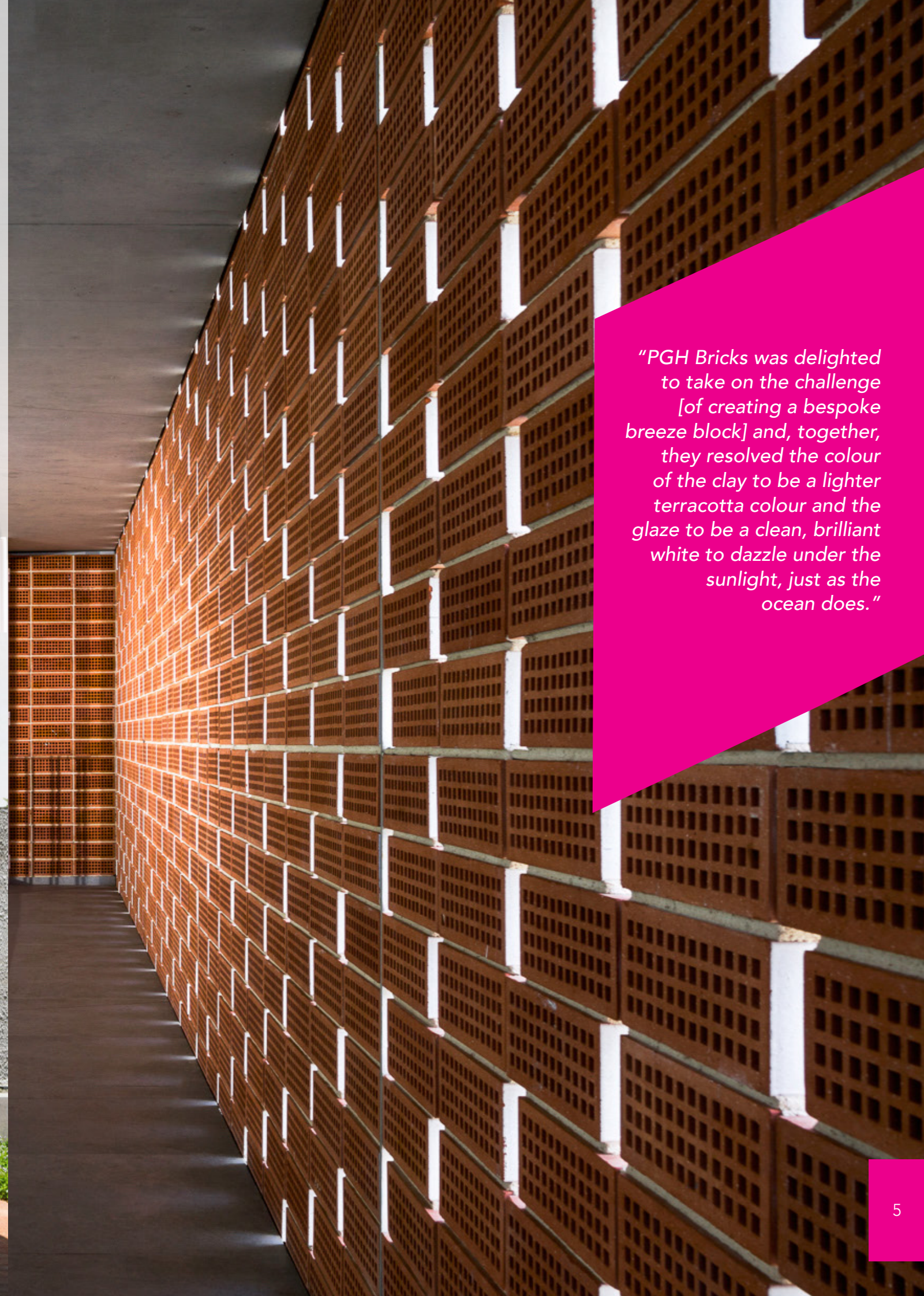
the dazzle of the ocean under sunlight. Hit and miss screens provide a fresh breeze from the bordering ocean into the living space. The natural terracotta shade of the clay bricks behind the glass shutters contrasts against the pallid concrete interior, creating both depth and dimension. The external face of the bricks are glazed with a clean white hue to complement the overall minimalist finish of GB House. The lower ground level includes a cavernous and practical cellar made entirely of natural finish bricks that acts simultaneously as a wall and wine rack. Hit and miss brick screens and stack bonded brick screens are used throughout GB House to add warmth, character and texture, showcasing their expressive forms of orientation.

Why Brick?

Bricks were selected as one of the main building materials due to their superior performance in the presence of the natural elements of salt, wind and sea, provided by the aggressive coastal atmosphere. The chosen bricks are exposure grade and are able to withstand high salt conditions, with only occasional brushing needed to avoid salt build up on the brickwork. This leads to reduced maintenance over the decades compared to other building materials, making GB House a hard-wearing yet modern property that reflects the practicality of brick in the coastal environment.

Bricks also possess superior thermal and sound insulation properties due to the inherent nature of fired clay. The heavy mass of the clay bricks provides excellent sound blockage from the low frequency noises resonating from the crashing of waves and pedestrian activity along the beach. Their high thermal mass allows for GB House to be cool during the blistering Australian summers and warm in the face of coastal winter winds.

"PGH Bricks was delighted to take on the challenge [of creating a bespoke breeze block] and, together, they resolved the colour of the clay to be a lighter terracotta colour and the glaze to be a clean, brilliant white to dazzle under the sunlight, just as the ocean does."





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