



# IF\_DO

**PRESS ENQUIRIES**

Claire Curtice Publicists  
claire@clairecurtice.co.uk  
+ 44 (0) 20 7613 1442  
[Download press kit here](#)

**PRESS RELEASE**

## THORPENESS BEACH HOUSE

**07/2019**

IF\_DO has received planning permission for a new 320m<sup>2</sup> beach house for a private client in Thorpeness in Suffolk. Located within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), in close proximity to the North Sea, the design foregrounds the connection to the surrounding landscape, maximising ground floor access to the garden and beach, and first floor views of the sea.

The project replaces an existing, inefficient 1960s dwelling with an energy-efficient house built of robust and durable materials, minimising the demand for environmental conditioning through well-considered massing, openings and internal layouts, ensuring spaces benefit from abundant sunlight, and are naturally ventilated and passively cooled.

The new house has been designed with the potential for dual occupation or by multiple generations within the family.

Two distinct, single-storey elements ground the house, appearing as bookends spanned by a delicate first floor volume which floats atop. The lower floor is clad in precast concrete panels, and the upper floor reads as a lightweight timber pavilion.

The massing creates a clear divide between public and private spaces within the house, with a free-flowing and central communal living/dining space at ground floor, bordered by more private sleeping and utilitarian spaces; and at first floor, a dual-aspect living space focused on the sea view, leading off to private spaces – an arrangement of bedrooms.

Fluid transitions between inside and out on both floors are created by a series of full-height sliding doors opening onto terraces and balconies. The bookend elements at ground floor feature minimal, carefully orchestrated apertures, creating an appearance of garden walls that maintain privacy for both inhabitants and neighbours, while the large opening between them blurs the boundary between inhabited spaces and landscape. Internal axes establish meaningful connections with the woodland to the rear, and at first floor, over the street to the sea beyond.

The house will be naturally ventilated. Other environmental measures include a PV array and solar hot-water installation concealed within the flat section of roof, and strategies to protect natural features of ecological value and to improve biodiversity on site.

Construction is due to commence in September with anticipated completion, summer 2020.



Al Scott, Co-founder, IF\_DO, said:

“As IF\_DO’s first one-off, new-build house, this project is an important one for us, and for which our clients provided us with an exceptional site and inspiring brief: to create a multi-generational home taking full advantage of its location within an AONB, set between an area of special scientific interest and the coastal edge. The design has demanded a technically sensitive approach to an area of rapidly receding coastline, and will provide flexible accommodation for all ages, allowing the house to be used initially as a holiday home, and ultimately a family home for three generations.

With the North Sea to one side, and the AONB heathland to the rear, connection to nature and the surrounding landscape is at the heart of the concept. Believing in the important role nature plays on well-being, the design incorporates routes and orchestrated views in, out and through the house at all levels, bringing the building, user and the natural surroundings together.”

#### FACTS AND CREDITS

<b>Location</b>	Craig Lea, North End Avenue, Thorpeness, Suffolk IP16 4PD
<b>Site area</b>	1,900m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Gross internal floor area</b>	322m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Construction value</b>	Confidential
<b>Client</b>	Private client
<b>Schedule</b>	Appointment Oct 2017; anticipated start on site Sept 2019; anticipated completion summer 2020 (est.)
<b>Architect</b>	IF_DO
<b>Design Team</b>	Al Scott, Thomas Bryans, Sarah Castle, Geethica Gunarajah
<b>Project Architect</b>	Geethica Gunarajah
<b>Building Contractor</b>	H.G. Frost
<b>Structural Engineer</b>	Frith:Blake
<b>Cost Consultant</b>	Measur
<b>Visuals</b>	© Andreas Cesarini/Renderbout

#### IF\_DO

Established in 2014 by Al Scott, Sarah Castle and Thomas Bryans, IF\_DO is a young architecture practice dedicated to creating projects with a positive impact on users, the environment and the surrounding community.

IF\_DO works on projects of all scales, from interiors and one-off houses to strategic planning and masterplans. Recently completed projects include: Granby Space co-working space in Waterloo for Meanwhile Space CIC; the multi award-winning 2017 London Festival of Architecture Dulwich Pavilion, a temporary events pavilion in the grounds of the Dulwich Picture Gallery; St Teresa’s School Sixth Form Centre, Effingham, Surrey.

Current projects include a 10-year strategic masterplan for the Irish campus of internationally-acclaimed furniture designer Joseph Walsh, a masterplan for St Teresa’s School in Effingham, and Orchard Courtyard, the refurbishment of a courtyard in the Grade-II\* listed County Hall on London’s Southbank, ensuring active occupation of the building for years to come.

Informed by research, the practice was founded on the principles that we should ask questions and take action, always seeking to deliver broader social and environmental benefits through design and working closely with clients to make their projects do more.

The three founders met while studying architecture at the University of Edinburgh. They are committed to campaigning for greater diversity in the profession through their work with Urbanistas, Part W, Architecture LGBT+, and the Social Mobility Foundation.

[www.ifdo.co](http://www.ifdo.co)



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