



Knock on wood

A practical design for a vacation home, this outdoor shower is a place to wash off the sand after a day at the beach

Above: A circular outdoor shower sits on the covered walkway that connects the two wings of this vacation home. Designed by Moskow Architects, the two wings – one for living and one for accommodation – open onto wide decks and a central meadow-like area. The home is a summer residence, designed for use by more than one family at a time. It sits on a six-acre site covered in scrub oak.

Summer is great. Sun, surf and swimming, playing on the beach with the kids and making the most of warm, balmy days. Then you go home and traipse sand through the house.

But, not in this home. Designed by Keith Moskow and Robert Linn, from Moskow Architects, the house features an outdoor shower purpose-built for cleansing off salt and sand. After a day at the beach, the homeowners walk from car to house via a covered walkway fitted with the circular, batten-clad shower.

“In a sense it’s like bathing in a barrel. Aesthetically, the shower enclosure ties into the

design of the rest of the home. The same materials were used, and it features the same style of roof structure,” says Moskow.

Like the rest of the home, which is comprised of two wings for living and sleeping, the shower is constructed predominantly from fir, with a lead-coated copper roof.

“Fir, the primary exposed structural material, is used for exterior decks and trim, and interior floors and ceilings. The unadorned design minimizes the need for upkeep and features durable, sustainable materials. All timber used was produced following the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.”



Architect: Keith Moskow AIA, Robert Linn, Moskow Architects (Boston, MA)

Builder: McGrath Carpentry Services

Structural engineer: John Queen

Shower enclosure: Fir

Shower roof: Lead-coated copper

Walkway and decks: Fir

Photography by Greg Premru

Left: The free-standing outdoor shower is for cleansing prior to entering the living areas. Like the rest of the home’s exterior, the shower enclosure and decks are crafted from sustainably grown fir. The lead-coated copper shower roof is similar in design to that of the main house. The unadorned design of the house, and the materials chosen, reduce the need for maintenance.