

Le Petit Fort, St. Ouen, Jersey

The Site

The site in St. Ouen's Bay is of exceptional sensitivity and importance, being part of Jersey's undeveloped Atlantic coastal edge. The St. Ouen's Bay planning framework designates the bay as 'a special place' where the objective is to protect and enhance the natural environment with a strong presumption against inappropriate development.

Le Petit Fort is an historic building - a 20th century folly designed to mimic a 19th century fort with a 'guardhouse' and flanking loop holed walls.

The castellated walls which are beautifully built in irregular granite laid in courses, convey a powerful sense of self-contained security and a kind of defiance of the elements of wind and sea.



View of south elevation from sunlit garden

MJP were commissioned to obtain planning permission for a four bed house with an annex within the existing fort walls.

Design

The ground floor achieves a sense of containment and refuge from the elements, being contained by the existing granite walls. Large sunlit landscaped courts are created to the south, with smaller hard-surfaced courts to the north.

The first floor under a floating cantilevered roof addresses a broader prospect of sea and sky. The study with its roof terrace becomes a granite lookout tower with flagpole and telescope

At the seaward end, fort steps lead up from the garden court to ramparts that overlook the sea. Underneath, a small enclosed and protected space creates a cool summertime grotto.

Accommodation

ground floor - kitchen, family room, utility rooms, dining room, sewing room, gym, store, cloakroom facilities, garages, and main entrance.

first floor - living room, study, four bedrooms
annex - bedroom, sitting room, kitchen



- 1
- 2
- 3

- 1 View of west elevation from the beach
- 2 South elevation
- 3 Entrance courtyard

Client: private client
Floor Area: 820sqm
Status: Planning permission granted
January 2009