Designed for the Westerly most point, amongst dune-scaped sand beaches, the last house celebrates the last natural event of the daily cycle: the setting of the sun. The house is a year round retreat as a „temproareventstage“ for the social consumption of a natural phenomenon, and likewise the building is designed to be consumed by its environment, after 50 years the structure will be left to nature, to be filled with grains of sand, as the dunes advance like waves. Four main aims have determined the developed form:

1. Retention of the natural environment for the pleasure of inhabitants and visitors, hence the house becomes a dune in its own right.
2. The layering of the house, forming an adaptable year round environment filter as retreat, capable of total enclosure or opening up throughout its depth.
3. Orchestration towards the setting sun of the large eyelaikte aperture in conjunction with the layering, demands appreciation of the setting sun as an event. In association with this a village of occupied dunes is envisaged such that the event becomes a social celebra-

tion with „barbecues“ and „bloody marys“ on the terrace.

Human economies and natural ecologies rarely sustain one another; the problem today, with thousands of temporary visitors in high season to natural environs, is one of respect and management. The retreat determines temporary ownership and hence respect and care for the environment within which it is placed.

It's a thematic response to nature around natural phenomena in order to address the conflict of man and nature.

Each last house unit has an inner courtyard, with a large „opening core“ and companion eyelaik. The dual mechanism is capable of manipulation to produce innumerable permutations of shaded glass enclosed, glass enclosed and / or a courtyard completely or variably exposed. This courtyard also forms an extended living potential to the living/dining area. The whole house can be opened to the inner court by moving screen walls similar to the Japanese system or the Schroeder house enabling good interior exterior motion and perception in mild weather conditions and for parties.

Then closing down the inner court becomes a buffer to the inner living sanctum. Furniture within the house takes on two essential forms; specialist built-in furniture such as the retracted futon units to the upper storerooms, and nomadic flexible flat packed furniture such as tables and chairs which can be positioned anywhere or stored flat hanging on the walls. The service elements of bathroom and kitchen are dealt with functional pods, constructed offsite and installed „complete“ with a site sacrificial pneumatic makeover. The upper sleeping platform accessed by a dual staircase, forming a balcony area to the inner court, is capable of splitting into two self enclosed rooms, each large enough to house a double or two single sleeping units.

Just as a sign of the times, the house looks like a modern curtain in the sunset. This house is the last house, a reminder of the past, a symbol of the future, a study of the present.

In der Nähe sitzt man am Strand und geniesst das Meer und die Ruhe...

Das letzte Haus/The Last House '95

* 09.04.1958, Architekt

Photo p.226