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RUIN RESTAURANT TRESCO- EXTENSION DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Evaluation

The Ruin Restaurant is part of the Sea Garden Cottage site on Tresco in the Scilly Isles. It serves the needs of the 25 cottages which are immediately around it, as well as the rest of the Island. Since its completion 6 years ago it has become very popular, winning several international awards. The service area of the building is too small and needs to be enlarged, and the bar area suffers from congestion when the restaurant is very busy. It is a key part of the high quality tourist attraction that is Tresco.

Various different options have been considered to extend the restaurant and its service areas. At the moment it uses space in various outbuildings to provide facilities for the staff. After much deliberation it has been decided that the only way to keep these facilities in one place and to provide the accommodation needed is to build another 61m² of accommodation to the north of the restaurant linking it with the to be enlarged adjacent shed.

Design

Use

It is a restaurant providing food and drink to those living on the island, those staying on the island, and those visiting the island. Whilst not wishing to increase the number of covers in the restaurant the ancillary areas are undersized and require further space.

Amount

At the moment the restaurant and the adjacent shed amount to 179sq m of the floor area.

Layout

Rather than have outlying areas being used in connection with the restaurant, everything is to be brought together under one roof avoiding staff travelling through the inclement weather and keeping the whole operation under cover. The proposal extends the preparation area for the kitchen 18sq m and connects the staff rest rooms into the main building. The bar area is increased by 25sq m looking out over the view which gives the Ruin Beach Café its particular character.

Scale

The new area takes on the shape of the existing assembly of boathouses, which are an informal collection of pitched roofs running at right angles to the beach. The ridge is the same height as those around it and simply infills the gap between the shed and the restaurant.

Landscape

By continuing the form of the previous boatsheds the extra space settles in alongside the beach inconspicuously and has little effect on the landscape. There are no ecological implications.

Appearance

The design approach has been to continue the successful use of untreated timber glass and clay tiles which the rest of the building is made up of, providing a simple and self-deprecating addition to the beach elevation, and a straight forward rear elevation to the approach road to the Sea Garden Cottages.

Access

The proposal improves access for the staff within the scheme preventing journeys through the outside weather. As far as is possible the proposal will be built to accord with Part M of the Building Regulations.