

THE BLISS OF SOLITUDE

*Nestled in its own private bay on the tip of New Zealand's Banks Peninsula,
this remote coastal retreat retains all the comforts of home*

Words TESSA PEARSON *Photography* SIMON DEVITT/PHOTOFOYER





A

striking beachside abode set into a steep escarpment overlooking the South Pacific Ocean, the aptly named Seascape House belongs to Mark and Jacqui Palmer, owners of a working sheep and cattle farm that also comprises four luxury holiday properties. Tucked into a tiny, boulder-strewn cove on New Zealand's South Island, the remote escape was designed by Auckland-based architecture firm Patterson Associates and can only be reached by 4x4 or helicopter. 'One of the reasons that we purchased the farm was this beautiful and completely private bay,' says Mark. 'As soon as I saw it I knew that it was begging for a world-class hideaway to be built here.'

Contemporary in design yet an unobtrusive addition to the landscape, the house has been constructed using rock quarried near the farm, and features a turfed roof that allows the structure to integrate seamlessly into the hillside. The studio-style layout consists of a lobby, a living space with a small kitchen, a single raised bedroom area, and a bathroom. A mix of rough-hewn stone, poured concrete, and timber panelling made from macrocarpa (a species of cypress) makes for a sleek yet earthy interior scheme that draws inspiration from the colours of the landscape.

The wall of floor-to-ceiling storm-proof windows allows visitors to feel immersed in nature yet wonderfully cocooned. 'My favourite thing about the house is that everything relates to the magnificent

views of this perfect little cove and its unique honeycomb rock formation,' Mark says. 'Several times I have woken in the morning to the amazing sight of dolphins playing right outside in the bay.'

annandale.com; pattersons.com



SNAPSHOT

Who? Mark and Jacqui Palmer, whose 4,000-acre farm occupies ten kilometres of coastline

Where? A cove on the Banks Peninsula of New Zealand's South Island

What? A contemporary open-plan studio with a wall of glass windows looking out over the bay





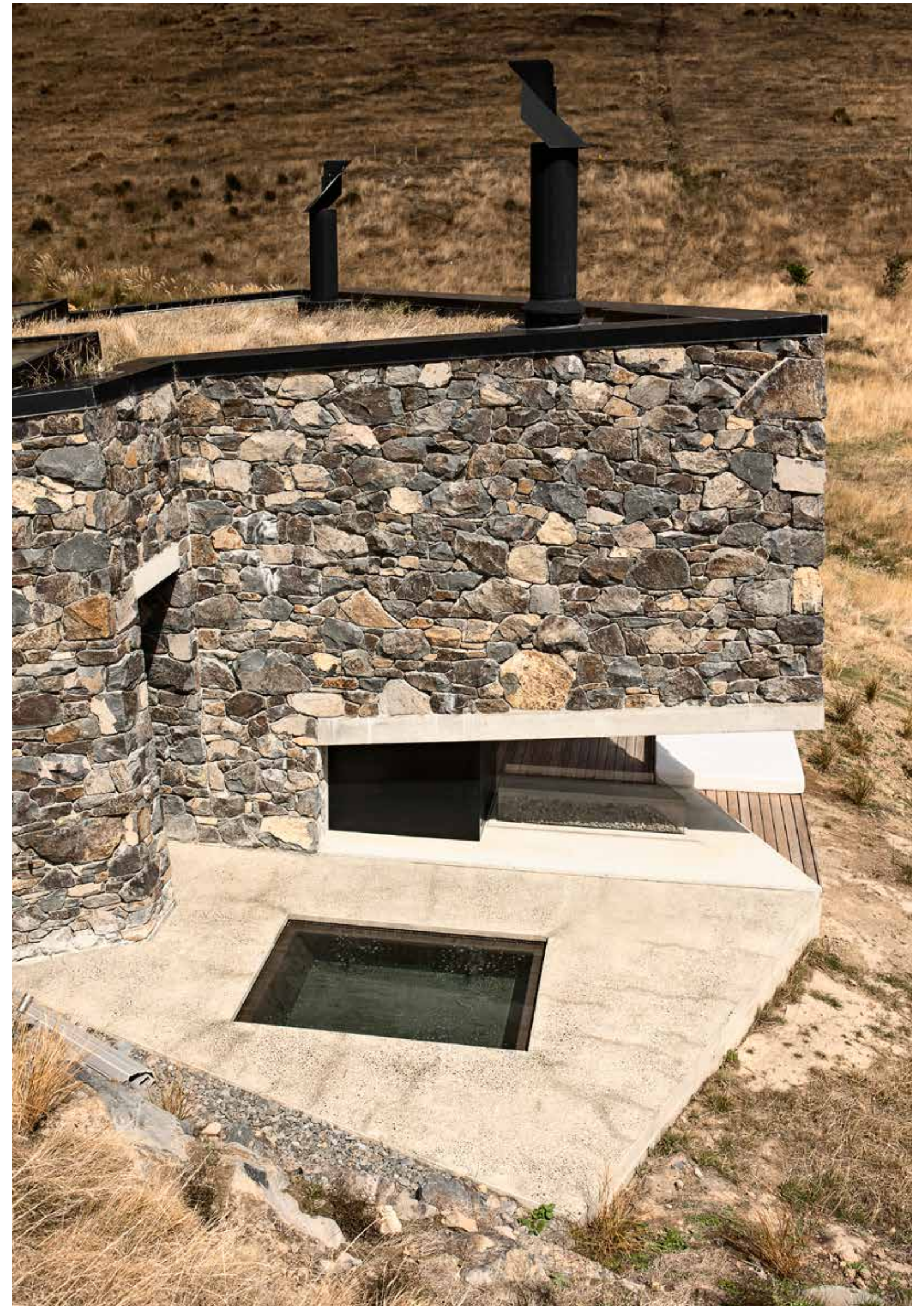
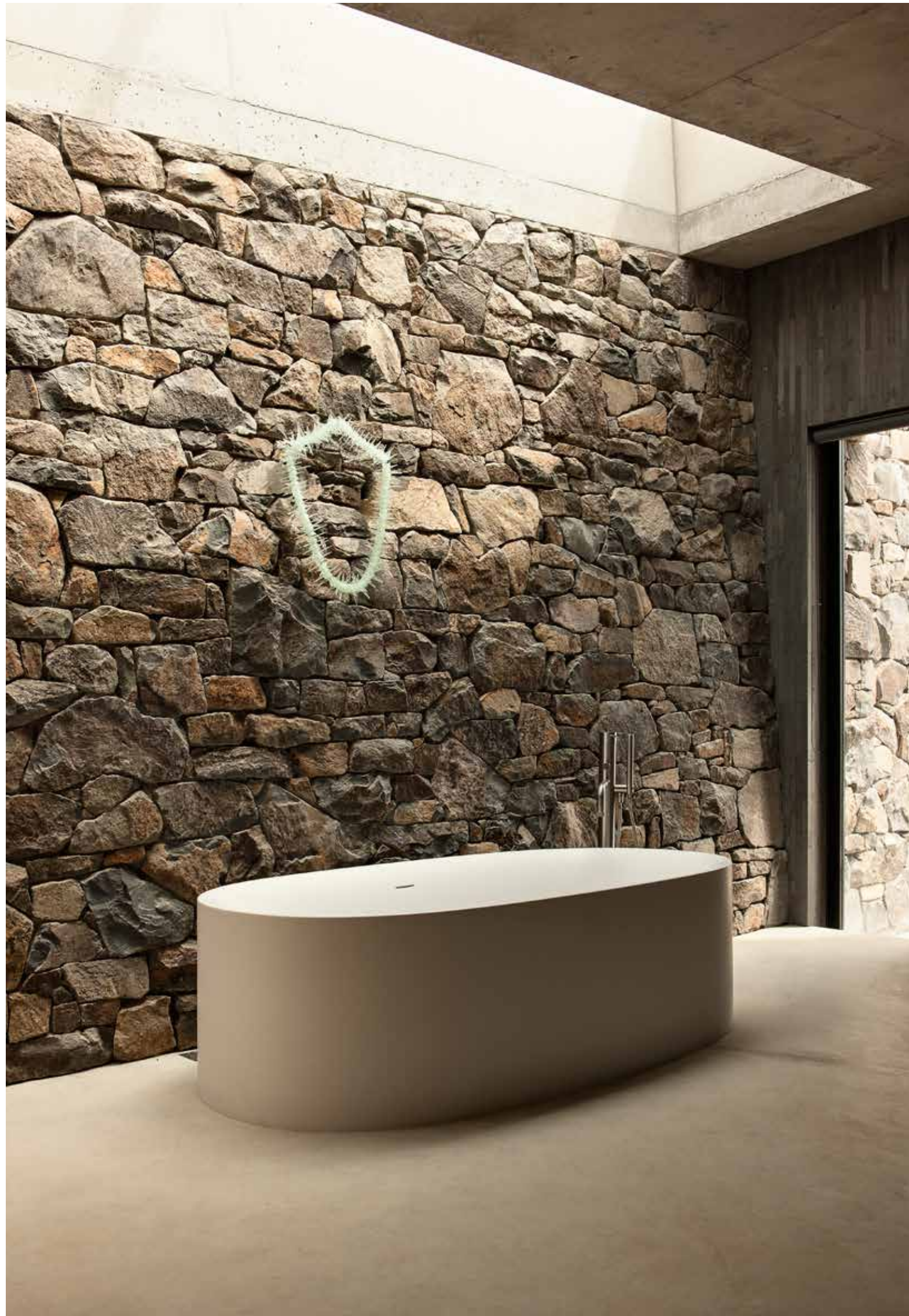
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