

The Sea Egg

Sea Urchin (Evechinus chloroticus) commercially harvested and considered a delicacy by Māori and known as Kina.

“I have drawn the plans so that almost anyone can build it”!

John Glennie

Boat builder, author, adventurer

May You Live in Exciting Times

The ancient Chinese proverb seems particularly appropriate to our times.

Actually it's a curse but then everything is attitude..

Surviving these exciting times is basically about knowledge, attitude and being prepared.

If you're prepared, that pretty much takes care of the attitude. Well, almost.

To prepare ourselves through to the future we needed our own “Tardis”.

(Dr Who's time machine. ‘Time And Relative Distance In Space’)

But it had to be something I could build myself.

I designed our ‘Tardis’ from past experiences that included a wooden earth sheltered house I built and lived in for sometime back in the early 90's.

It had windows facing the sun, an umbrella and the air tube configuration of John Hait's after his workshop that I attended.

<http://www.norishouse.com/PAHS/UmbrellaHouse.html>

My wife Ronaye and I first went to welding classes for this new design of mine.

Her brother bought us a welder, I bought her a concrete mixer for her birthday and she gave me what every man wants: A woman to work with and not against.

So together we built our new home over the winter months with no other help apart from the concrete pours and excavation.

Because it is designed and built like a one off Ferro-cement yacht, the method is user friendly for home construction without the need for forms or the expense of labour, for the labour was ours.



My wife Ronaye "Spider Woman" works on the web in her blue realm

During the building I had this underlying thought to take photos of the construction to later create plans that people could build themselves, for just the cost of materials.

It was a natural progression from the plans I drew up in Australia for the "Hitchiker" series of Catamarans for the home builder which still sail the oceans and barrier reef.

With my yacht designing experience and surviving anything that nature can hand out it seemed to me to be the natural sensible thing to do was to shape the bottom like a boat or pool to give it strength instead of having a flat 2ft thick slab, and at the same time use that area as a water tank for by all accounts we were going to need it.

I have no intention of going thru the same ordeal again of having a small spice jar of water a day and 2 teaspoons of uncooked rice soaked in sea water to survive.

With the earth rocking and rolling around, you can expect the water lines from an outside water tank to be severed.

Water from the water tank under the floor is either pumped up by a simple 12 volt RV pump or with a yacht galley foot pump.

By having the water under the floor, its weight is in the right place and not in 50 gallon drums which will fly around the room impaling you in their search for a place to bounce off of.

In an 8.4 Earth quake a TV set will be thrown from one side of the room to the other. Lord help you with anything heavy that is not bolted down in a 10-11-12 or 13.

There just had to be numerous people out there, I thought who would love to see their way clear as we had done to have their own safe home. For not only was it affordable but it was far stronger than most others, it has a 4,700 gallon built in water tank and a sola-tube that brings in enough light to read by comfortably as well as allowing the banana palms and night blooming jasmine to over winter. The tube will be blocked off and filled with sand in awhile till its safe to open up again.



Banana palms and night blooming jasmine over winter under the light from the solatube. Some unseen entity playing with the color palette amidst a workshop environment during the building.

No one else had done it and I wondered why. Maybe they truly expected to live in a dungeon like hole in the ground and accepted that fate.

Be very careful of the attitude you take down there with you.

If at all like us, all you really need is enough money to dig a hole for starters, and then save for the rebar.

This intention to walk through the door will open the door to more.

It always works but if you sit on your bum forever expecting someone else to do it for you, there might be a long wait and the pregnant pause might last till hell freezes over.

Though I walk through the finished home every night in bed'.

Upon waking, I find for me to focus on what I am going to do that day and not let my mind wander to all the work and money that lies ahead for it can get very daunting.

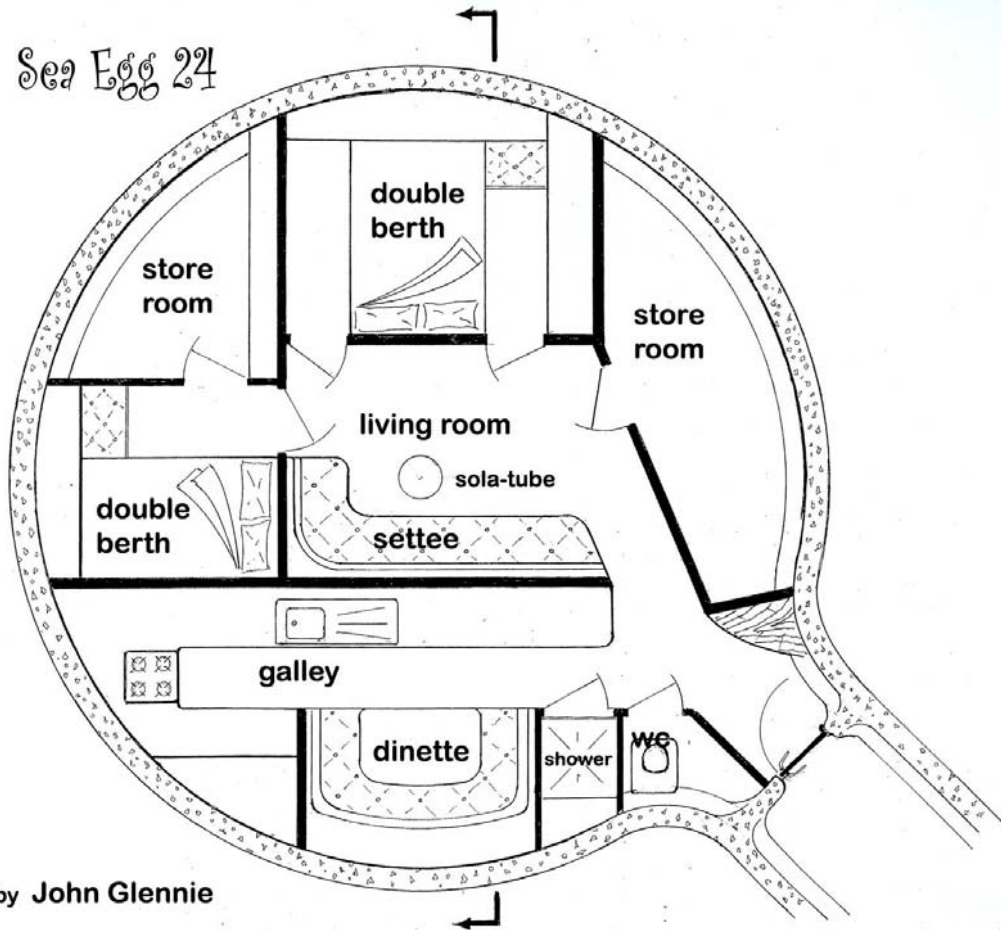
There is a lot to be said for living in the now.

So in between building an underground chicken house, finishing off 'Tardis' and a host of projects, I have finally got the plans finished.

I have named the design 'Sea Egg' as it looks like one with its hard shell and long spines that are a great metaphor for protection.



Sea Egg 24



design by John Glennie

Layout plan showing two double berth cabins, two store rooms, a large 6 seat dinette, large galley, living room, shower and toilet. There is another RV toilet over the septic tank in the entrance tunnel.

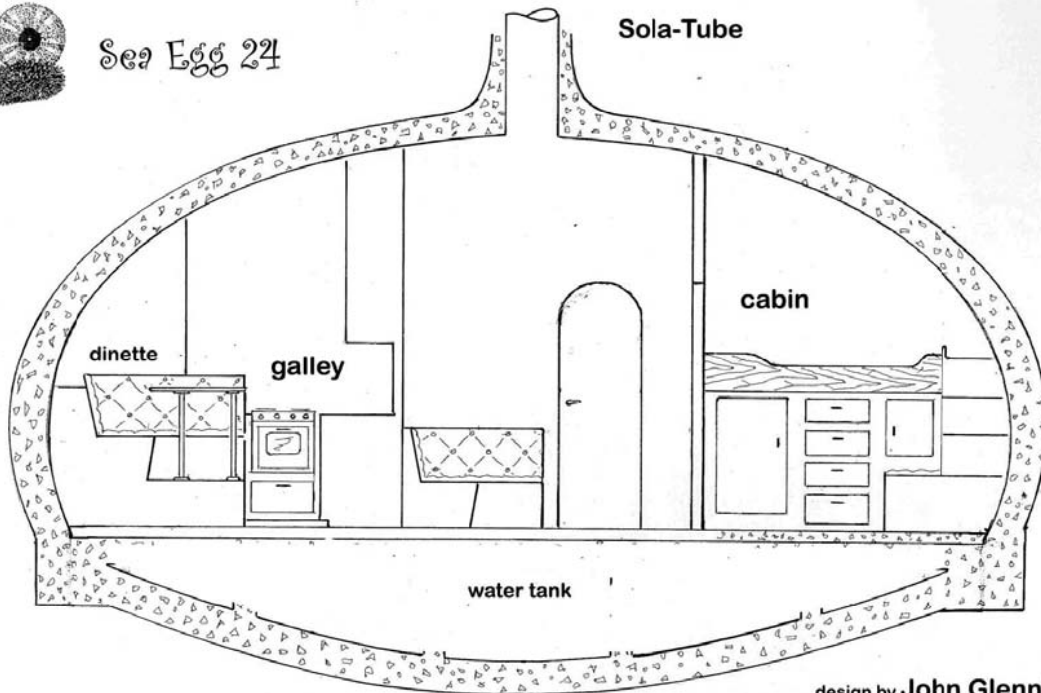


Throne room in the entrance tunnel

The berths are 4 ft high with drawers and hanging lockers under.
The 4,700 gallon water tank is built in under the floor.
A Solatube brings in light, enough to comfortably read by.
On a cloudy day and the sun comes out from behind a cloud you would swear
someone had turned the light on.



Sea Egg 24



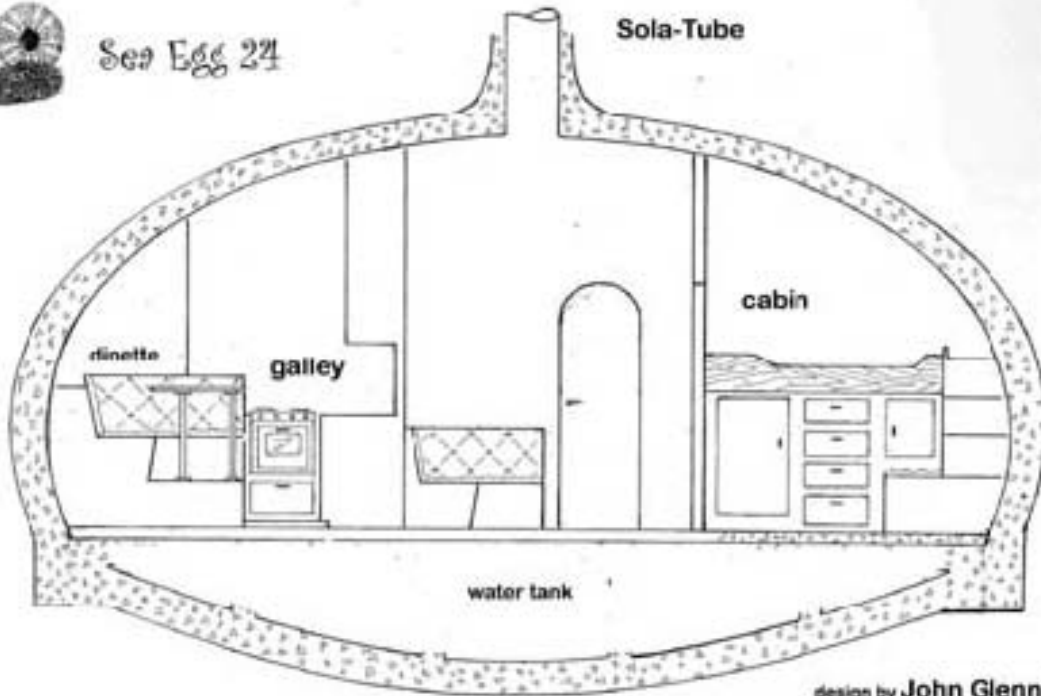
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The shell being plastered up. The marine door is seen at the end of the entrance tunnel



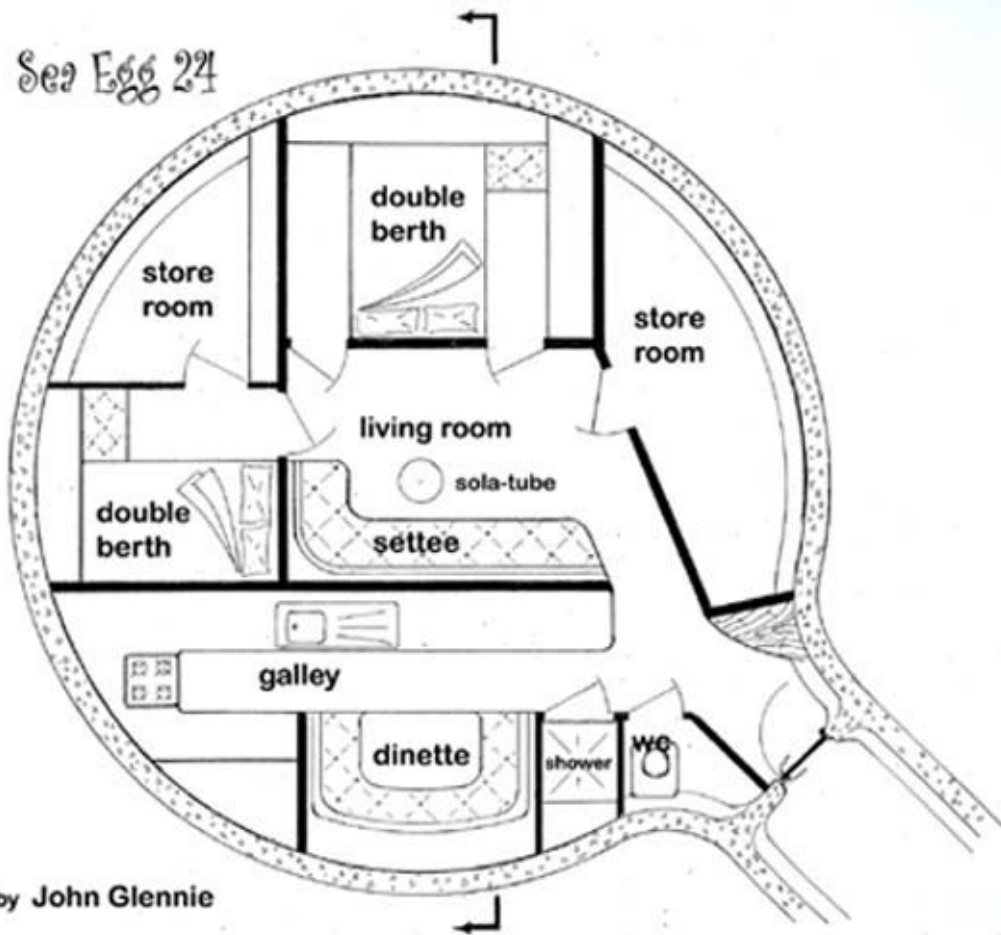
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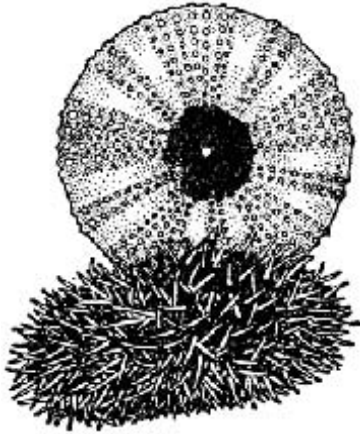
design by John Glennie



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The Sea Egg, Sea Urchin (*Evechinus chloroticus*) commercially harvested and considered a delicacy by Māori and known as Kina.

I have drawn the plans so that almost anyone can build it.

I realized that when I showed people the plan, ‘you know, the layout looking down’ I would say, they would squint their eyes and turn their head sideways and say “How?”

So I have drawn up perspective detail drawings to make it clear and I have included photos in the step by step building instructions, as well as a CD of photos.

If by chance you do get into trouble you can always email me.

Is it strong enough? It’s the shape that gives the Sea Egg its inherent strength of compound curves with two layers of rebar encased in concrete.

This double layer of rebar at 12 inch centers gives the structure a Faraday cage effect.

Use an RV (motor home) type toilet that sits over the septic tank and can be flushed with a little washing up water.

Develop the Survivor attitude “I am going to survive this and do it in good shape”

Dream a great dream and look for the funny side of any adversity.

When you set off on an adventure, step out of the predictable.

Be less concerned with looking foolish and more with having fun.

The very worst thing you can do on an adventure is nothing.

This one has all the hall marks of the adventure of a lifetime. Don’t miss out on it.

The Sea Egg can be your time capsule to take you to that future.

See you there,

John Glennie

About the designer

John Glennie did his apprenticeship in the boatbuilding trade in New Zealand. Sailed the South Pacific with his brother David in their home built trimaran “Highlight” for 7 years, selling it in LA to come back to Sydney to build a trimaran each of John’s own design. On a cruise from Blenheim, NZ to Tonga in ’89 John’s yacht “Rose-Noelle” capsized in a 60 ft vertical wall of water and he and his crew spent the next 4 months drifting upside down in the predominantly westerly winds and currents through the Roaring Forties in the middle of winter on what should have been a 5000 mile trip to Chile.

*The wind turned them around bringing them back to NZ.----- Four months later.
As the wind has never done that before in maritime history, a marine enquiry was set up and they were proven correct
in their story.
John chronicled the story in his book “The Spirit of Rose-Noelle’ 119 days adrift” by Penguin.
He holds the unofficial world record for the longest time adrift in a cold climate.*

