

The image shows a modern wooden house with a large, covered deck. A prominent, thick wooden pillar stands in the foreground, partially obscuring the view. The deck is made of dark wood and features large glass doors and windows. A swimming pool is visible in the lower right, reflecting the warm light. The background shows lush green trees under a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is warm and serene.

The New WOOD House

James Grayson Trulove



Because the ceiling is extended to the outside, the house appears to embrace the landscape.

GEOTHERMAL HOUSE

TRACKING THE SUN



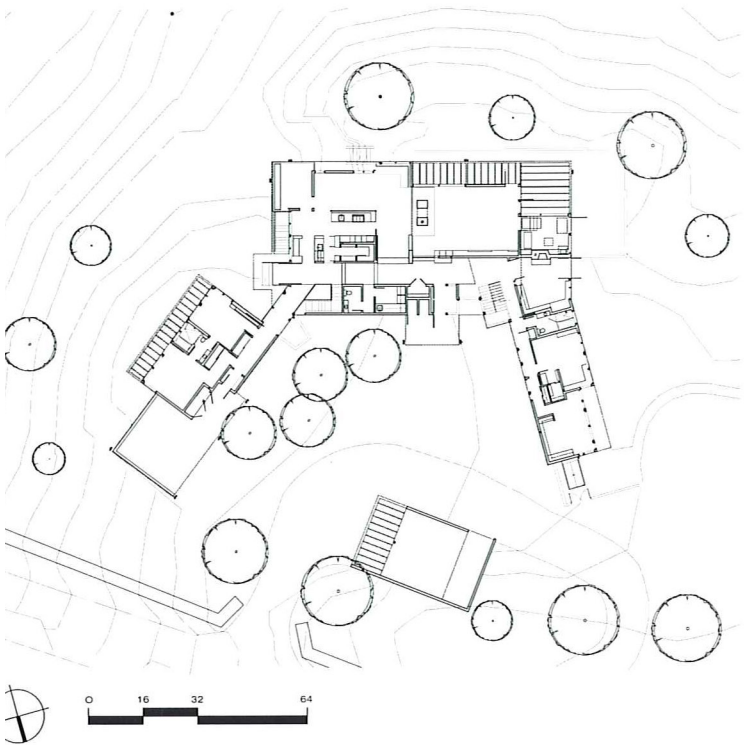
This house consists of a series of horizontal planes that terrace along the edge of a south-facing hillside above a small pond in New England. Its design is based on the utopian modernist concept of blurring the distinction between inside and outside spaces. From the entry courtyard, the low profile of the house and the selective openings through the facade engage the visitor in a lively game of hide-and-reveal with the views that lie beyond.

The house is positioned on the site to take advantage of the daily path of the sun. The kitchen faces east, while the living room and its terrace face west for views of the setting sun. All of the rooms were designed to receive light on two sides, and the combined living, dining, and kitchen area receives light on four sides, thanks to the careful positioning of a clerestory. Outside the living room and master bedroom, large overhanging western red cedar trellises modulate the intense summer sun and admit the winter sun. Inside, the horizontal planes of the floor and the roof extend past the large openings of glass, visually connecting the interior and the exterior. All of the rooms enjoy cross ventilation, and geothermal technology provides both heating and air conditioning.

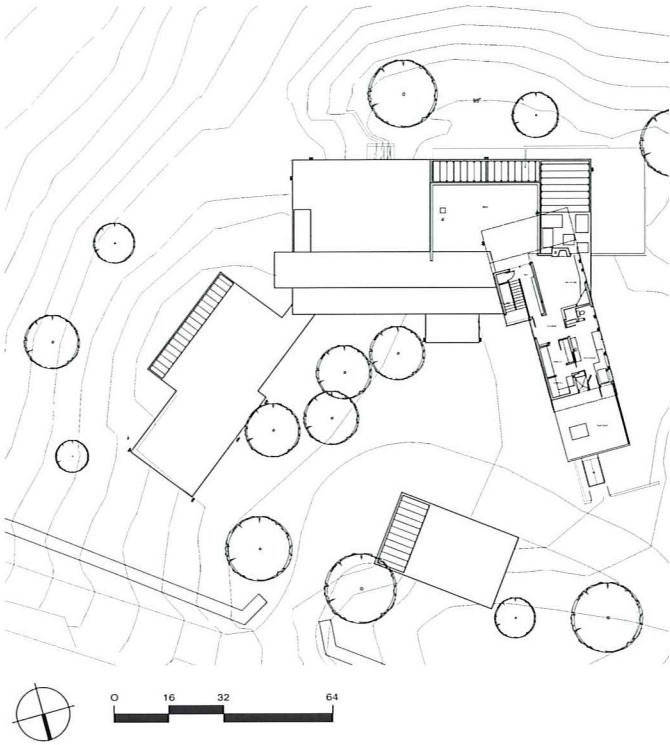
Western red cedar siding and Honduras mahogany were used on the exterior. Inside, the floors on the first level are reclaimed quarter-sawn white oak, and the second-level floors are Honduras mahogany.

ARCHITECT
Maryann Thompson Architects
PHOTOGRAPHER
Chuck Choi

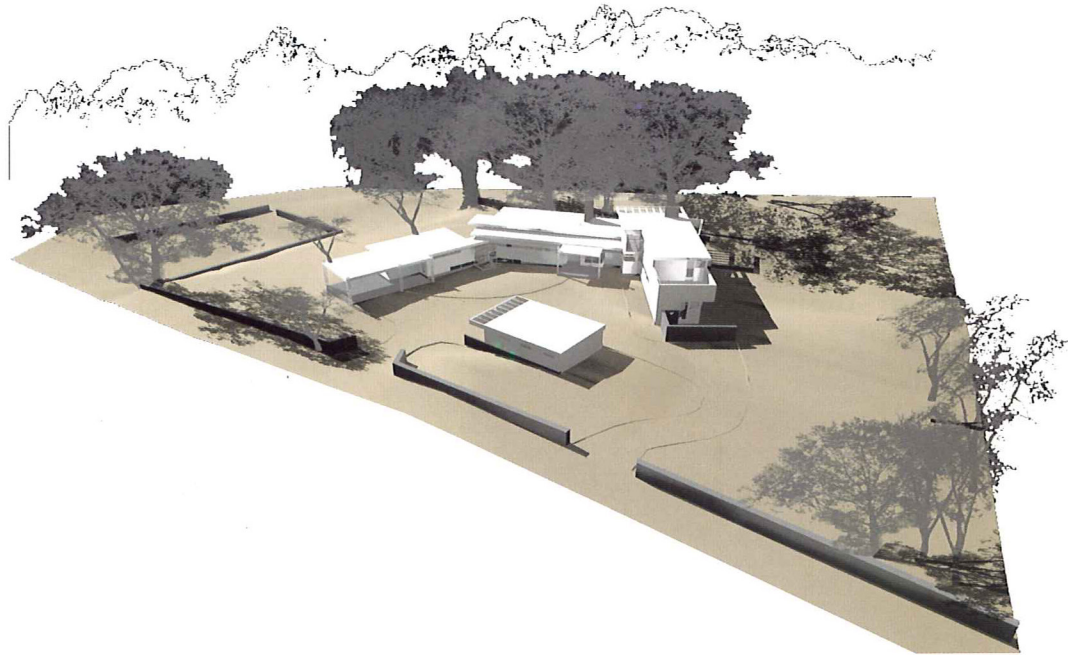
FIRST-FLOOR PLAN



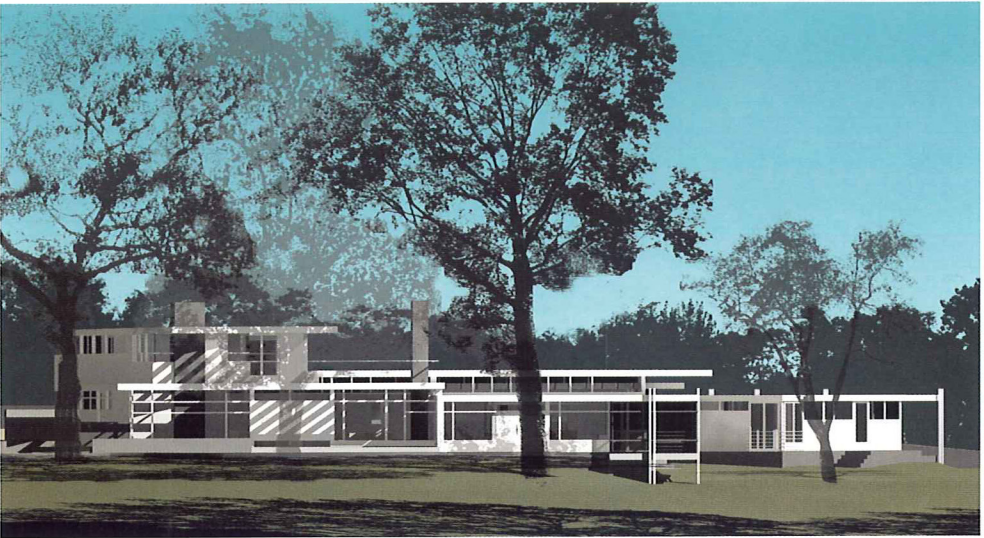
SECOND-FLOOR PLAN



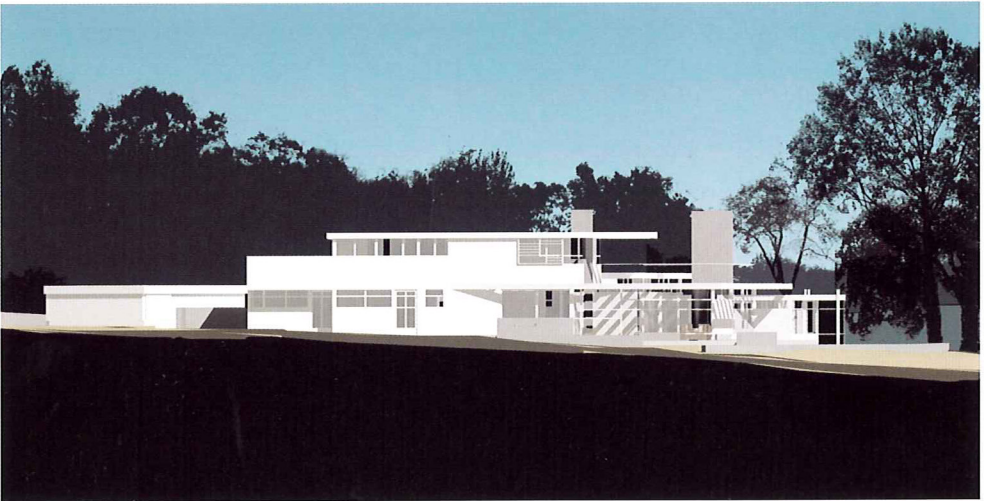
SITE PLAN



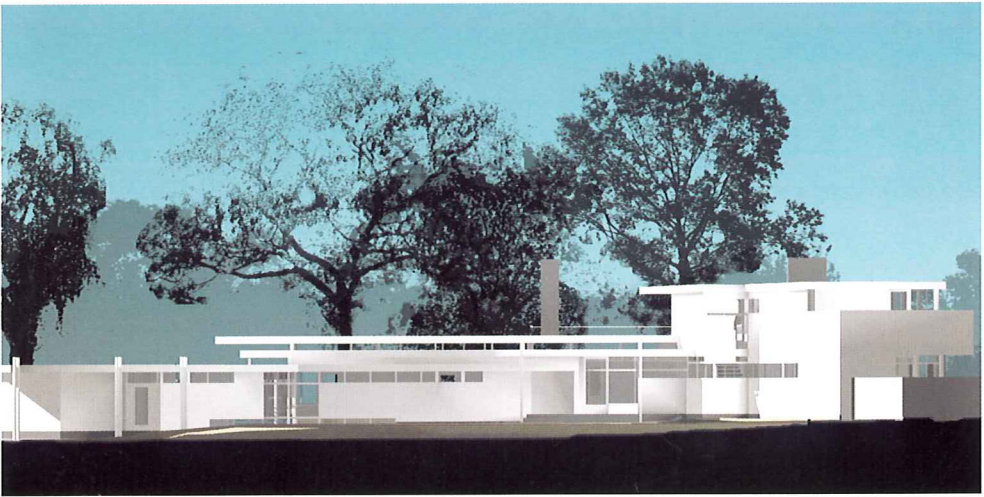
SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION





Vertical western red cedar siding visually adds height to the house's horizontal planes, which terrace down the hillside.

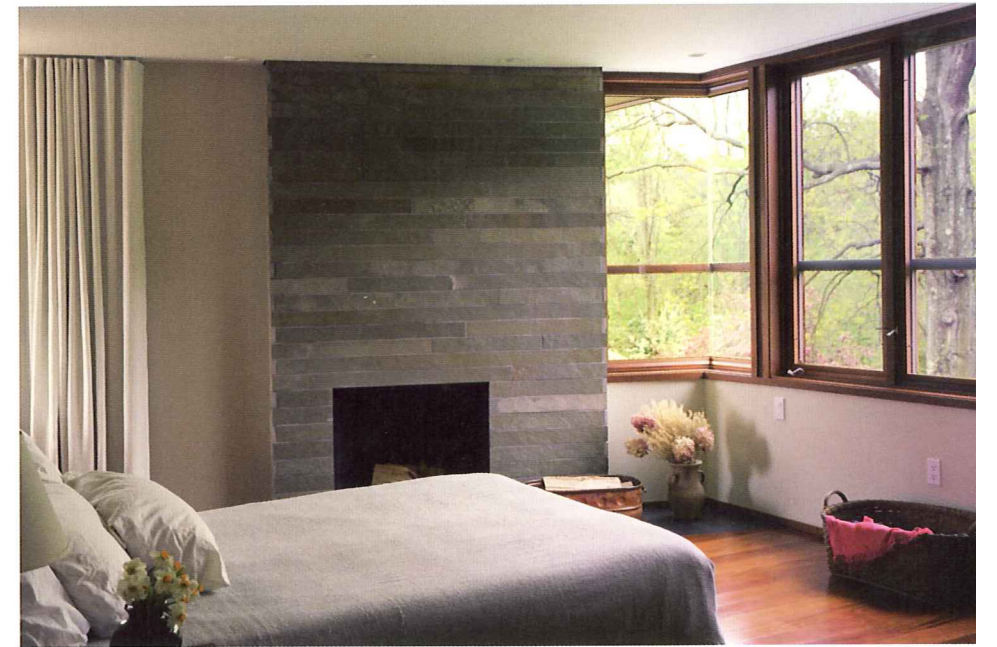


Clerestory windows bring light from four sides into the living and dining areas.

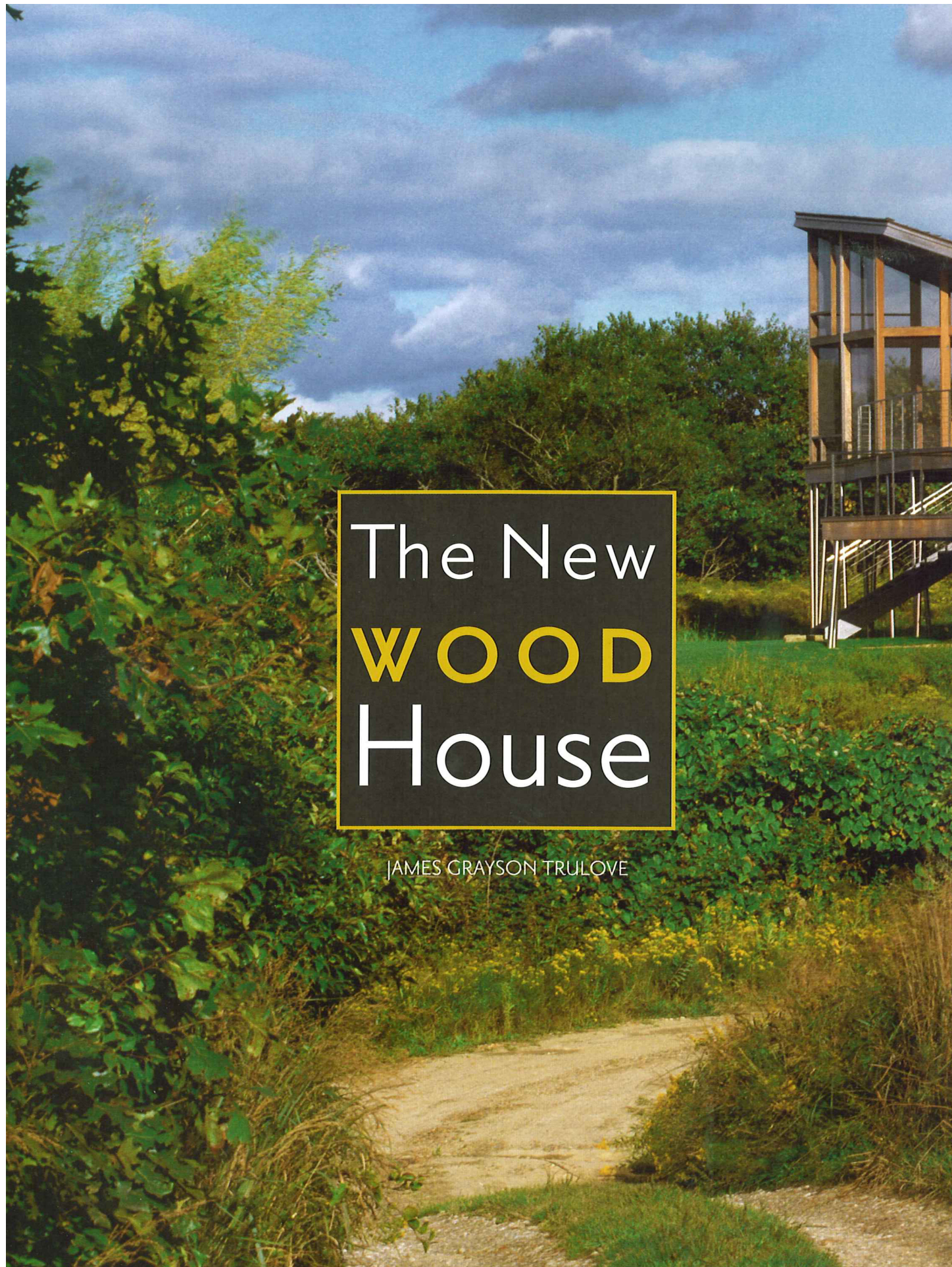




Inside, the materials palette is restrained, with Honduras mahogany used for all trim and gray slate for the bathroom tile and the fireplaces in the living-dining area and the master bedroom. All major rooms have a view of the pond.

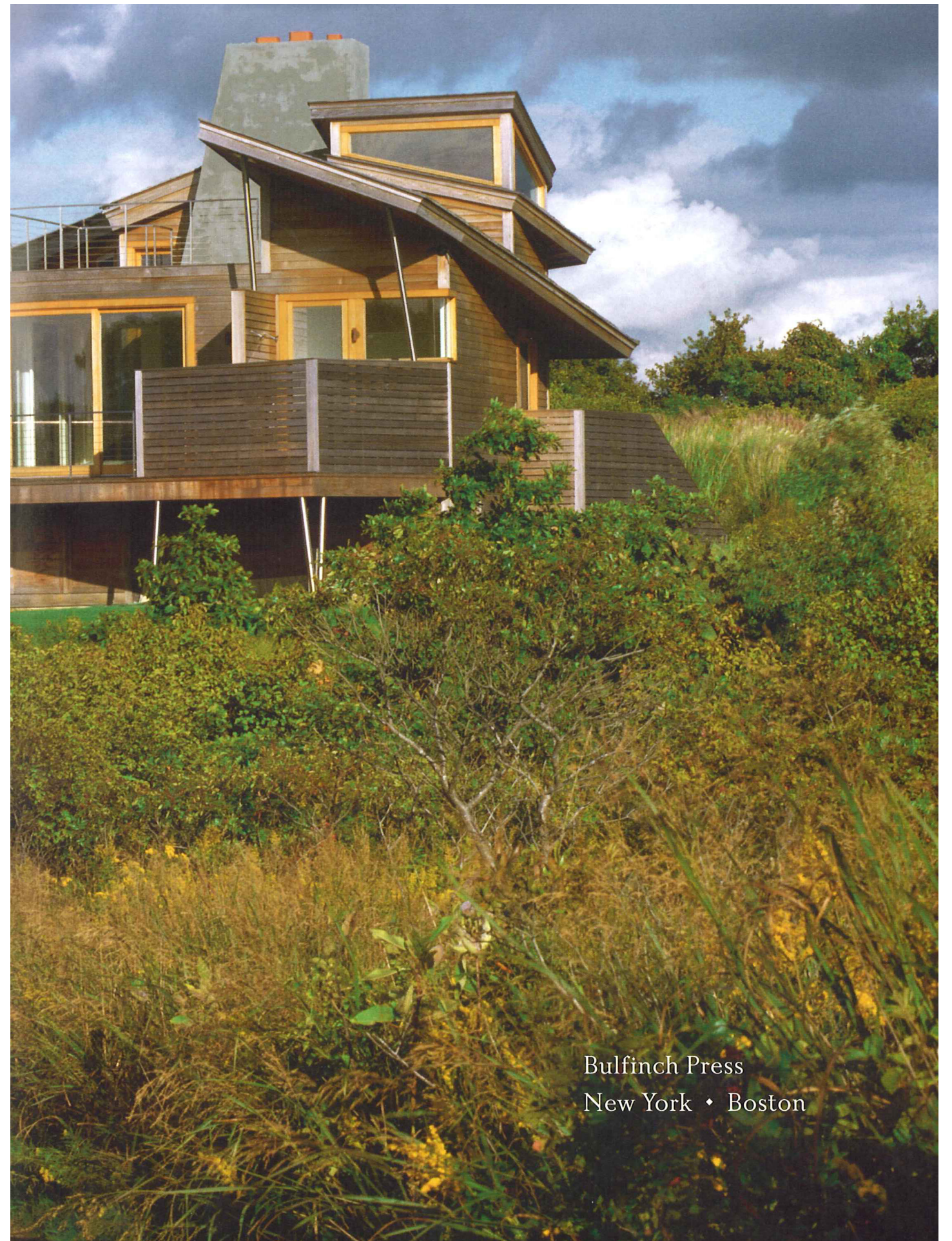






The New WOOD House

JAMES GRAYSON TRULOVE



Bulfinch Press
New York • Boston



The southern approach to the multilayered house is via a dirt entry drive that winds up the wooded slope. The house blocks the ocean view, first revealed inside from the elevated living room.

FALLEN LEAVES

LAYERS OF HORIZONTAL PLANES



This summerhouse is located on top of a broad and rolling hill on Martha’s Vineyard. It is a windswept site with ocean views to the north and a heavily trafficked road to the south. The design challenge, therefore, was to determine how best to bring light in from the south elevation while blocking out the noise and view of the road. The house is conceived as a series of horizontal planes inspired by the layering of fallen leaves present on the site. These layers play gently against one another, admitting cracks and fissures of south-facing light. A sloping glass roof overlaps the north wall of the house, and large sliding doors open onto the deck and the ocean. To the south, large clerestory windows flood the upper-level public rooms with light.

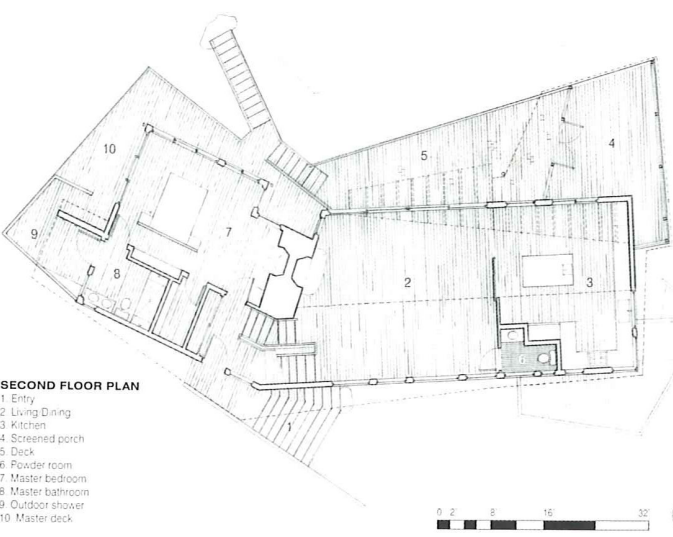
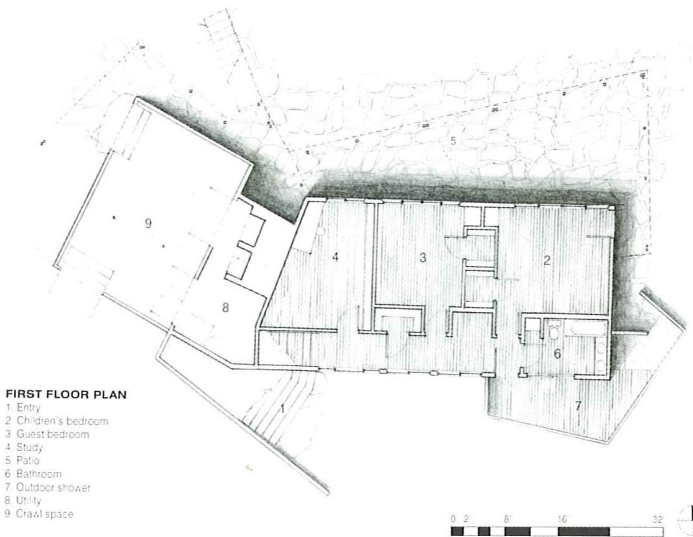
The entry to the house was planned so that the ocean views would be hidden until the visitor has entered the elevated living room. Guest bedrooms are on the ground floor and they open directly onto the beach. Ships’ prisms, like those found on the Vineyard’s old schooners, are embedded in the floorboards of the upper-level deck and light the stone patio off the bedrooms below.

The exterior is sheathed in horizontal western red cedar, and Alaskan yellow cedar was used to trim the windows and doors. Alaskan yellow cedar shingles cover the roof. The exterior decks were constructed of Honduras mahogany. Bamboo strip flooring with a natural finish was used inside, where the stair treads and landing are clear maple.

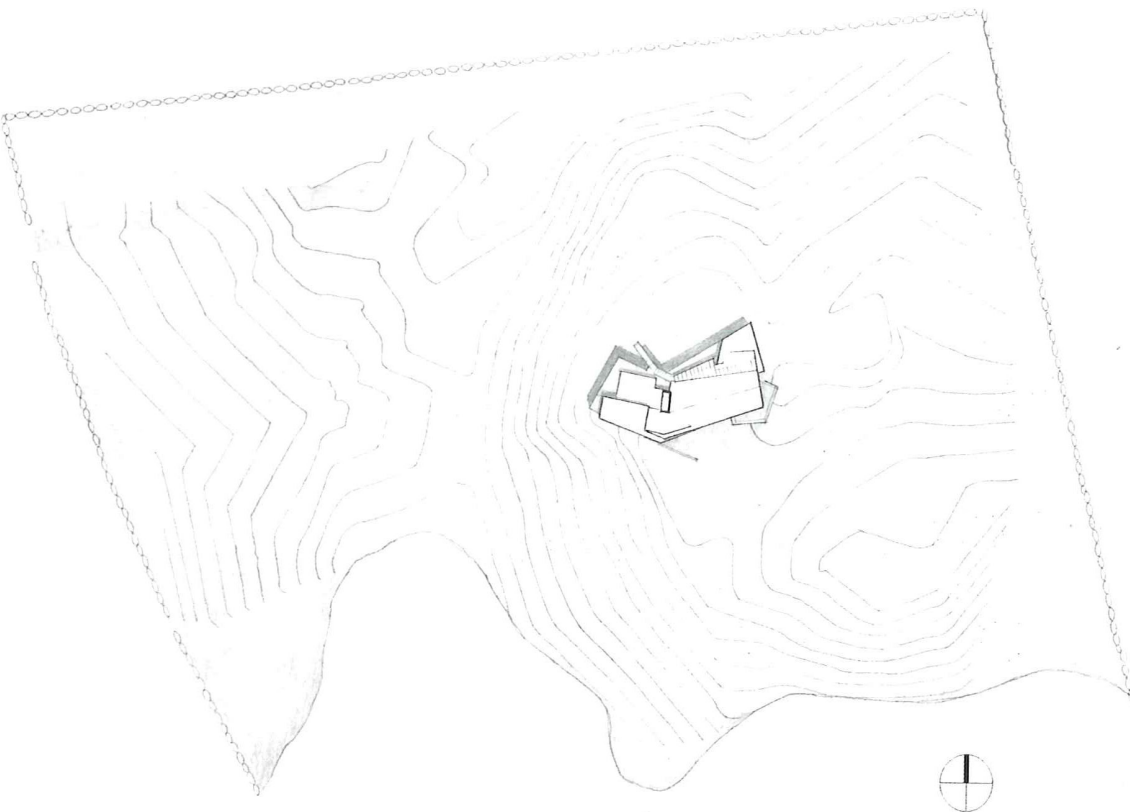
ARCHITECT
Maryann Thompson Architects
PHOTOGRAPHER
Chuck Choi

FIRST-FLOOR PLAN

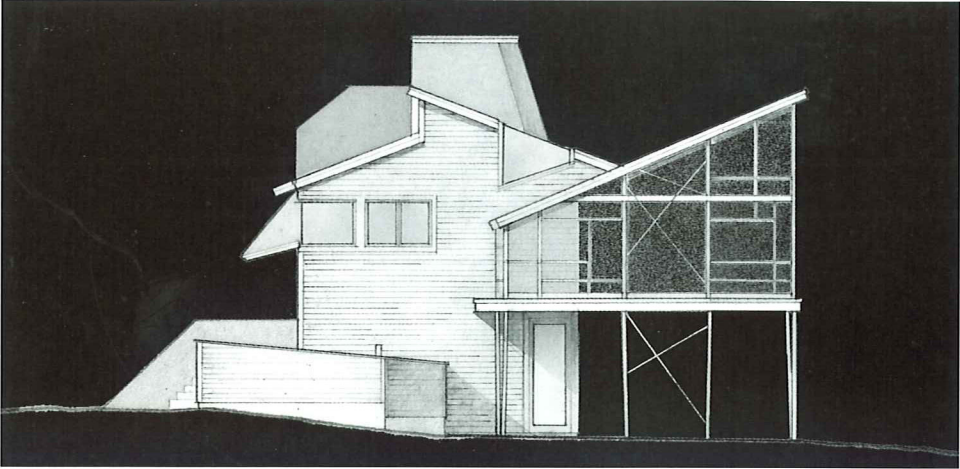
SECOND-FLOOR PLAN



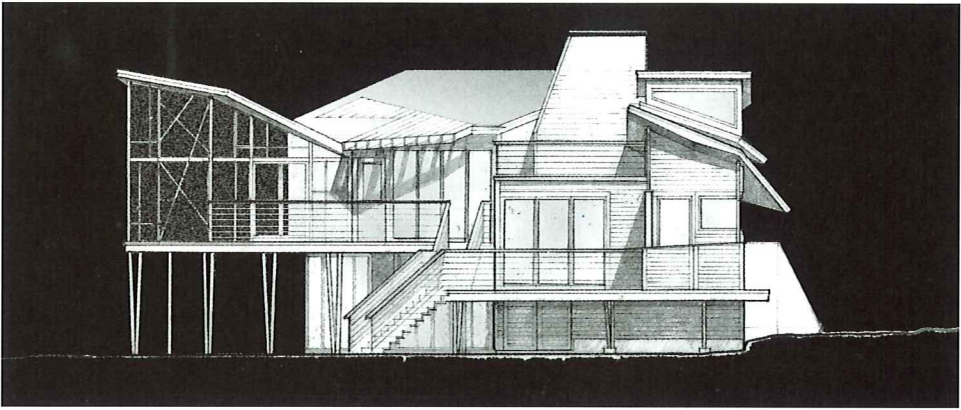
SITE PLAN



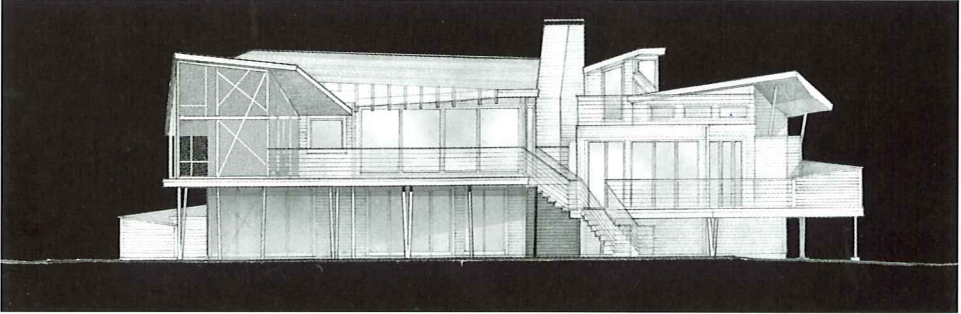
EAST ELEVATION



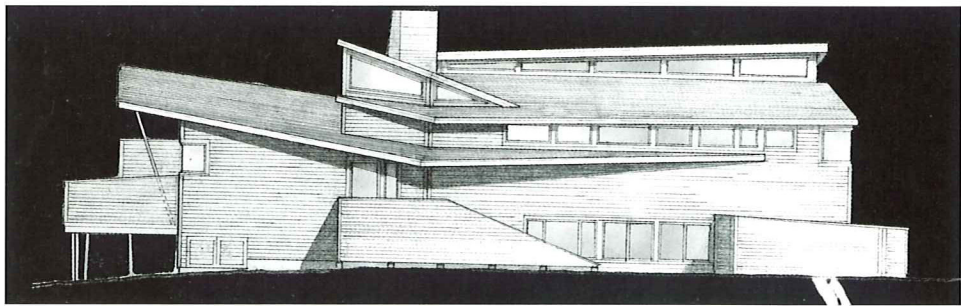
WEST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION





*A wall restricts the view from the entry stairs.
Carefully placed clerestory windows admit southern light,
and the north side features the ocean views.*





Guest bedrooms are located on the ground floor and open directly outside. Large sliding doors open onto the screened porch and deck.





A sloping glass roof over the living and dining areas brings additional light into the house. The floors are naturally finished bamboo.



*The glass roof continues into the kitchen area, where the cabinets are beech wood. Bathrooms are finished in slate and stone.
At 2,000 square feet, the house is modest in size but grand in its dominance of the hilltop site.*

