

THE NEW AMERICAN HOUSE 4

Innovations in Residential Design
and Construction

Edited by
JAMES GRAYSON TRULOVE
and **IL KIM**



Epstein Residence 2002
CHARLES ROSE ARCHITECTS

Owners: David and Betsy Epstein
Architect: Charles Rose Architects (formerly Thompson and Rose Architects Inc.), Somerville, Massachusetts
Design Team: Charles Rose (design principal), Eric Robinson, Franco Ghilardi (project architects)
Landscape Architect: Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates Inc.
Engineers: Ocmulgee Associates Inc. (structural), Scofield, Barbini & Hoehn (survey and septic)
General Contractor: Hodson Steele Inc.
Photography: Chuck Choi Architectural Photography

Location: Chilmark, Massachusetts
Program: The plan has a small footprint and is organized with a central great room (kitchen, dining area, and living room) connecting a three-bedroom guest wing to the west and a master bedroom suite to the east.
Square Footage: 3200
Structural System: Combination steel frame and custom milled wood columns with infill wood framing system
Mechanical System: Forced air heating and cooling
Major Exterior Materials: Exposed poured-in-place concrete foundation, shiplap cedar siding, red copper roof, aluminum handrails, mahogany decking, natural stone, board formed concrete fireplace/chimney
Major Interior Materials: Quarter sawn maple, beech flooring, cedar, and slate
Furnishings and Storage: By owner
Doors and Hardware: Dynamic Architectural Doors and Windows, Schlage hardware
Windows: Dynamic Architectural Doors and Windows
Appliances and Equipment: Bosch
Cost: Withheld at owners' request

Site
The site is located within a rural, heavily wooded subdivision adjacent to extensive tracks of conservation land. The site affords partial views of Vineyard Sound to the north and slopes downward from north to south.

Design
The owners, a couple with two children, were very interested in harmonizing the architecture with its site. They desired a contemporary design, and while the primary use of the home will be during summer months, they also required that it be usable throughout the year. Due to the highly restrictive zoning laws and height limitations of Chilmark, the building was limited to a single story. The design solution is a house within the existing woods with a south-facing courtyard overlooking adjacent preservation land beyond existing stone walls.

The public aspect of this house is effectively without boundaries. Large expanses of operable glass windows and doors create a natural connection between interior and exterior. The large great room space, which includes the dining, living, and kitchen areas, is the main gathering place of the house. The owners wanted the ability to shut down the wing during the off-season and that wing and the master bedroom suite are separated, coming together at the great room. Decks, ter-



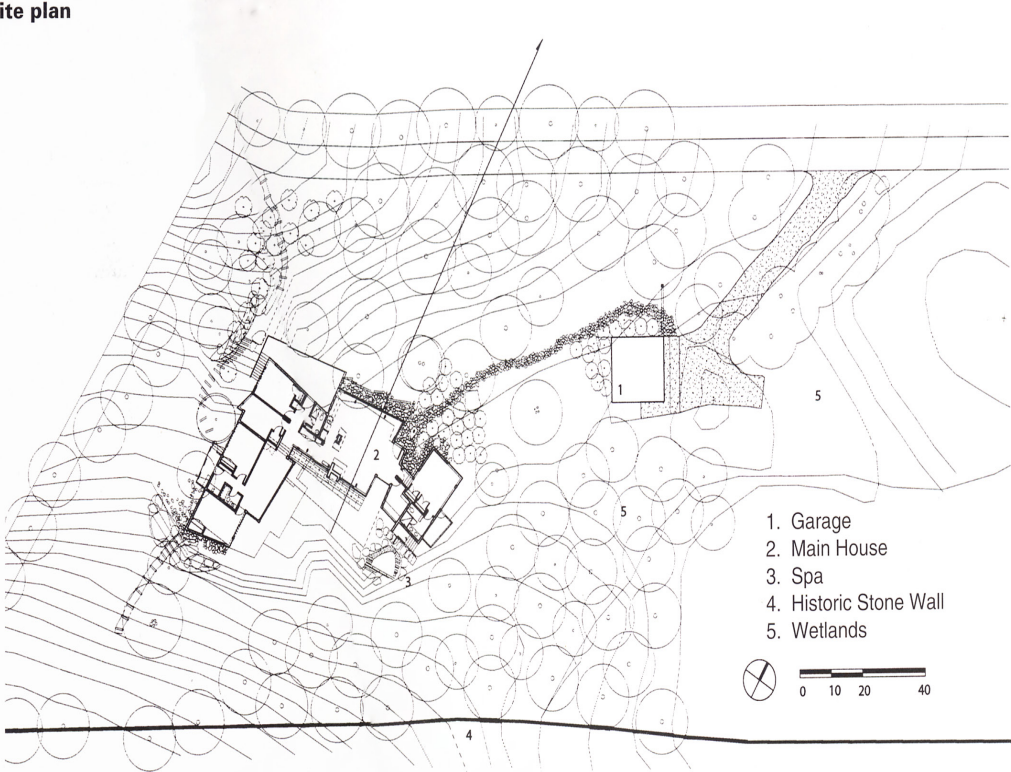
ABOVE: Entrance
FACING PAGE: South elevation



races, and a roof deck allow for circulation outside and on top of the building, providing views and connections to the ocean and natural forest.

Construction

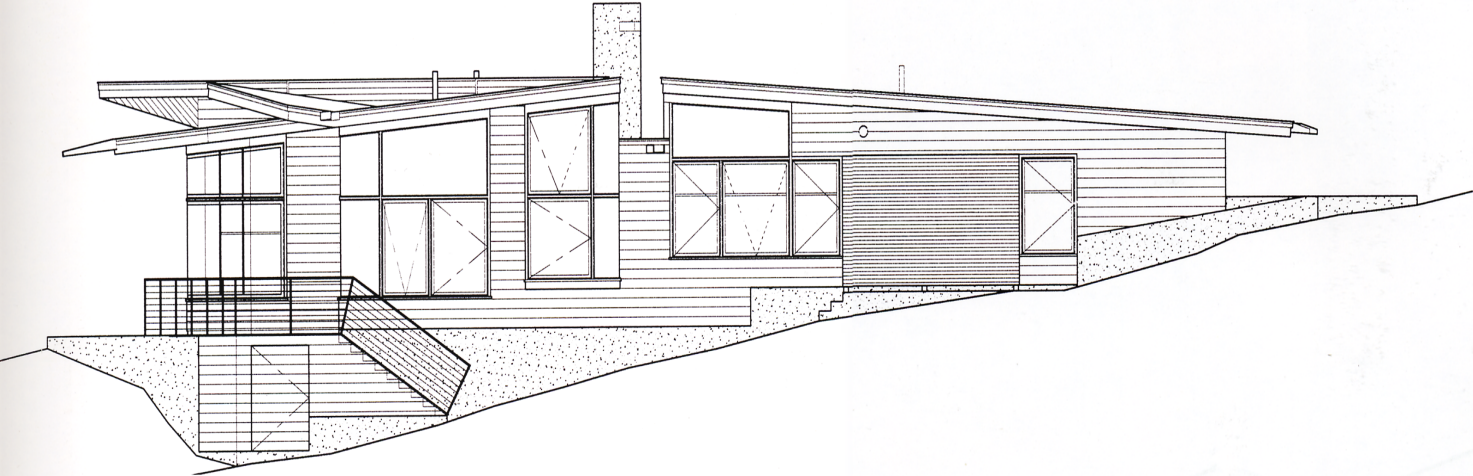
The building mass is broken into four pieces: the garage, which forms a gateway to the site from the northeast; the master bedroom and study; the great room; and the guest wing. The latter three volumes form a south-facing courtyard with a deck looking uphill to a stone wall and conservation land beyond. The house is warmed with passive solar design features. Carefully designed overhangs shade the house in summer, eliminating the need for air-conditioning.



BELOW: Garage details



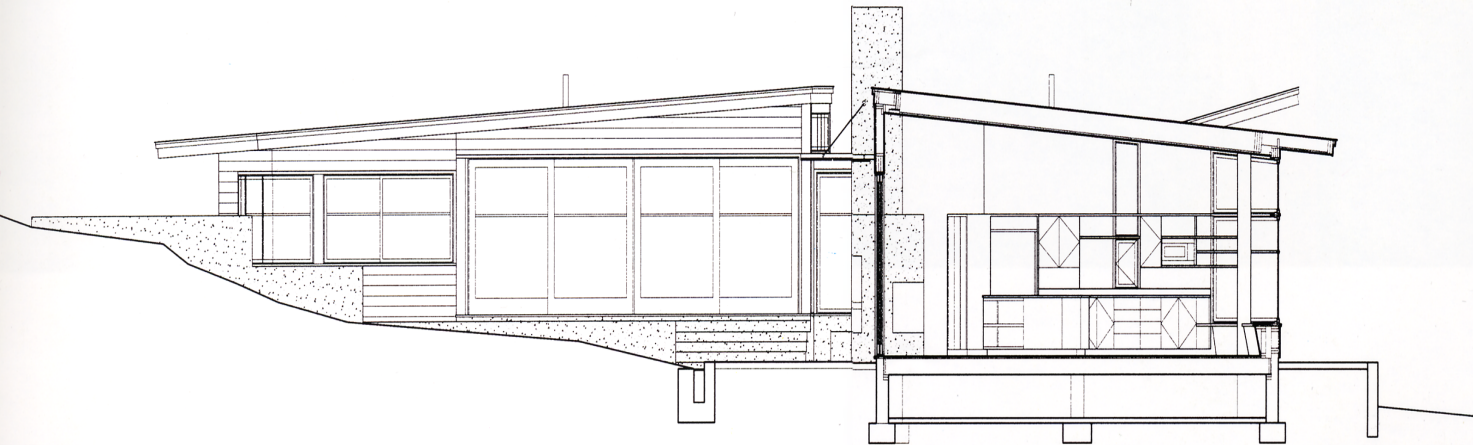
West elevation



North elevation



Section





ABOVE: Entry with view toward dining room
FACING PAGE: View across north elevation looking west





ABOVE AND FACING PAGE: View
of west elevation containing the
bedroom wing



ABOVE: Looking west across
deck/terrace to sunroom
FACING PAGE: View from sun-
room to deck/terrace



ABOVE: Sunroom
 FACING PAGE: View from kitchen
 and hall toward deck/terrace and
 sunroom



ABOVE: Great room fireplace
 ABOVE RIGHT: Kitchen
 RIGHT: Column detail
 FACING PAGE: View of kitchen
 from dining area