



RECORD HOUSES

1973 PLUS APARTMENTS
OF THE YEAR

THE EDITORS OF ARCHITECTURAL RECORD PRESENT THE 28 TREND-SETTING WINNERS OF ITS 1973 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR DESIGN



Norman McGrath photos

1 A cool secluded pond is the focus for this house in the Green Mountains of Vermont. Access by car is possible only at a level 35 feet above the water, and so the entrance is at the top and the house is a series of terraced rooms facing the view and arranged around a central stairway that steps down inexorably from the entrance to the pond below, and just before (for the less adventurous) to an open deck and swimming pool.

The site and the shape of the house are both similar to the year-round vacation house on the shores of Lake Michigan (page 90), but

here the architect has been ardently concerned with the careful ordering of rooms inside and their relation to each other, rather than with preparing a swooping profile to be enjoyed from outside. He, in fact, points out that "the house was meant to be lived in and on, and not to be viewed from across the pond."

Exigency as well as predilection controlled some of the decisions, too, for the house is made of standard 2 by 4 framing, with standard windows, doors, skylights, and commonly available sizes of plywood and sheetrock, installed

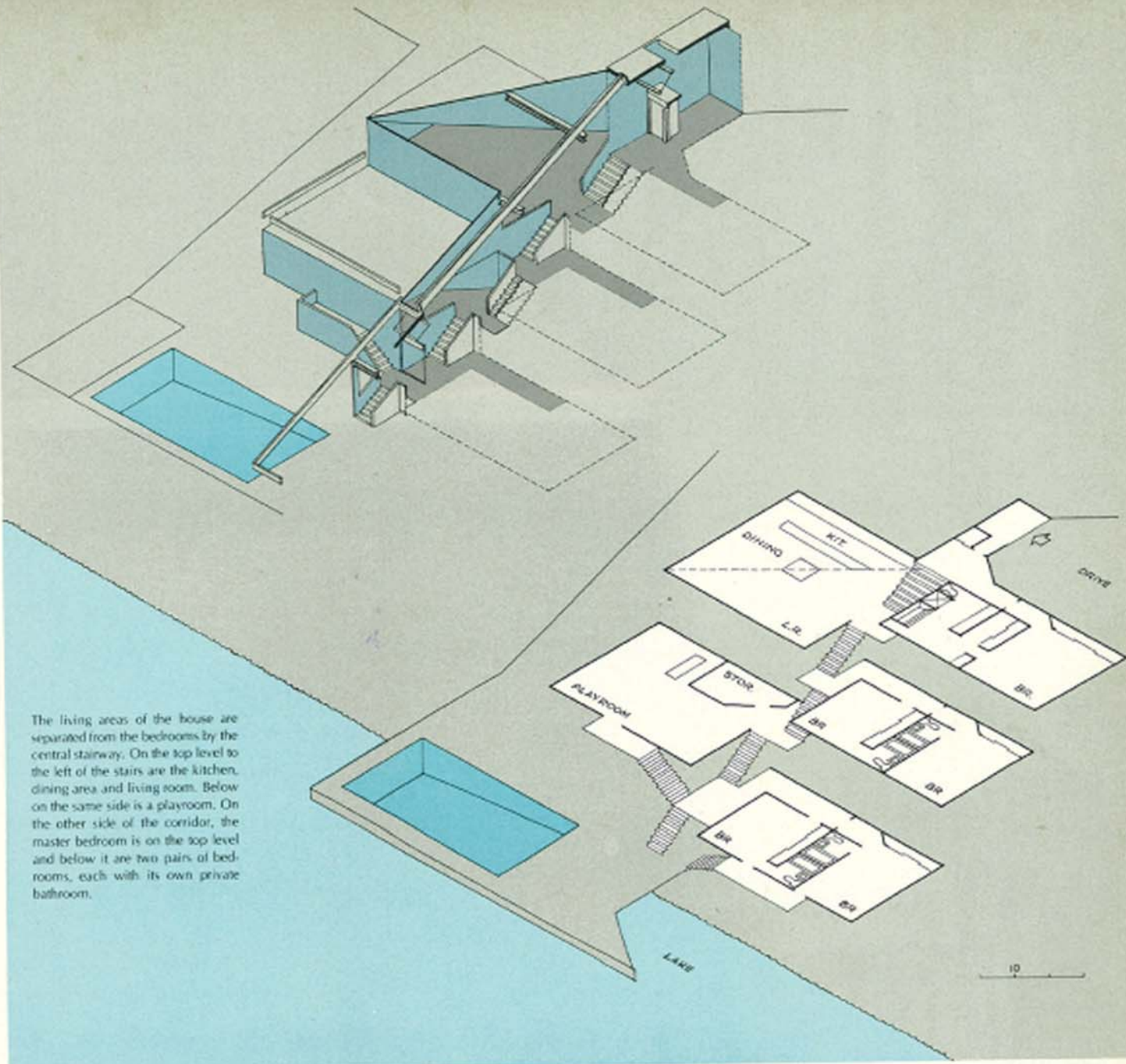
with a minimum of cutting. For all this good sense, though, the house makes a remarkable impression on the land.

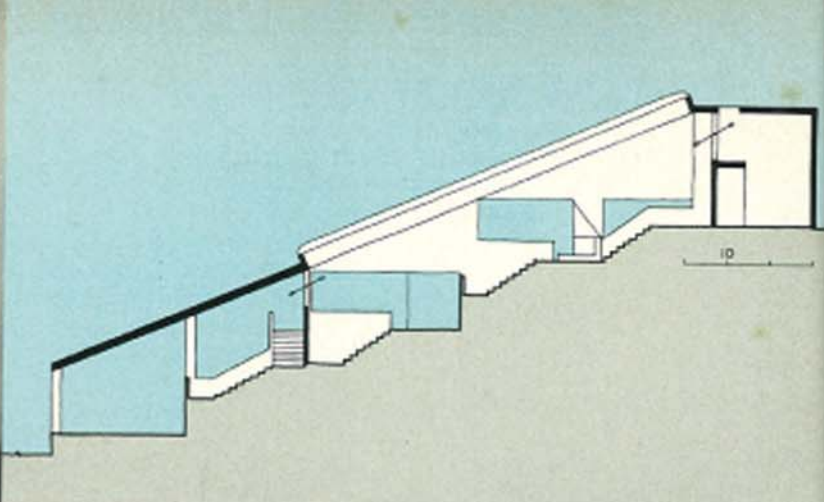
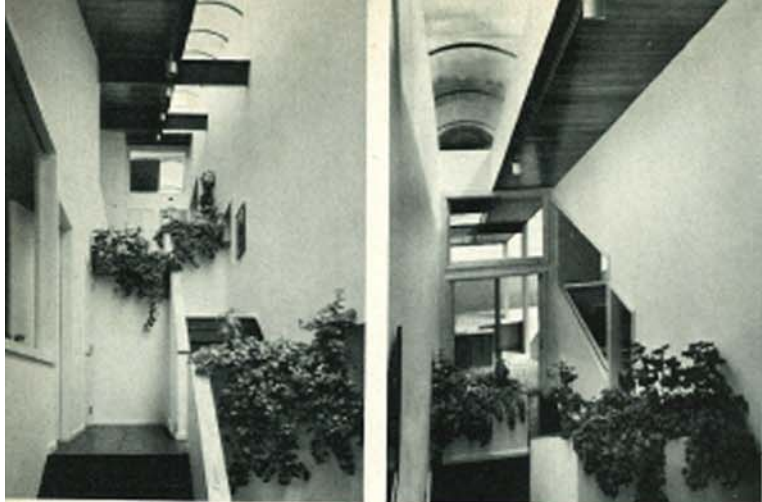
The architect points out that he was trying to put standard parts together in other than standard ways. This, admittedly, is not a unique intention today, as anything that veers even a single degree from the standard can skew the construction budget out of all recognition. Here, though, the attempt has worked: the house is not standard, and certainly doesn't look standard.

The long stairway, covered over by a 57-foot skylight, is a criti-

cal element among the special qualities of the house. From the outside, it helps bring the separate rooms together to make a single shape, and from the inside it performs a similar function. Flooded with sunlight, it allows movement up and down and across it, and even provides a place—an interior garden in the center of the house—for temporary repose; or for catching a passing glimpse of the sky or the water below.

Architect: PETER L. GLUCK. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. B. Bookstaver. Location: Westminster, Vermont.







Near the entrance at the top of the house, the stairway opens directly into the living room (left), which is also seen on the right and above. The long skylight above the stairs allows solar heat generated in this space to rise to the top and exit through a large pivot window, creating a chimney effect. Outside air is drawn into the house from below, resulting in a natural air-conditioning system.

