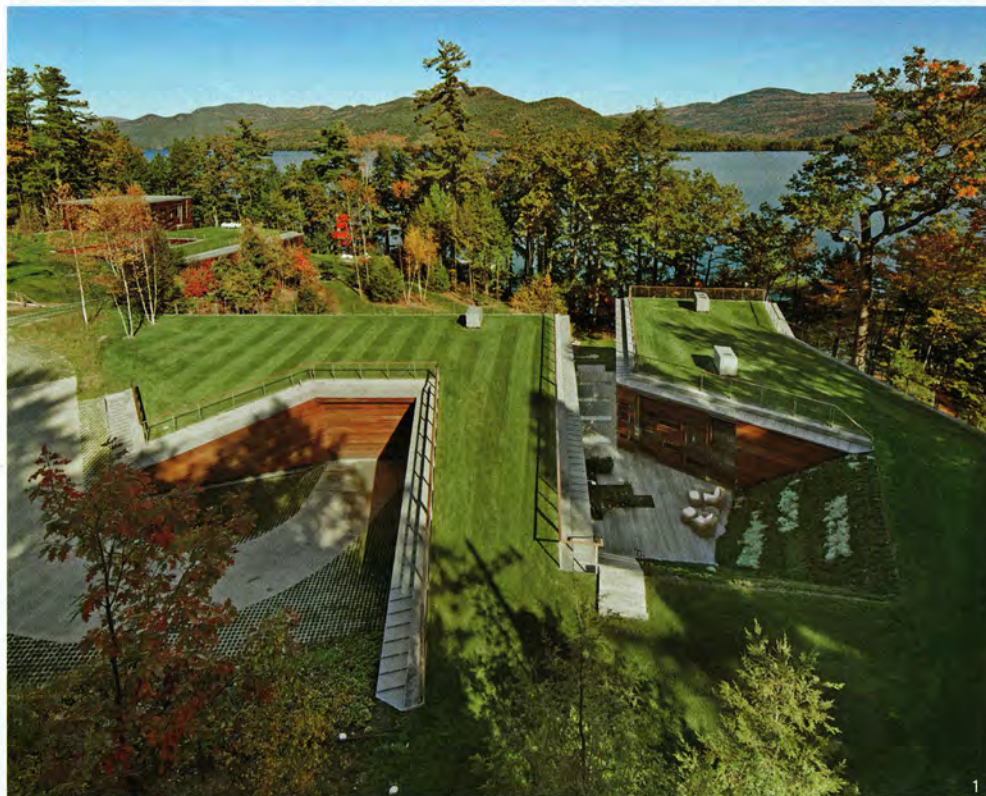


HOUSE OF THE MONTH **INGRID SPENCER**

PETER GLUCK AND PARTNERS' MODERN TAKE ON THE ADIRONDACK GREAT CAMP RESULTS IN TWO LANDFORM BUILDINGS.

SOME MINIMALIST architects boast that given enough money, they can make their architecture almost disappear. Although that claim seems to go against normal expectations about what so many architects really like to do, it often tempts those faced with a large program and a sensitive site.

Peter Gluck, for example, argues that creating an “experience” rather than building a visibly defined object should be an architect’s supreme goal. With his recently completed Lakeside Retreat in New York’s Adirondack Mountains, Gluck was able to prove his point—practically embedding in the earth 21,700 square feet of residential spaces for living and recreational uses. Conceptually and programmatically, the two buried buildings—a family house and a recreation building with an interior courtyard, amphitheater, gallery, and indoor pool—are essential pieces of a compound on a steeply sloped 21-acre site. The entire



grouping, with two guest houses and abundant walking trails, and culminating in a 2,200-square-foot boathouse and dock, fulfills the same purpose as the nearby Adirondack great camps that cropped up in the mid- to late 19th century. The difference here in designing this family getaway, says Gluck, is that this project is done “without recreating the specific iconography of that period.” Indeed, other than the use of local materials, the buildings share no

physical resemblance to their log-and-stone Swiss Chalet-style predecessors.

Visitors arrive first at a 4,800-square-foot gatehouse garage removed from the compound, where they swap vehicles for electric golf carts. Then they proceed along descending paths that lead to two 1,600-square-foot, one-bedroom guest houses—complete with small kitchens and composed of stacked and rotated boxlike volumes.

1. Gluck and his architect-led design-build firm ARCS Construction Services created the 10,600-square-foot submerged family house and the 11,100-square-foot recreation building by excavating 14,000 cubic feet of rock from the site.

2. Grass roofs on the submerged family house serve to absorb summer heat and add insulation to reduce heating and cooling loads.

3. Gluck’s work is heavily influenced by his time spent in Japan: The sunken outdoor courtyards invoke the Japanese concept of *engawa*, an extension of interior spaces outside.

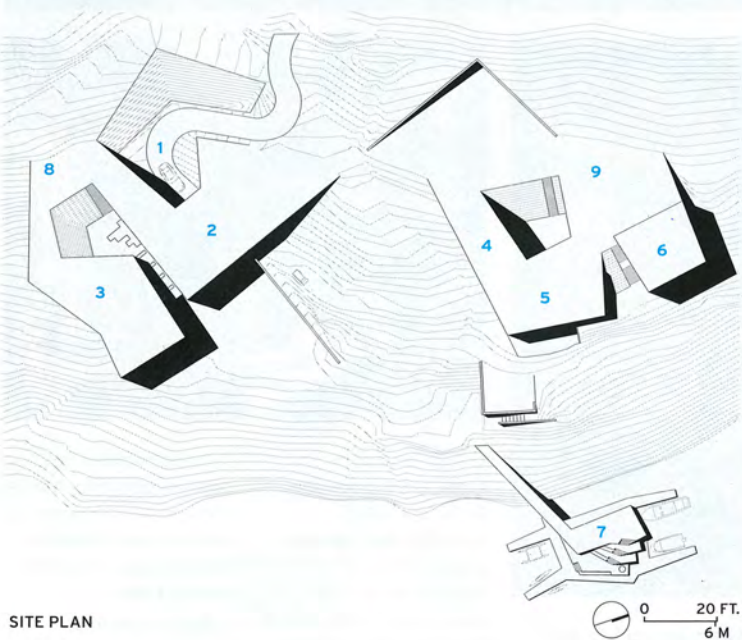


Heading on toward the lake, visitors catch glimpses of angular main buildings that appear and disappear in the topography of the sloping site. Foundations and floor slabs and walls are concrete with requisite waterproofing and underground drainage. By placing so much living and recreational space underground, the architect reduced energy loads with passive geothermal heating and cooling. Rainwater is retained via the green roof areas.

In the recreational building, dappled light from wood-screened windows and a skylight illuminate the lap pool. The family house with its master suite is more private, but it connects to nature with, for example, sleeping porches. "The entire project can be understood only by experiencing it sequentially," Gluck says. ■

LEFT: The recreation building features a lap pool, steam room, staff lounge, open living area, interior courtyard, and an art gallery that connects the various spaces up to a second-floor glass dining room.

BELOW: In the more private family house, solid western Douglas fir was used for stair treads, and flooring is locally quarried bluestone. Slatted Cambria wood screens shade all walls with views toward the lake in both buildings.



SITE PLAN

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 CAR ENTRANCE | 6 DINING/LOUNGE |
| 2 GARAGE | 7 BOATHOUSE |
| 3 MASTER BEDROOM SUITE | 8 FAMILY HOUSE |
| 4 HOUSE POOL | 9 RECREATIONAL BUILDING |
| 5 LIVING AREA | |

