



Airplane-hangar doors on the garage (left) and bifold shutters on bedroom windows (opposite) allow the clients and their guests to adjust the building's relationship to its surroundings. As he does with most of his projects, Gluck had his firm's construction division, AR/AC Architectural Construction Services, act as the general contractor.



## Peter Gluck builds an open-and-shut case for inventive design with the **Inverted Guest House**

By **Clifford A. Pearson**

**I**wanted to build a barn," says Richard Yulman, the client for the Inverted Guest House in Lake George, New York. "Just a country barn where we could park cars and put stuff in the winter." What started as a simple shed kind of project, though, became a 5,600-square-foot building that features a pair of two-bedroom guest apartments on either side of an eight-car garage. With its rugged-yet-elegant copper cladding and flat roofs, it looks like no barn. But its industrial materials capture the utilitarian spirit of rural buildings, and its large, folding doors connect it to the light and views of its wooded site.

The guest house/garage is the third in an ongoing series of projects that New York City-based architect Peter Gluck has designed for Yulman's 17-acre estate on Lake George. About nine years ago, Yulman, whose primary residence is in Florida, hired Gluck to renovate the property's main house as a summer retreat for his family. Then a few years later, he commissioned him to design a small boathouse on the lake. By the time he asked Gluck for "a barn," he and his architect had developed a

**Project:** *Inverted Guest House, Lake George, N.Y.*

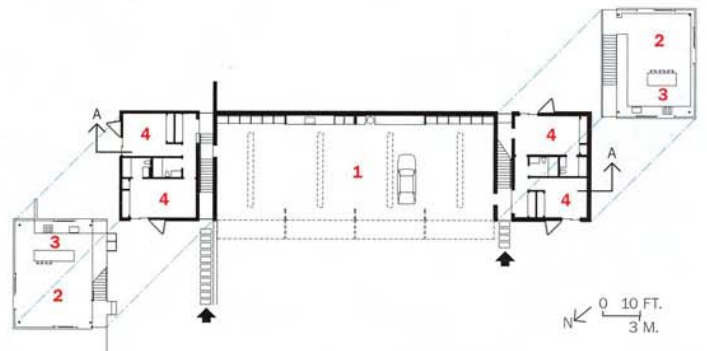
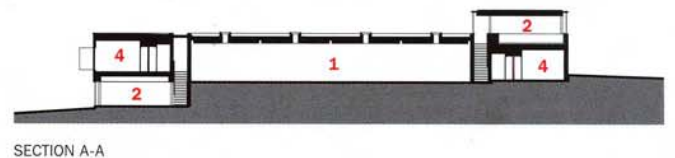
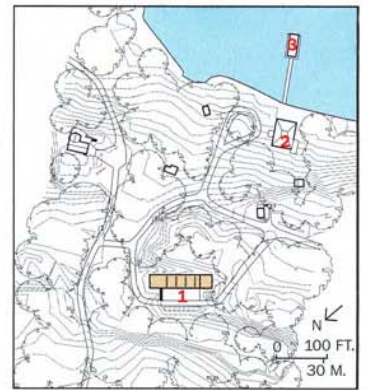
**Architect:** *Peter L. Gluck and Partners—Peter Gluck, principal; Jennifer Bloom Leone, Natalie Wigginton, Thomas Zoli, project team*

**Engineer:** *Robert Silman Associates (structural)*

**Interior designer:** *Holmes Newman and Associates*

**General contractor:** *AR/CS Architectural Construction Services*

1. *Inverted Guest House*
2. *Main house*
3. *Boat house*



1. *Parking/storage*
2. *Living*
3. *Kitchen/dining*
4. *Bedroom*



Gluck designed the guest units as inverted twins with a transparent living/dining space on the lower floor of one (left) and the top of the other (bottom). Each unit has its own set of stairs (below).



close relationship. So when Gluck proposed expanding the program to include quarters for guests and building it on an almost forgotten part of the property behind a small ridge, Yulman trusted him. Although Yulman had traditional tastes in architecture when he first bought the lakeside property and its early-20th-century house, he developed a more contemporary sensibility while working with Gluck. For the guest house/garage, he was ready for a Modern design.

Gluck selected the site because it offered a degree of separation from the main house, ensuring privacy for guests and keeping cars and equipment out of sight. Taking advantage of a 10-foot drop across the length of the lot, he designed a long bar building where one end pops up above the ground floor and the other slides down. The guest apartment that pops up has a glass-enclosed living/dining/kitchen space on the upper level and a pair of copper-clad bedrooms below, while its twin on the other side of the garage follows an inverted scheme.

Simple contrasts supply most of the design impact, creating an effective back-and-forth between opaque and transparent materials, open and closed elements, rooms with big views and those with small, framed ones. To set apart the guest quarters, Gluck inserted a vertical glass slot between each unit and the garage, creating a transparent reveal where guests enter and find metal stairs going either up or down to the main living space. Corrugated-copper walls in these entry/stair halls bring the exterior's dominant material inside and create a lovely, warm glow when the sun hits them. Interior finishes are as simple as those on the outside: mostly Douglas fir, white drywall, white artificial-stone counters, and a few touches of copper. As with most of Gluck's projects, his firm's construction division, AR/CS Architectural Construction Services, acted as general contractor, which reduced costs, says the architect.

Some guests might think that the unit with the upper-level living room offers the best place to hang out because it enjoys views to the main house and the lake. And, indeed, it has a graceful, light-filled quality to it. But the other unit has its own charms, offering a living/dining space that feels as if it is in the woods. Eat here and you think you're at a picnic (without having to worry about the rain ruining the fun). While the bedroom floors are wrapped in copper and read as opaque layers, each bedroom has a window with a large, bifold shutter that can be opened or closed by hand from the inside. Instead of big views and plenty of daylight, these windows establish a more intimate relationship with the outdoors. Sometimes less is more.

Four airplane-hangar doors on the eight-car garage act as a different kind of bifold device. Stabilized by vertical steel trusses (the only steel elements in an otherwise engineered-lumber-frame building), the garage doors operate individually and can stop in different positions. With all four open all the way, they can serve as a canopy—useful for when the clients empty the garage of its cars and convert it into an events space. You might not think of partying in a garage, but Gluck's manipulation of openness and enclosure, light and shadow make this possible here. ■

**ONLINE:** To see a complete list of sources, and to rate this project, go to [architecturalrecord.com/residential/](http://architecturalrecord.com/residential/). Submit your residential project to [construction.com/community/gallerylist.aspx](http://construction.com/community/gallerylist.aspx).

#### Sources

**Wood windows:** Kolbe & Kolbe  
**Aluminum window sliders:** Arcadia  
**Aluminum skylights in garage:** Custom by Peter Gluck and Partners  
**Bifold garage doors:** Scheiss  
**Locksets:** Modric and FSB

**Cabinet hardware:** Häfele

**Countertops:** Corian

**Douglas-fir cabinetwork:** Custom by Peter Gluck and Partners

**Downlights:** Juno and Lightolier

**Exterior lights:** BK Lighting

**Light controls:** Lutron