

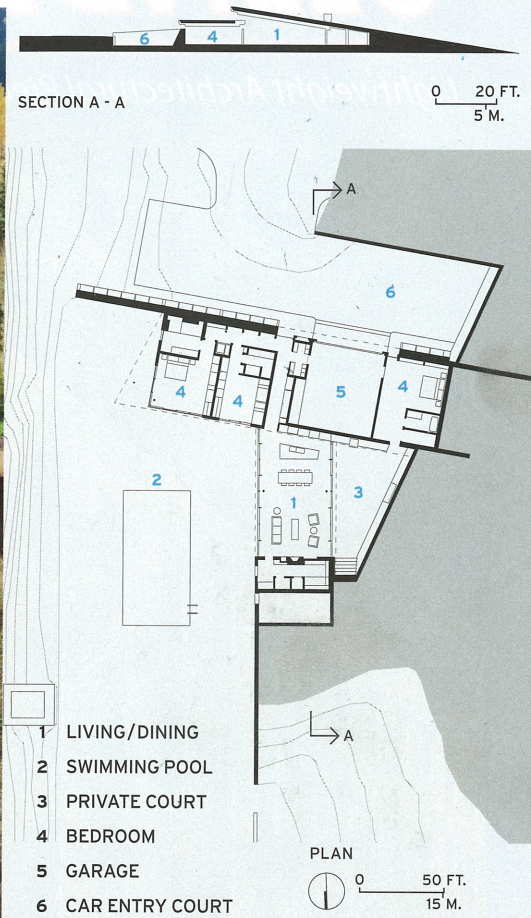
ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

An aerial photograph of a modern urban plaza. The plaza is paved with a complex pattern of large, rectangular tiles in various shades of white, grey, and brown, interspersed with smaller, square mosaic tiles. Several circular planters, some containing small trees and others empty, are scattered across the plaza. Large, mature cherry blossom trees with pink flowers are planted in circular and irregular shapes around the plaza. A few people are visible walking on the plaza. The overall scene is a blend of natural elements and modern architectural design.

Landscape and the City

perspective house of the month

GLUCK+ HAS PARTIALLY BURIED A HOUSE IN COLORADO TO PRESERVE THE VIEW AND SAVE ON ENERGY USE. BY SUZANNE STEPHENS



HOUSES EMBEDDED in the earth are becoming a specialty of Gluck+, the New York architect-led design-build firm formerly known as Peter Gluck and Partners. The reasons are compelling—the grass roofs reduce energy loads and their low profile doesn’t impinge on the natural landscape. In the case of a 2,850-square-foot guesthouse in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, the clients, for whom Gluck had designed a main house on the site in 2004, wanted a separate structure to be located on property to the south between a creek and an access road. But they didn’t want it to interfere with the splendid mountain vista they had from the main house. “So many views are destroyed by plunking buildings on top of the land,” says Gluck.

The architects configured the guesthouse as two rectilinear steel-framed bars that intersect; the primary one contains open living and dining spaces, with a roof gradually rising to the south at a 20-degree angle. The volume



seems to collide with and lift over a rectilinear structure running east-west on a diagonal, which contains three bedrooms and the garage. A wall of solar panels on the south elevation of the bedroom wing supplies heat for the house and swimming pool.

The living and dining areas, anchored by a bluestone fireplace wall on the north, open out through glazed doors

to the pool on the east and a private, sunken, triangular courtyard on the west. Cor-Ten clads the courtyard’s slanted retaining wall, into which an outdoor fireplace is carved. Just beneath the Cor-Ten fascia of the house’s roofs, clerestories frame panoramic views of the mountains. “It’s become more than a guesthouse,” says Gluck. “It’s a communal space for the family.” ■

From the main house (not shown), the owners see mostly planted roofs and the white oak rain-screen for the bedrooms (top). A terrazzo floor of quartz chips and black mortar (above) unites living and dining areas with the terraces outside.