

Architect:

Hays + Ewing Design Studio
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Owner:

Private Residence

Project Cost:

\$378,000

Square Footage:

2500 sf

Cost per Square Foot:

\$151.20/sf

Completion Date:

1999



Project Description:

The site is a place between; it feels both urbane (little more than a mile from downtown) and pastoral (the flood plains made it difficult for high-density development). We felt the design of the house should exploit the unique character of this place, acting as the bridge spanning between these two characteristics. To carry this concept further, the house is split in two parts with a bridge spanning over the entry court. The bridge both joins and separates spaces within the house; it is conceived as a place of transition and of connectivity between indoors and outdoors.

The house faces north onto the street, and the site slopes away to the south. We wanted to design a house that opens up the views and light to the south and provides shelter to the north. Arriving at an entry court, a large pivoting louvered gate provides the threshold through which one enters under the bridge framing the immediate landscape of gardens and a nineteenth century church beyond.

Green Features:

- Low VOC (volatile organic compound) paints, which are much less toxic than standard products;
- wood treated with ACQ (alkaline copper quaternary), which does not contain the arsenic or chromium found in most other treated lumber;
- SIPs (structural insulated panels), which provide excellent insulation and noise reduction;
- VAV (variable air volume) handlers, which work with the thermostat to control the amount of air that comes out, as well as its temperature.
- The remaining wood in the house was either certified, meaning it met forest preservation guidelines set forth by the Forest Stewardship Council, reclaimed from abandoned factories in New York, or it was local Virginia cypress, which is naturally resistant to rotting and required less money and fuel to transport.
- A living room with two stories of windows on the south-facing wall, which let in enormous amounts of light even on an overcast day.
- Strategically placed horizontal louvers, which allow sunshine in during the winter to provide heat (when the sun crosses the sky at a lower position), and blocks the sun in the summer (when the sun is high).



Project Consultants:

Landscape Architect

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Landscape Architects
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Structural Engineer

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Daylighting Consultant

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Energy Consultant

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- Runoff from the roof is routed into an underground channel that feeds a bed of irises, which filter out the toxins in the water.

