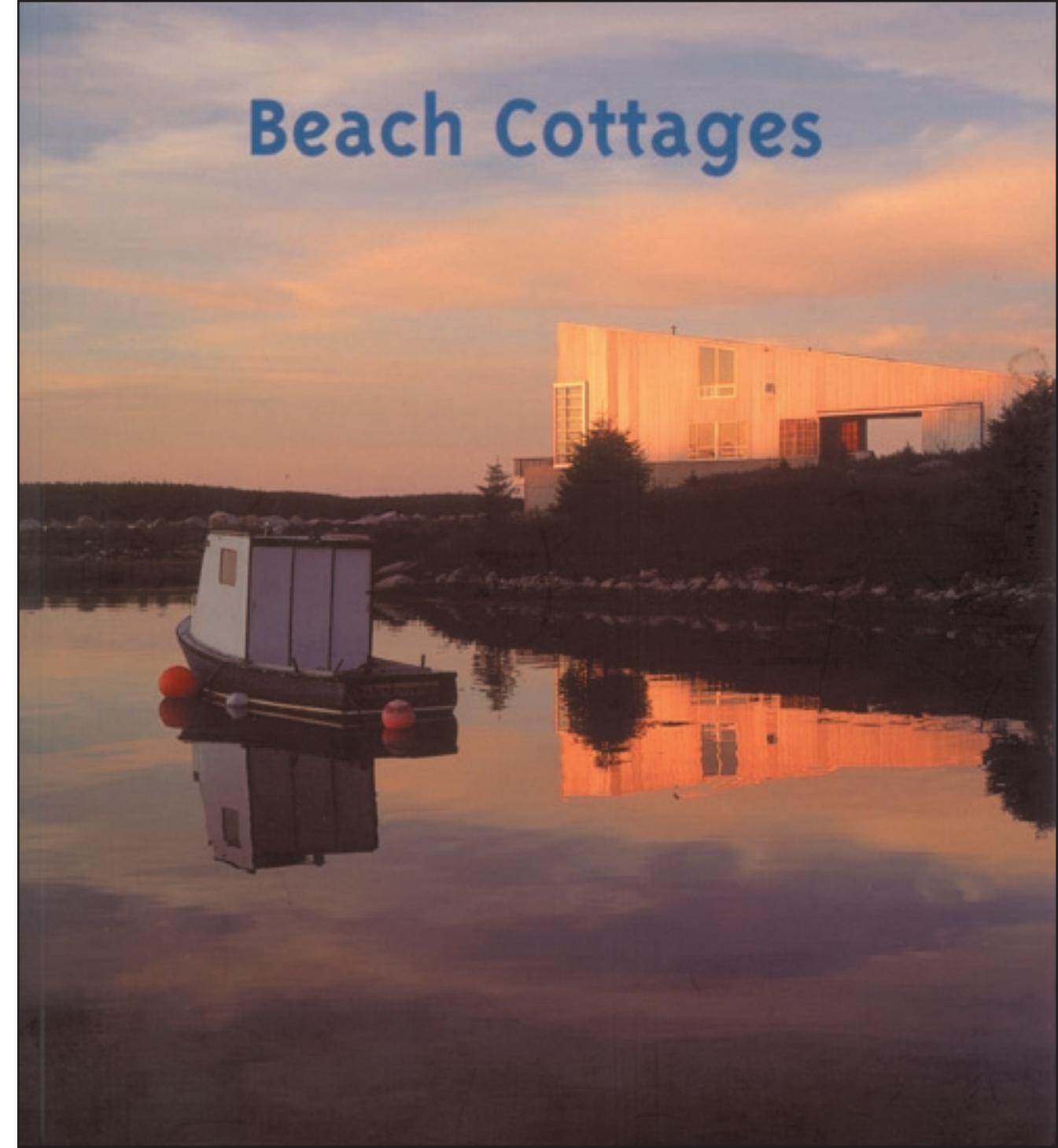


Beach Cottages





This summer house is located in a place known for the beauty of its rugged and natural landscape, on the southern part of Long Island in New York. While the setting includes magnificent beaches, it's also a zone of high density and urban development due to its proximity to big cities and its popularity as a recreational area. The topography is fragmented, like a series of folds, small dunes and shrub-like vegetation. The configuration of the landscape creates some nearby views, as if they were small gardens, in contrast to the open panorama of the ocean. The Berk Rauch project responds to this context by providing shelter and privacy from the immediate neighbors. The house also opens itself to the Atlantic on the southern part of the property.

The clients' needs inspired the architect to design a scheme of three different volumes, with equal hierarchy, that divide the activities: a wing for the parents, another for the children and a third with a living and family zone. In each module, the architect designed a unique, continual space with a close relationship to the exterior. The volumes' configuration in a rotary sense, like the drawing of a kite, creates an intense interaction between the blocks, yet permits them to have their own character and privacy. This scheme enhanced the relationship with the immediate environment by creat-

ing distinct visuals. The exterior space is shaped by terraces and by the volumes themselves.

In the interior, the structure and the exposed elements reflect the lightness of the construction. The columns and beams, in soft colors, reinforce the architect's intention to create a tranquil and fresh atmosphere. In contrast, the exterior part is covered with more solid materi-

als to protect the house against the abrasive effects of the wind, salt and sand. The walls are covered with cedar planks, while the roof features panels of corrugated concrete.

Architect: Stelle Architects

Contractors: Frederick Stelle, Walter Wilczek, Alexander Keller

Location: Sea View, Fire Island, United States

Surface: 4,000 square feet

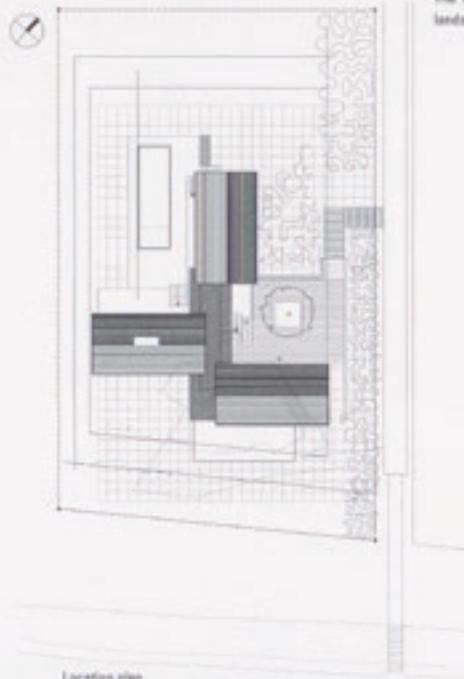
Date: 2000

Photographer: Jeff Readley

berk rauch residence

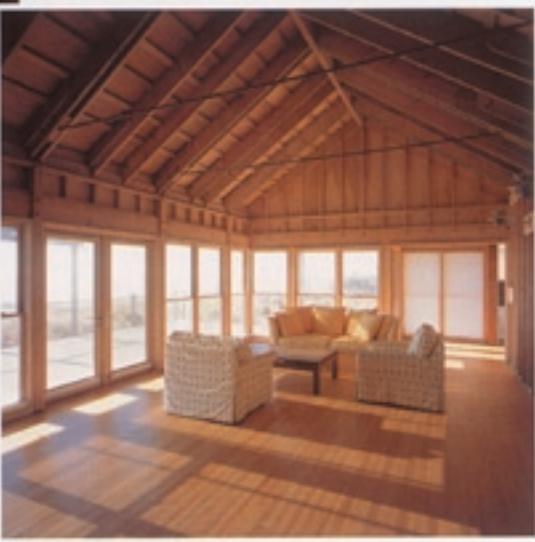
Stelle Architects





The wooden pillars that support the house also serve as a leveling system that places the building lightly above the landscape of dunes and rugged vegetation. This design also prevents the accumulation of sand in times of strong winds.





The service areas are treated with simplicity, emphasizing the house's relaxed and informal character. The kitchen, at the back of the living area, is integrated with the dining room. Both share a large table that has two levels.



This project started with an old house, of 214 square feet, that over time had become surrounded by much larger buildings with a greater presence in the landscape. In order to amplify the summer residence and make it appropriate for the needs of a larger family, the architect added on a 362-square-foot structure. The addition almost doubled the house's original size, yet the architect found inspiration for the project in the old house's light image and small scale.

The new structure, attached to the old one, provided more living and sleeping areas. The addition gave privacy to the different areas and maintained the ambience of a small house. The new building was designed to follow the same lines as the old, in terms of its layout, architecture and details. In an attempt to respect the original structure as much as possible, the architect built a transparent structure that serves as the entrance and as the nexus between the old part and the new. Its transparency contrasts with the solidity of the front facades in which only a few openings break the continuity of the plane, permitting a view of the sea across the entrance. The expansions between the different architectural elements reinforce the sensation of lightness. A series of piles in the front part and a wooden platform in the back raise the building off

Architect: Stelle Architects
Collaborators: Kate Evans, Frederick Stelle, Camry Bauer, Walter Baker, Yvonne Ohns, Gwynn Jordan, Jonathan Toler, Alan Kahn, Eleanor Donnelly
Location: Bridgehampton, United States
Surface: 1,265 square feet
Date: 2001
Photographer: Jeff Beasley

the ground. A linear window runs along the façade and separates the roof from the principal volume.

The program of activities also repeats the original scheme, but in a more linear, diaphanous and continual way. The scheme is longitudinal. After entering the house, the visitor finds the sequence of the kitchen, living room, bathroom and bedroom. Towards the view of the beach, a continual and transparent façade crosses all the spaces, creating the sensation of a unique and continual space. The

materials that the architect used agree with the environmental conditions. Most elements are typical of the coast and tolerant of the climate. The details of the principal elements feature painted cedar, stainless steel, the color mahogany, copper covered in lead and glass.

winer residence

Stelle Architects



The project, a basic, longitudinal volume, is set into the landscape with great subtlety. The addition also respects the original character of the house to which it is attached.

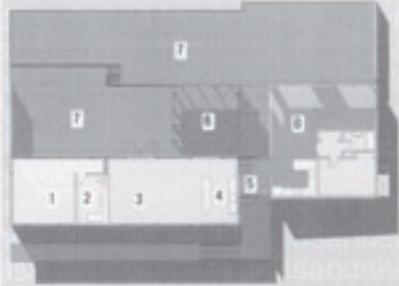


The new construction uses as a reference –in terms of formal language and structural system– the old house that occupied the lot and to which the new one is attached. The addition is lightly separated from the original building, yet the two are united by a wooden roof, which respects the existing architecture.



Location plan

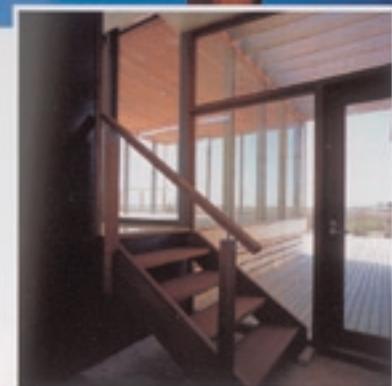


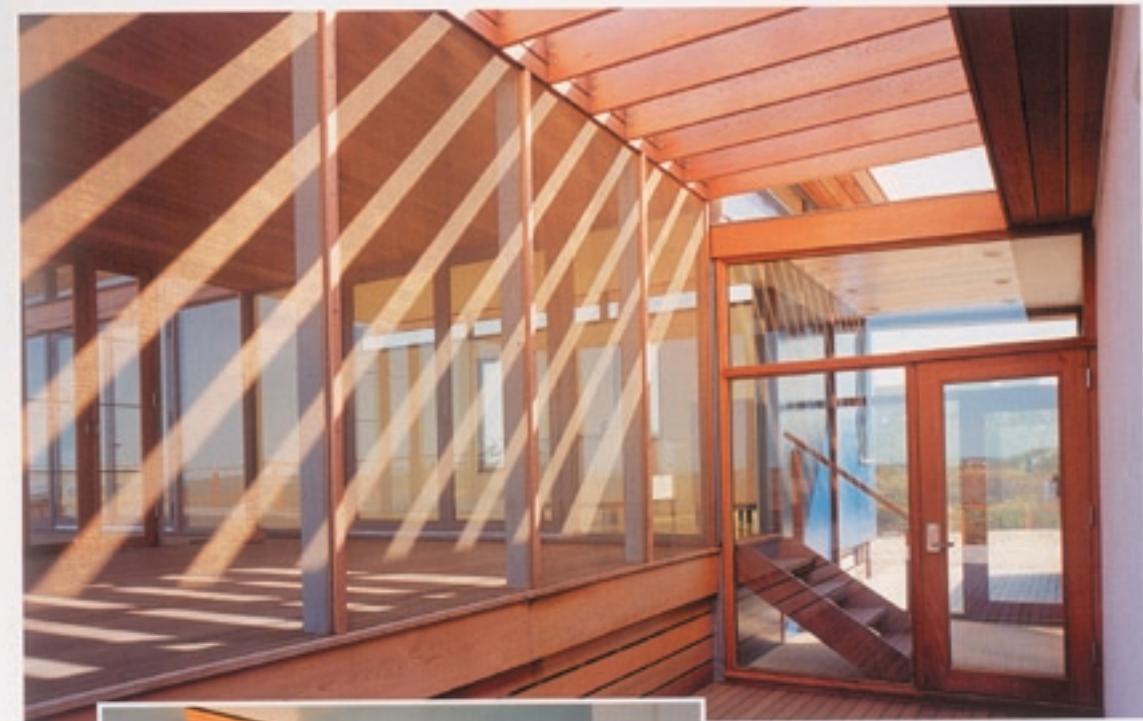


- 1. Bedroom
- 2. Bathroom
- 3. Living room/Dining room
- 4. Kitchen
- 5. Entrance
- 6. Corridor
- 7. Terrace
- 8. Original house

Plan

The continuous glass facade towards the northeast links the spaces of the new construction and relates them closely to the exterior terraces and gallery, which are like extensions of the interior. The view of the sea is the space's real boundary.





In the bathroom and in the kitchen, the furnishings and appliances are placed inside the space like loose objects, contributing to the continuity and cleanliness of the forms.