

Merle Thorpe Architects

presents

KILLERMONT HOUSE

An Award-winning Blue Ridge Aerie

Killermont House

and a number of our other projects

can be seen on our website:

MerleThorpeArchitects.com

Merle Thorpe brings over 25 years' experience as a practicing architect to his diverse projects. Recognized for excellence in custom residential design, his work has received numerous awards for distinctive residential architecture, including an Award for Excellence from the DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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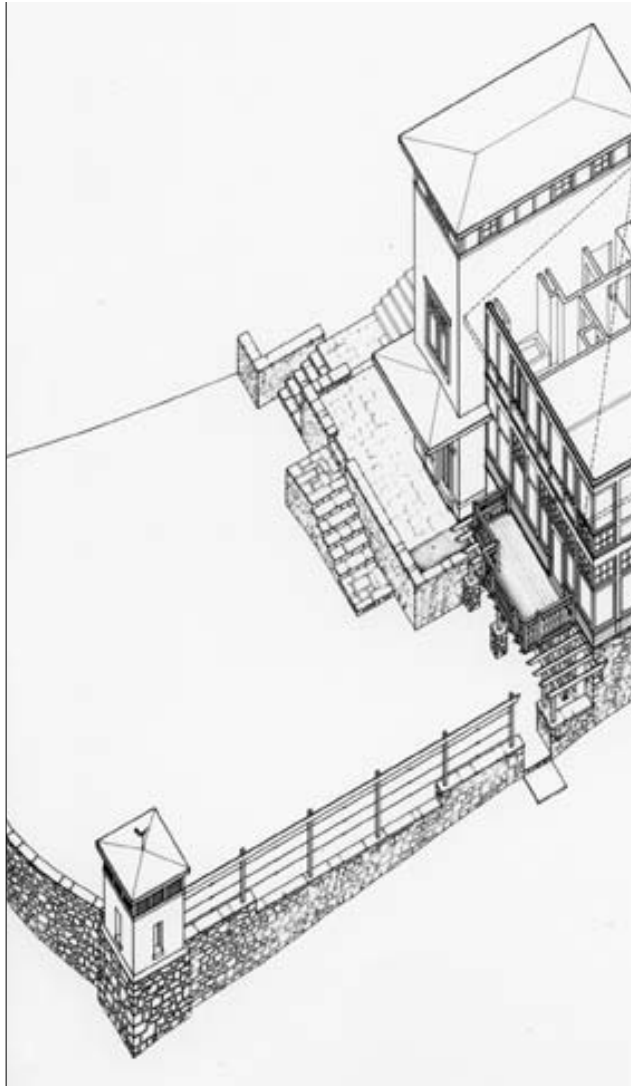


KILLERMONT HOUSE

An Award-winning Blue Ridge Aerie

Perched high in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Washington, Virginia, Killermont House accommodates the demands of a steep mountainous landscape while taking advantage of the panoramic views afforded by this rugged terrain. A modern amalgam of several architectural styles, the house reflects the eclectic tastes and possessions of a couple that spent much of their professional lives in Europe and Asia. In 1997, Killermont House received an Award for Distinctive Residential Architecture from the National Capital Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The scale of the clearing and the impingement of fast-growing second-growth woodlands further down the mountain slope suggested a house with an emphasis on height rather than breadth. The house, emerging from the contours of the slope, rises with the mountain rather than sprawls across it. Two tall stucco towers anchor the Killermont design, providing a visual counterpoint for the glass-enclosed wooden box which houses the home's principal living compartments.



THE STONE FOUNDATION REACHING INTO THE EARTH ANCHORS THE HOUSE.

RETAINING WALLS BUILT WITH LOCALLY QUARRIED FIELD-STONE FOLLOW THE CONTOURS OF THE HOUSE SITE, AND GRADUALLY RECEDE IN HEIGHT AS THEY REACH OUTWARD TOWARD THE SURROUNDING WOODLANDS.

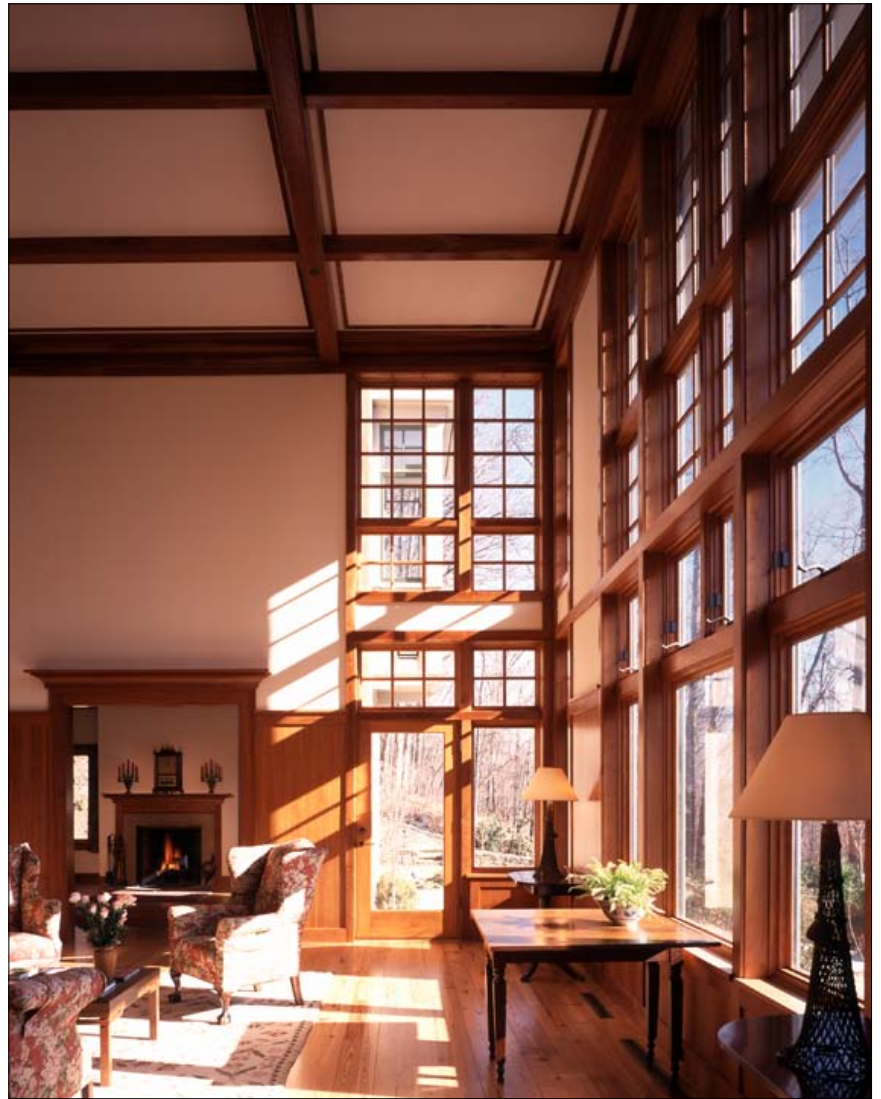




(ABOVE) AN APPROACH ROAD THROUGH A FORESTED MOUNTAIN TERRAIN CULMINATES IN A DRIVE COURT FACING THE ENTRANCE, OR WEST, SIDE OF THE HOUSE. THE WEST ENTRANCE PRESENTS A FINISHED, GRACEFUL ENTRANCE THAT BUILDS ANTICIPATION FOR THE AS-YET-UNSEEN VIEW.

(LEFT) THE EAST TOWER ABOVE THE ENTRY IS BALANCED BY A WEST TOWER. THE TOWERS ANCHOR AN INTERIOR AXIS THAT CONNECTS THE LIVING COMPARTMENTS AT EACH LEVEL OF THE HOUSE, INCLUDING A ROOFTOP BALCONY FOR OBSERVING THE VIEWS BELOW.

THE SWEEPING PANORAMIC VIEW SOUTH TO THE VIRGINIA PIEDMONT IS OBSCURED BY THE WOODLANDS UNTIL ENTERING THE HOUSE'S GRAND, TWO-STORY LIVING ROOM. THE WALL OF WINDOWS FRAMES THE VISTA, WHILE BASKING THE ROOM IN NATURAL LIGHT.



LOCAL VIRGINIA CHERRYWOOD LENDS A RICH, WARM TONE TO THE INTERIOR, AS SEEN IN THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE OF THE EAST TOWER AND THE KITCHEN CABINETRY.



GRAND

If the results of the Washingtonian Residential Awards competition are any indication, this would be a good time to go into the glass business. ¶ Windows are a dominant element in all five winning projects: two new homes built to take advantage of spectacular views in the Virginia countryside, a lap pool and an artist's studio added to suburban backyards, and a renovation that created a light-filled room for a Georgetown author and naturalist. ¶ "One thing that's pretty consistent in all of the things we selected is a real sensitivity to the idea that what's going inside the house should be related to what's happening outside the house," said Sara Caples of Caples Jefferson Architects in New York City, who judged the competition along with University of Virginia architecture professor Robert D. Dripps and Jefferson B. Riley of Centerbrook Architects in Essex, Connecticut. ¶ Judges noted that the win-

ning projects were modest in their ambitions and thus better able to achieve their goals. Inventiveness was another criterion: Although the judges saw many skillfully done historic renovations, they were looking for "something that advanced the offerings to the world of architecture a step or two," one said. ¶ Sixty-five projects were entered in this year's competition, open to all registered architects for homes located in the Washington metropolitan area and for second homes belonging to Washington residents. Architects' names were withheld from the judges until after they had made their selections. Two awards went to the same firm: Horsey and Thorpe, Architects, of Georgetown. ¶ The Washingtonian Residential Awards are cosponsored by the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects and *The Washingtonian*. Awards chair was Heather Cass of Cass & Associates Architects in Northwest DC.

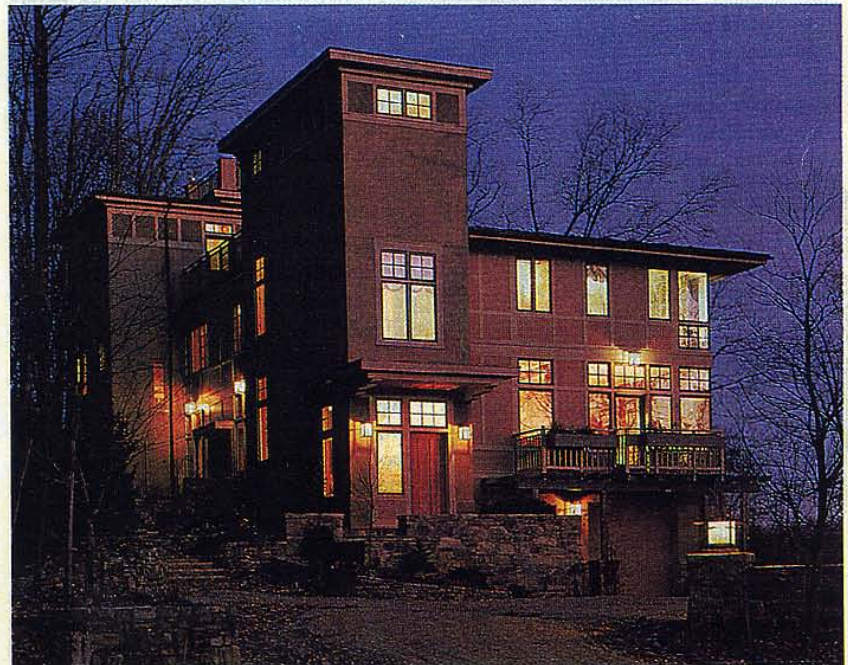
B Y M A R J O R I E W A C H T E L

LET THERE BE LIGHT

The light-filled living room is what really sold the judges on this new second home built on a mountain-side near Shenandoah National Park. They also praised the inventive exterior, including the small windows near the roof, which create a "sense of mystery, a sense that you can inhabit it in a fun way."

The clients had asked architects **Horsey and Thorpe** for a design that would stand out in the Virginia countryside. They'd specified a two-story living room and a tower, the top floor of which doubles as a guest room and observatory—hence those mysterious little windows.

From the front of the house the view is expansive, overlooking a plain. The other three sides are sheltered by a wooded mountain but still offer good views. The contractor for the house was Peter Kreyling of Washington, Virginia.



DESIGN

