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JULY 2007

*along sarasota's
sun-drenched shoreline,
guy peterson explores*

*the space
outside
the house*



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better than home

by nigel f. maynard, shelley d. hutchins,
and meghan drueding

east coast ease

East Hampton, N.Y.—the waterside playground for celebrities and well-heeled New Yorkers—is known for its sprawling Shingle-style houses and architecturally derivative McMansions. But it also has a history of modernist architecture, says Carol DiCicco Vinci, RA, principal of New York City-based DiCicco Vinci Architects. “There are great examples of houses designed in the 1960s and ’70s by people like [Julian and Barbara] Neski and [Charles] Gwathmey,” she says. “They’re small and modern with simple geometric forms.”

But that’s not the type of house DiCicco Vinci’s client wanted when he approached her firm to design a weekend escape from the frenzy of Manhattan’s financial district. “He wanted something very traditional, but we turned him around,” she jokes.

DiCicco Vinci ultimately designed the Lewing Residence in the spirit of those mid-century modern houses of the region’s history, but she wrapped the structure in horizontal cedar instead of the vertical application that was customary. The house is a relatively modest (by Hamptons standards, anyway) 3,200 square feet and replaces an out-of-code two-story ranch of similar size.

The structure is comprised of two simple volumes with a canopy-topped entry that leads to a middle hall. “The central corridor splits the building in two, with the main living spaces



The garage, visible from the street, is made attractive with acrylic panels from CYRO Industries. “When the garage is illuminated at night, it glows nicely,” says architect Carol DiCicco Vinci.

weekend houses
are where the
heart really lives.





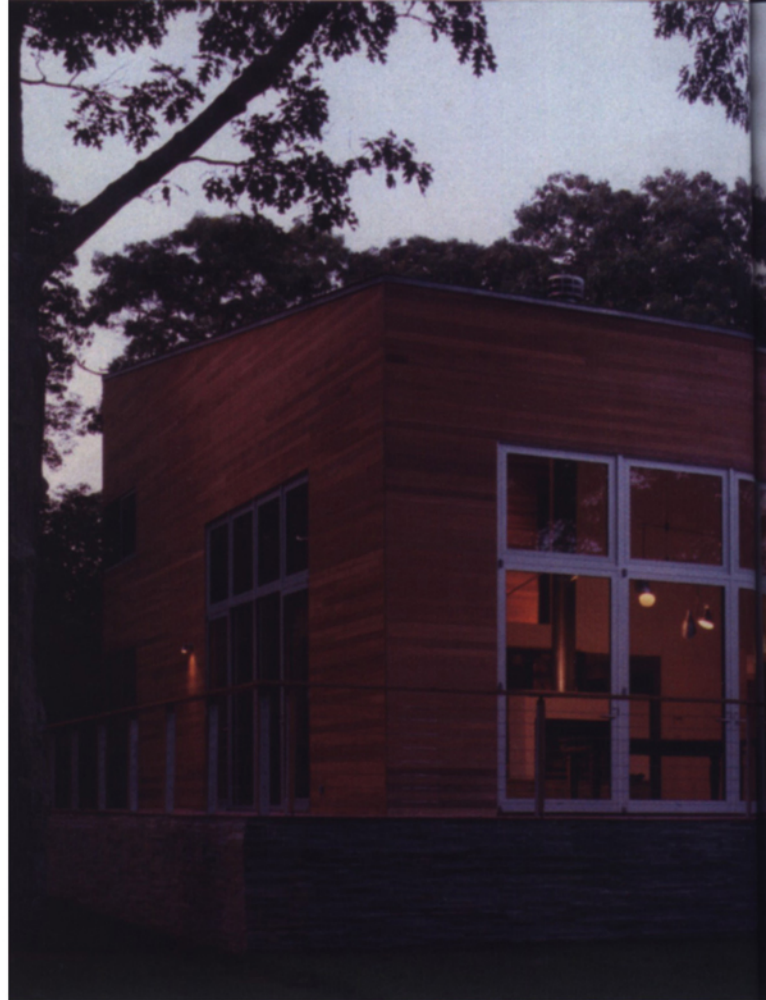
This East Hampton retreat was designed as two simple volumes with a central corridor. Aluminum storefront and Arcadia and Kawneer doors give the home a decidedly modern flair, while a bluestone base and stained tongue-and-groove cedar add timeless warmth.

to the right and the private spaces to the left," she explains. "The corridor also acts as circulation that leads directly to the lap pool and the rear deck." Despite having the garage facing the street, DiCicco Vinci located the entry to the side and used an acrylic panel to front the house's entry elevation.



For continuity, the architect used ipe flooring throughout the home and carried it onto the exterior decks at the rear (above). Cedar siding on the interior walls gives the home an unexpected natural touch (right).

and assistants Gianluca Milesi and Ayreen Anastas. The reason: It's her first freestanding residential commission. "I spent eight years doing lofts and apartments and getting a feel for materials," she says. "Lewing was the first time I went through the experience—my first move out of the box and into three dimensions. It was one of the most exciting things for me."—*n.f.m.*





project:

Lewing Residence, East Hampton, N.Y.

architect:

DiCicco Vinci Architects, New York City

general contractor:

Bistran Builders, Sagaponack, N.Y.

structural engineer:

Steve Maresca, Hampton Bays, N.Y.

project size:

3,200 square feet

site size:

2 acres

construction cost:

Withheld

photography:

Catherine Tighe Photography



To preserve the house's bucolic setting among mature oak, birch, and evergreen trees, DiCicco Vinci removed only two small specimens from the site (top). A diverse mix of materials add character to the interior, among them a slate-like Pietra Cardoza countertop, cherry and walnut veneers, and exposed timber rafters (left).