

STONE BUILT

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN HOUSES

LEE GOFF

INTRODUCTION BY CHARLES GWATHMEY

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BARNES COY

EASTERN LONG ISLAND RESIDENCE, 1996



The clients envisioned a house that would last not just a hundred years, but one that would still provide shelter at the end of the next millennium, solid and strong. Moreover, they asked for a house with low maintenance. In short, they wanted stone—inside and out.

The site presented to architects Robert Barnes and Christopher Coy had spectacular views over a Long Island bay. But it was burdened with a number of constraints—a property line setback, a conservation easement, and a scenic easement—that resulted in a small, linear building envelope. The architects responded by creating an arc, a tilted, long, thin, curving form that allows maximum water views. More subtly, the shape also recognizes the curvature of the earth. “The house has a hundred-year stare,” says Coy. “Its eyes are fixed on the distant horizon.”

The joints of the Pennsylvania limestone are thin, reminiscent of those of drywall construction, which reduces maintenance; other materials are glass, copper, and teak. A dramatic tension exists between the great expanses of glass and the massive, opaque stone structure that supports it. Stone piers and twenty-two-inch-thick walls appear to grow from the ground; as the topography changes, the stone follows it. “The glass,” says Barnes, “puts you in the landscape; at the same time, you’re sheltered by the stone.”

BELOW: From certain perspectives, the effect is one of ruins rising powerfully from the ground.

OPPOSITE: A tower clad in teak contains a library and a study—enclosed rooms that contrast with the openness of the living room.

PREVIOUS PAGES: The entrance facade of the house, primarily Pennsylvania limestone, is angular; entry is via a bridge.

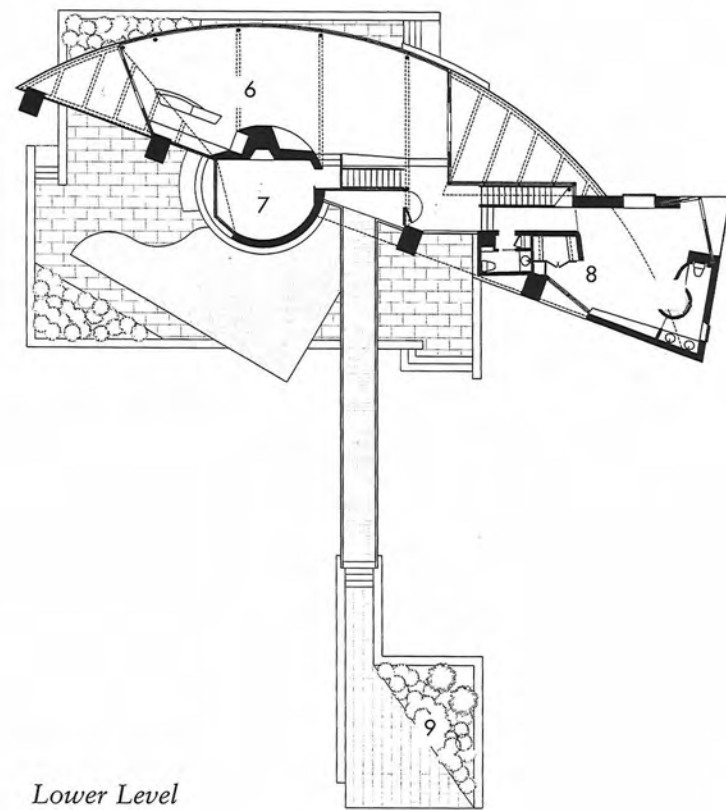
OVERLEAF: The opposite facade is a striking glass curve atop a stone base.



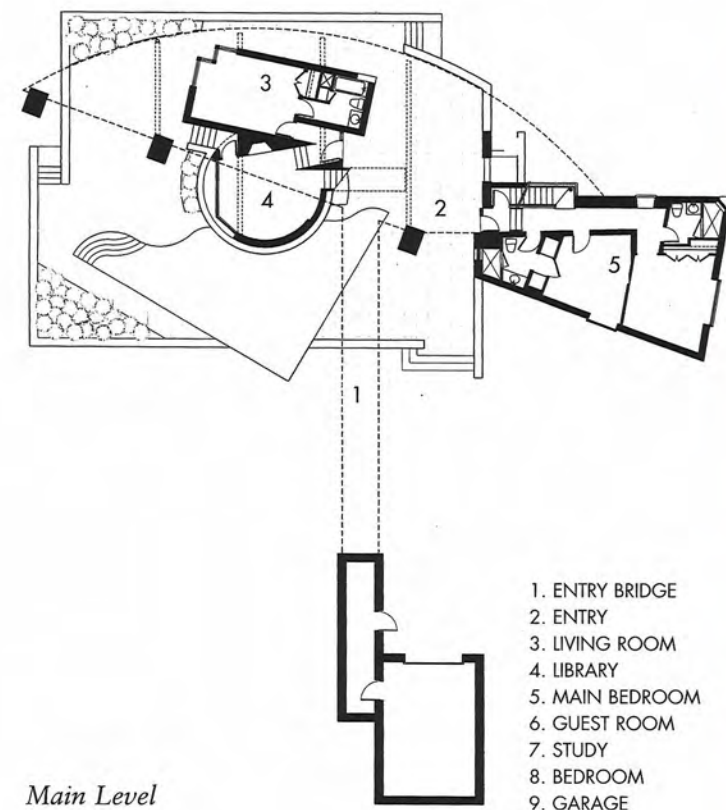


OPPOSITE: The transparency of the living room is anchored by the massive stone fireplace. In winter, radiant heat in the floors and walls warms the house, while an ambient air system with louvers allows cool air to enter to balance excessive solar heat. In summer, motorized hatches in the roof and large windows open the house to breezes. The marble for the floors was quarried from the same Georgia vein that supplied the United States Capitol and the Lincoln Monument.

OVERLEAF: The glass of the windows becomes the dominant material in the evening.



Lower Level



Main Level

- 1. ENTRY BRIDGE
- 2. ENTRY
- 3. LIVING ROOM
- 4. LIBRARY
- 5. MAIN BEDROOM
- 6. GUEST ROOM
- 7. STUDY
- 8. BEDROOM
- 9. GARAGE



