

DESIGN + DECOR

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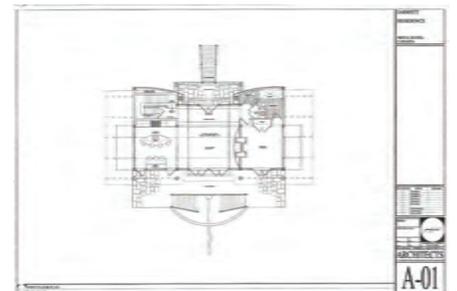
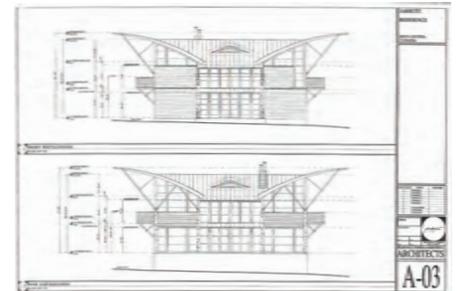
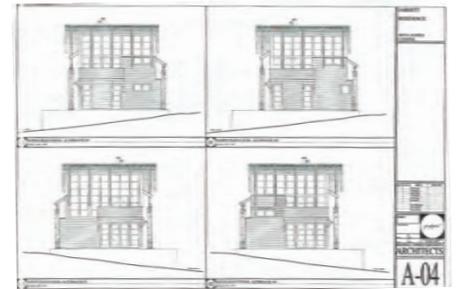
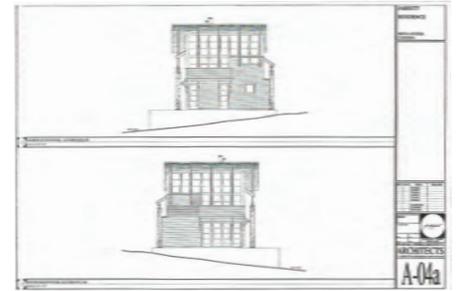
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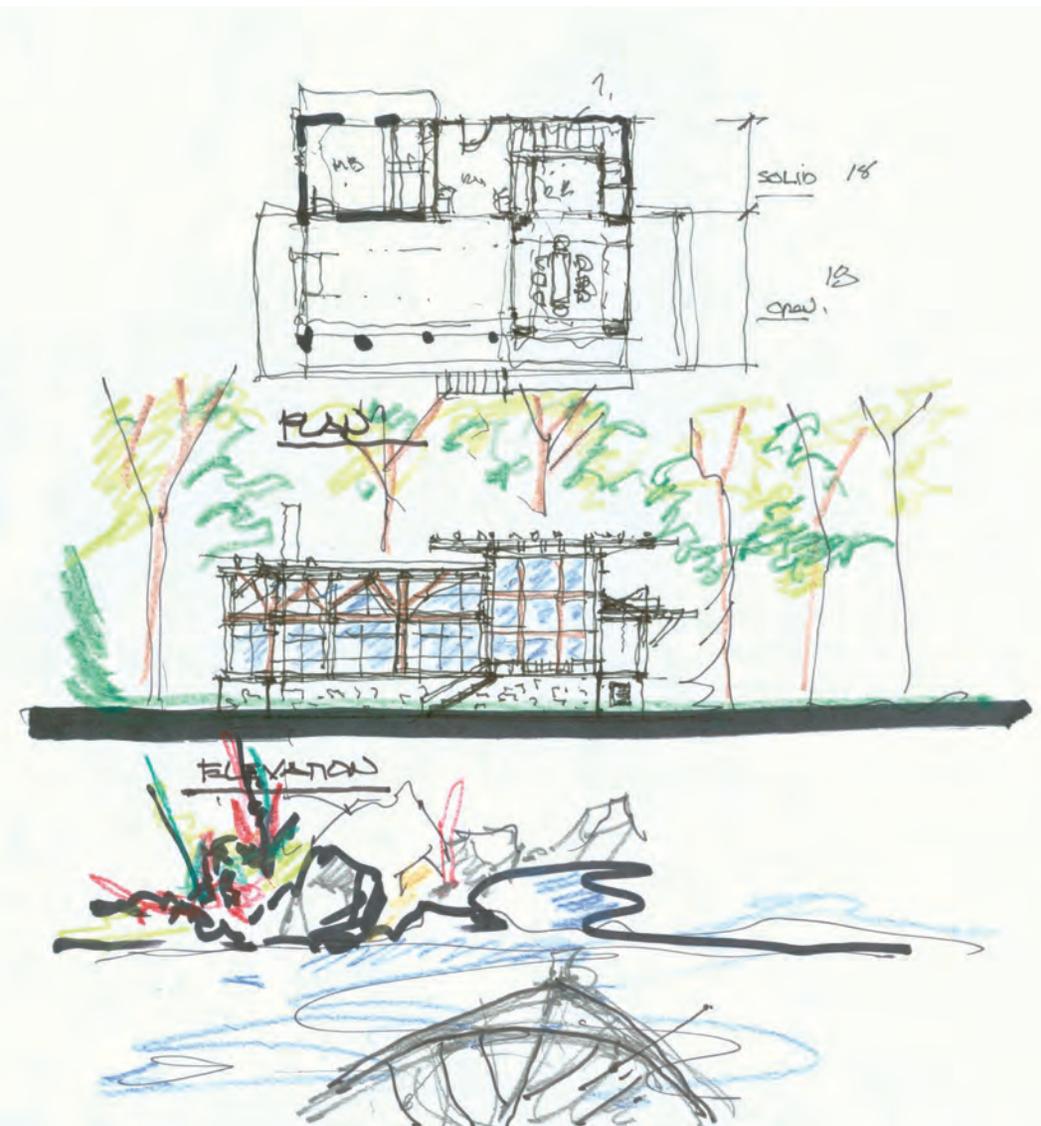


DISPLAY UNTIL 02/13/23
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

HILAND HALL TURNER

HHTA.COM

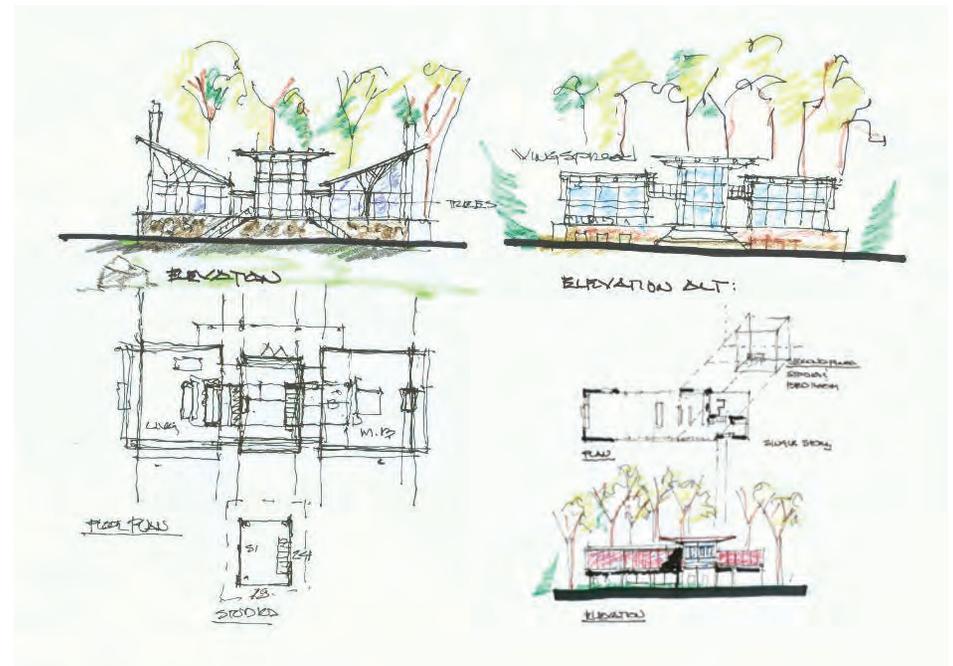




A renowned jazz musician and his wife called on Hiland Hall Turner Architects (HHT) to create a number of small cottages, which would be a family retreat along the southern shoreline of sparsely inhabited Tupper Lake in Nova Scotia. The cottages were to contain two en-suite bedrooms and a studio space that could double as a guest room. The clients wanted all the living spaces oriented to the view across Tupper Lake, but left

the design up to Hiland and his team.

The environment's fauna and waterfowl were the inspiration for the form of the first cottage. The design process went in many directions before the cottage evolved into its final form, which emulates the "wingspread" shape of many of the waterfowl that frequent the lake. The cottage's form expressed the living environs and its relationship to the secluded woodland



lake. The home was designed to allow in as much of the view and defused light as possible to incorporate the environment into the living areas of the house. Cedar trees are plentiful throughout the property, and natural cedar planking was used as a solar screening device in some areas of large glazed walls, creating a pattern of diffused light within the cottage. Natural indigenous materials were also utilized to meld the environs into the character of the building.

The parti drawing, according to Hiland, "is the idea of a thing in its simplest terms that brings forth the glimmer of an idea in order to visualize a thought. Without vision, there can be no creation. Parti diagrams are produced in a childlike manner, allowing the mind and hand to express the simplest of forms and ideas, unencumbered by the rigor of intellectual forethought. The design process is one of understanding the goals of the client both emotionally and intellectually through discussions of philosophy, rather than of how many or how large."

Hiland's design process is a bit different from that of most architects. Instead of discussing his client's "must haves," he prefers to search for the meaning of the build with his clients. His questions revolve around why they are building a house, why they have chosen this property, and what pleasant memories can be embroidered into the structure from a person's past or present to create a sense of personal experiences. "The environment, the topography, the sun's path, the prevailing winds, the views, the fauna, the character of the site—all must be synthesized and envisioned by the 'artist/architect' to create something that is both of the owner and of the natural

world," explains Hiland. "This should be why we are architects—to create buildings that are a physical expression of these two forces."

The remainder of Hiland's process is the focus and due diligence needed to put materials and structure to the form. The notion of bringing the infinite into the practical, tangible world is done by working from the largest component to the smallest of details. After hand sketching the parti drawings, Hiland employs AutoCAD as a drafting tool to refine all the components of the house. "Design is a process of trial and error of refinements until all areas of the building have been thoroughly resolved," he says. It is the architect's job to combine artistic vision with technical building expertise to bring structures to reality. HHT uses 3D digital rendering as a useful and immeasurably important tool to assist the owner and the builder. The expression "a picture can speak a thousand words" certainly applies in this case.

Resource

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