

Archi-Tectonics

Gypsy Trail Guesthouse

Kent, USA

This guesthouse is located on a site in Croton Reservoir, upstate New York, where hills tumble straight into the lake in a lakefront landscape that alternates green patches with craggy rock formations. The guesthouse is built as an 'alter-ego' of a larger structure; the main house, situated right on the lake. Conceived as similar in materials as the house it forms the easy-going, basic version of its more sophisticated 'other'.

The 1,500 square foot building is designed as a stone base volume (2-car garage), which supports a cantilevering cedar wood structure, backpack-like, the split level guesthouse. The light-weight guest house hovers over the ground and cantilevers off of the garage constructed of rough stone collected from the site.

This split-level volume of wood and glass hovers free with a small porch extending into the landscape. The void behind the double height glass

wall connects the living room above to the sleeping area at the ground floor, where large sliding doors allow for direct access to the garden and the lake beyond. To take advantage of the spectacular views, the living area is lifted up to the second floor with the dining / kitchen area opening up to a terrace on top of the garage providing a generous seating area with a 'surround' view of the site.

The layered front façade of the guesthouse creates a filtered entrance area; a cantilevering asymmetrical cedar overhang protects from north winds. The double height large glass façade is set back and allows for sun rays to penetrate far into the intimate space, and felt curtains in the double height space create a soft supple boundary between interior and exterior spaces. The house is finished inside and out with cedar wood, allowed to slowly turn silver over time.

Photographs: Winka Dubbeldam

