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## 2026 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Robert Henry Young  
Organization Robert Young Architects, PLLC  
Location New York, New York  
Chapter AIA New York State; AIA New York Chapter

### Category of Nomination

Object 1 (Design, Urban Design, Preservation) > Design

### Summary Statement

Robert Young advocates for an architecture of lasting human value. His work is rooted in place, shaped by empathy, and crafted with integrity, enriching daily life through contextual and tectonic clarity.

### Education

Tulane University School of Architecture, 1987-1992, Bachelor / Masters of Architecture  
The Architectural Association, 1990-1991, Year Abroad

### Licensed in:

New York, New Jersey, Maine, Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Delaware, Washington DC

### Employment

Robert Young Architects PLLC, 1997 - Present  
Keenen / Riley (K/R), 1995 - 1997  
Mathias Thoerner Design Inc (MTD), 1994 - 1995  
Kennedy and Violoch Architecture (KVA) 1993 - 1994  
Josep Lluís Canosa i Magret 1992 - 1993

October 6, 2025

Sanford E. Garner, FAIA  
2026 Jury Chair AIA Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20006

2026: AIA Fellowship application for Robert Henry Young, Object 1, Design

Dear Mr. Garner and 2026 Jury of Fellows:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic endorsement of Robert Young's nomination to be elevated to AIA Fellowship in Object 1: Design. Throughout the entirety of Robert's career, I have witnessed his steady and consistent progression— from an exceptional student, to the founder of his own firm, to the respected and prolific author of residential design that he is today.

From the moment we met as students at Tulane University, Robert made a powerful impression. His discipline and the studied exceptionalism of his work garnered note from his classmates and even those in classes above, like myself. After graduation, I saw Robert set a clear course for his career, a trajectory of consistent growth toward the prominence and specificity of his practice today. In this course, Robert leapt from noteworthy underclassman to role model.

In leading his firm, Robert has leveraged his disciplined exceptionalism to hone a carefully crafted body of work with tremendous impact— from those fortunate enough to inhabit his projects, to those who have benefited from his exceptional qualities as a mentor, to the communities that are enriched by the craft, humanism, and care for the environment that distinguishes his nationally recognized design work. Robert's practice is driven by a belief that architecture must be in service to its users and its place to achieve lasting human value. His design process is rigorous and seeks an "inevitable" solution that arises naturally from the user's needs and the site's unique conditions, rather than stylistic or formal preconception. His work shows how architecture can directly address human well-being, most notably in the Virginia Tree House, which was deliberately oriented to the "healing power of nature" for a client experiencing loss. Nature is accessed at all levels of the house, from views of the forest floor to the tree canopy. Robert uses design to elevate the everyday through empathy, orchestrating spaces and framed vistas, as exemplified in the Bluff House, that support the rituals of daily life and create a dynamic relationship with the environment.

Empathy is at the core of Robert's practice. I have seen firsthand how Robert directs empathy toward his client's needs in the development of their projects, but also towards his employees and outward toward a broad network of adjacent practitioners. Robert is a terrific mentor and teacher who recognizes the value of what he has learned in his career and has endless patience and generosity to share these lessons.

The quality of Robert's work stands on its own to illustrate the exceptionalism that merits the AIA's highest membership honor. Please consider Robert Young for elevation to Fellow.

Respectfully,



Chris Cooper, FAIA, LEED  
Partner

*Robert Young advocates for an architecture of lasting human value. His work is rooted in place, shaped by empathy, and crafted with integrity, enriching daily life through contextual and tectonic clarity.*

For over 25 years, Robert Young has advanced residential architecture through design that fuses context, humanism, and craft. His work is driven by a core belief that architecture must serve not only its present users, but its location and the generations to come. His work demonstrates how purposeful design—grounded in place, experience, and material honesty—can enrich lives, elevate the everyday, celebrate ecology, and stand the test of time.

### **Context as Foundation**

Young begins each project by immersing himself in its specific environmental, cultural, and social context. He interprets context not as a stylistic cue but as a rigorous foundation for a design methodology that resists preconception. He designs for an experience lived on all levels, where forms rise to engage the landscape and capture light, views, and air. For the Hither Hills House, he configured a series of volumes to cascade down a steep slope, creating expansive ocean views the site otherwise lacked, while meeting strict zoning stipulations. His two-structure solution for the East Lake House minimized bulk, integrates into the landscape, and incorporates water conservation practices, while exemplifying his focus on maximizing cross breezes and open views.

Young's approach, which draws from local vernacular, demonstrates how a rigorous response to a site's unique conditions can lead to solutions that feel inevitable, and ultimately, a natural expression of place.

### **Architecture as Human Experience**

Young's design process is anchored in empathy, prioritizing how people live, move, and feel in space. This humanistic purpose prioritizes function and comfort while creating a sense of delight. For the Virginia Tree House, he located the building to provide a full range of experiences, while orienting the architecture to the healing power of nature, creating a refuge for a client experiencing loss. The design orchestrates a sequence of framed views that connect the occupant to the life of the forest, from panoramic vistas to intimate connections with the tree canopy and forest floor.

In the Bluff House, he choreographed a sequence of framed vistas that unfold as one moves through the home, creating a dynamic relationship between the occupant and the environment. Young's work elevates the everyday by turning constraints into opportunities, orchestrating spaces that support the rituals of daily life and creating humanistic purpose.

### **Craft as Ethic and Language**

Young's sensitivity to construction and materials is shaped by a professional ethic: buildings should resist the cycle of consumption. He selects and details materials to ensure the work is durable and will patina over time, as in the zinc roofs and untreated cedar of the East Lake House. Young's projects speak a language of tectonic clarity, making the structure visible, as exemplified by the exposed steel frame and timber beams of the home.

The Pool House, with its handmade Danish bricks, shows how attention to material integrity can anchor a composition. This commitment to honest craft results in buildings that are aesthetically compelling and built to last, thereby fulfilling the architect's obligation to durability and sustainability.

Through design defined by contextual clarity, lived experience, and enduring craft, Robert Young shapes meaningful architecture that both honors its surroundings and amplifies the lives within.

His portfolio of work has earned wide recognition for its design excellence in both national and international publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Architectural Record*, and *Monocle*, among others. His projects have also garnered significant recognition with AIA chapter design awards, American Architecture awards from the Chicago Athenaeum, and Interior Design's "Best of Year" awards.

Beyond his design projects, Robert's engagement extends to a professional commitment to contributing to the broader architectural community through writing, mentorship, and service, most notably on the AIANY's Future of Practice committee and in support of cultural institutions including the Isamu Noguchi Foundation and the Architectural League of New York.

Robert Young's legacy is defined by a deep-seated belief that architecture can give back to society—one thoughtful, well-crafted, and enduring building at a time.



### Professional Experience

- from 1997 – pres. **Robert Young Architect, PLLC (RYA)**, New York, NY  
Founding Principal / Architect / Lead Designer  
2000 – 2010 Doing business as Murdock Young Architects (MYA)
- 1995 – 1997 **Keenen/Riley (K/R)**, New York, NY  
Project Manager / Architectural Designer
- 1994 – 1995 **Mathias Thoerner Design, Inc. (MTD)**, New York, NY  
Architectural Designer
- 1993 – 1994 **Kennedy and Violich Architecture (KVA)**, Boston, MA  
Architectural Designer
- 1992 – 1993 **Josep Lluís Canosa i Magret**, Barcelona, Spain  
Intern

### Professional Affiliations

- 1998 – present **American Institute of Architects (AIA)**  
1998 – present **National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)**

### Architectural Registrations

- 1996 – present **NY, NJ, ME, VA, CT, MA, DE, DC**

### Community

- 2023 – present **AIANY Future of Practice Committee**. AIA New York Chapter  
Member
- 2018 – present **Noguchi Council**. The Noguchi Museum, Queens, NY  
Member
- 2004 – 2005 **AIA NY Oculus Committee Advisory Board**. AIA New York Chapter  
Member

### Education

- 1987 – 1992 **Tulane University School of Architecture (TSA)**  
New Orleans, LA – Bachelor / Master of Architecture
- 1990 – 1991 **The Architectural Association (AA)**  
London, England – Year Abroad

### Academic Honors

- 1992 **Faculty Award for Best Thesis** – “*Treadmill Revolutions: The Downtown Athletic Club*”  
Tulane University School of Architecture
- 1992 **Faculty Certificate of Merit** – Academic Merit  
Tulane University School of Architecture
- 1992 **Faculty Certificate of Merit** – Co-organizer of “*Ritual Space*,” the theme of Architect’s Week  
Tulane University School of Architecture
- 1987 – 1992 **Dean’s List**  
Tulane University School of Architecture
- 1992 **SOM Travelling Fellowship** – Nominee

## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



### Twachtman House

Greenwich, CT | 2025 | exhibit 3.7

Rehabilitating this historic 1926 residence and adding a contemporary expansion and garage presented the opportunity for a respectful dialogue between new and old. Young synthesized a modern program into the Norman Revival architecture, enabling the original structure to adapt to a 21st-century family.

The design's integrity is demonstrated by its use of salvaged bricks that matched the original masonry and a new wing that was a direct, practical response to a client's desire for a view of the meadow—restored as part of the project—and sheltered immersion in the site's qualities of light and nature. The biophillic design leverages these qualities to support the health and well-being of the client and provide a timeless integration of modern form into its historic setting.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Connecticut Truck Barn

Greenwich, CT | 2024

This high-performance accessory structure draws inspiration from the region's vernacular barns with post and beam framing. SIPS panel sheathing results in minimal energy use to ensure the climate control needed to maintain stored vehicles.

Young's design celebrates barns of the Northeast region by echoing their utilitarian function with tectonic clarity. The simple design and reclaimed barnwood cladding defer to the nearby Norman Revival house. Natural materials like the zinc roof patina over time, promoting longevity, durability, and honest craft.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Shell Beach House

Shelter Island Heights, NY | 2024

Situated on a narrow, triangular coastal site, the design's string of linked, linear 'pavilions' were arranged to allow for distinct views and experiences across the dwelling. Clad in shou-sugi-ban, the structures embody aesthetics of craft, emphasizing a grounded and textured presence. A material palette of wood, plaster, and board-formed concrete creates a calm, tactile retreat. This material choice strengthens the home's connection to its coastal surroundings, honoring its place while providing a serene living experience.

The charred siding finish provides for minimal exterior maintenance over time. The arrangement of structures allowed for 80% of the site's habitat to be restored. Each structure is elevated on the land for flood mitigation and resiliency. Elements of the existing structure were salvaged through a nonprofit.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer

## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



### Virginia Tree House

Great Falls, VA | 2022 | exhibit 3.1

Set in a Virginia forest, this home is a healing refuge for a client experiencing loss. The design perches on the slope of a valley, rising above the forest floor to capture sunlight and provide woodland experiences from different elevations. The architecture choreographs movement and frames a sequence of views to connect the occupants with the restorative qualities of nature. The house preserves sensitive ecologies and reclaims the site's mowed floodplain, returning it to a managed meadow. Elements of the existing structure were salvaged through a nonprofit.

#### Select Recognition

SARA NY Design Award of Merit 2023  
International Architecture Award 2023  
*Wall Street Journal* 2023

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Ocean Road Pool House

Bridgehampton, NY | 2022

This poolside pavilion is an example of Young's transformation of strict zoning limitations into features that seems precisely suited to the context. In response to local limits on rear yard coverage, which prohibit a permanent shade structure, he devised a custom shade system suspended on tension cables that fully retracts and can be removed and stored in the off season. The resulting structure's minimal physical presence provides functionality without encroaching on the landscape or impeding views.

The pool house holds a kitchen and storage, with an outdoor shower, open to the sky, seamlessly integrated into the architecture. Materials like handmade Danish bricks and untreated Alaskan Yellow Cedar emphasize craft and durability.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Hither Hills House

Montauk, NY | 2022 | exhibit 3.2

Within a rolling topography of dunes, this home is a year-round retreat designed to be an appealing destination for a multi-generational family. Young used the site's steep topography to configure a series of spaces that cascade down the hillside, orchestrating expansive ocean views where none existed. From the street, the building appears as a low, single-story pavilion, fulfilling zoning requirements while offering a discreet presence for the expansive, multi-level living environment. The house integrates into its coastal ecology with a material palette of charred and natural cedar and glass. Elements of the existing structure were salvaged through a nonprofit.

#### Select Recognition

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2023  
NY Design Award Excellence 2023  
International Architecture Award 2023

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer

## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



### Harding Lane House

Montauk, NY | 2022

Located on a challenging, steeply sloped peninsula bounded by roads on three sides, the residence's massing maximizes multiple ocean views from the site's pinnacle despite strict height limits. Young's use of extensive thermal glazing opens the interiors to the surroundings and ocean-side outdoor spaces.

The design reduced energy loads through deep southern overhangs, cross breezes, and an infusion of natural light throughout minimizing heating and cooling loads. The design is clad in durable Alaskan Yellow Cedar and board-formed concrete, featuring a unique aperture in the zinc roof for private sunbathing. Elements of the existing structure and its appliances and fixtures were salvaged through a non-profit to support a rehab center in upstate New York.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Designer



### Upper East Side Pied-à-Terre

New York, NY | 2019

This pied-à-terre on Manhattan's Upper East Side is a serene retreat that also connects to its urban surroundings. Young resolved the challenge of the footprint by devising a purposeful layout that optimizes and connects directly to a surrounding terrace. The design integrates new, thermally-efficient windows extended to the floor to frame views to the city skyline, providing abundant natural lighting and a comfortable space for living. Low-VOC and economical materials and finishes ensure long-term health and well-being for residents. The design approach highlights a key principle of his work: creating a sense of private calm while reinforcing connection to context. Original materials, fixtures, and appliances were salvaged to support a rehab center in New York.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Tribeca Penthouse

New York, NY | 2019

Young's design combines two awkward apartments into a cohesive living space. The intervention resolved the building's compromised layout and created a unified, serene home from its fragmented parts. Using expressive millwork and a sophisticated yet simple material palette, the design hides awkward structural elements and unifies the space, creating a sense of clarity. New, thermally-efficient windows extend to the floor, opening the interior to the city skyline and to extensive daylighting. The project showcases how purposeful design can transform a fragmented urban layout into a comfortable place to live while reinforcing a sense of connection to place.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



**Mitchell Lane House**

Bridgehampton, NY | 2018

This project transformed a neglected 1980s structure slated for demolition. Instead of razing the house, Young saw the opportunity for a more sustainable approach, providing a purposeful renovation that would extend the building's life. The design transformed the dowdy structure into a contemporary residence in tune with its surroundings, with expansive views and outdoor living areas. A thermally efficient building envelope advances the home's energy efficiency. This thoughtful renovation demonstrates how existing structures can be revitalized to achieve modern purpose and aesthetics. All appliances and fixtures were salvaged through a nonprofit.

**Select Recognition**

International Architecture Award 2022

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2021

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2019

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



**Bow Wow Haus, ARFitecture**

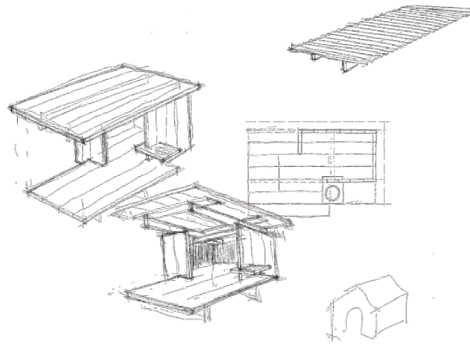
East Hampton, NY | 2018

Young teamed with builders and suppliers to design and construct creative solutions to shelter dogs and cats to benefit the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF). Applying his signature approach to lived experience, the design was conceived entirely from a dog's perspective. It provides a secure, natural habitat with sheltered nooks, cross-ventilation, and easy access to outdoor space. The diagonal opening assures the occupant's views out to foster a sense of refuge. The result exemplifies how Young's empathetic and humanistic design ethos can be applied to any challenge, creating a sense of comfort and well-being for all occupants.

**Select Recognition**

*Architectural Digest* 2018

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



**Lewes Beach House**

Lewes, DE | 2017

This beachfront house demonstrates the inherent flexibility of Young's design approach. He prioritized a warm palette of materials and textures that naturally weather with age. Generous interior spaces are comfortable to inhabit, with exposed rafters and a wood-ceiling screen porch that fully opens to the main living area. Simple, refined painted plank walls and continuous wood plank flooring add warmth and blend with the coastal environment. Natural light and views out to the ocean are highlighted through large apertures, which further emphasize this home's connection to its tightly constricted site and minimize views of homes located on either side. Elements of the existing structure and its appliances and fixtures were salvaged through a nonprofit to support a rehab center in upstate New York.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer

## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



### Pool House

Amagansett, NY | 2016 | exhibit 3.6

A recurring typology in Young's work, this pavilion-like pool house was a creative response to a 200-square-foot zoning limit on the size of pool houses. The design uses folding doors to maximize a sense of spaciousness and seamlessly integrate with its surroundings. The structure provides a relaxed environment for lounging, a small kitchenette and bathroom, and connects to a garage via a trellised area, organizing the client's beach-going essentials. The result is a highly functional and elegant solution to a strict regulatory constraint.

#### Select Recognition

Design Award AIA Tri-State 2021

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2017

Grand Award Custom Home Design Awards 2010

*Arch Daily* 2018

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### East Lake House

Montauk, NY | 2016 | exhibit 3.5

Drawing inspiration from the local lake ecology and vernacular architecture, Young split the program into two separate structures, strategically minimizing its visual bulk and allowing for inclusion of a bioswale to cross the site. The design provides a variety of experiences, with ground level living spaces that connect to the landscape and contrasting panoramic views from the guest house. The use of rough-sawn cedar cladding and an exposed structural frame in dialogue with timber beams celebrates local materials and craftsmanship. Elements of the existing structure were salvaged through a nonprofit.

#### Select Recognition

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2021

ASLA Merit Award 2020

Interior Design, Best of Year Finalist 2017

*Architectural Record* 2018

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Ocean Bluff House

Montauk, NY | 2015

The design renovates an outdated home, transforming it into a contemporary dwelling that reflects its surroundings. Working with a landscape architect, Young's intervention created a home with a symbiotic relationship to the dunes, ocean, and native plants. The use of unassuming forms and a natural material palette for exterior cladding and decking ensures the revitalized residence harmoniously blends with its site, providing a straightforward example of Young's purposeful design rooted in context. The original structure's materials, appliances, and fixtures were salvaged through a nonprofit to support a rehab center in upstate New York.

#### Select Recognition

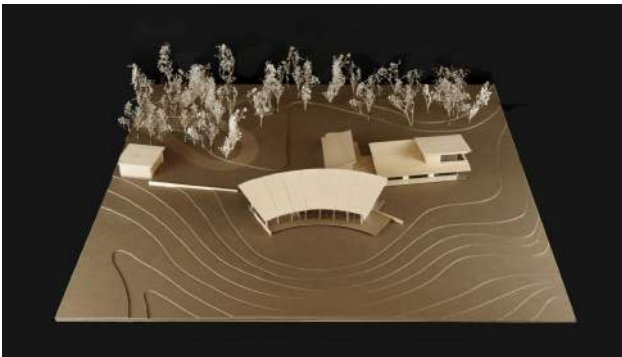
ASLA Honor Award, 2024

*Architectural Record* 2025

*VilleGiardini Magazine* 2025

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer

## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



### Nebraska by the Sea

West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, MA | 2015

Young shaped a residential environment that would work in multiple ways: as a year-round retreat; a place for small, off-season gatherings; and as a place to comfortably gather large extended family during summer months, when the whole house is used. Off-season, sections of the house are closed off, reducing energy needs. Thirteen acres of farmland were restored to managed meadows, inviting native habitats to rebuild. Designed to optimize environmental performance, the house's form and orientation maximize shade during the summer months and frame views to surrounding meadows and the Atlantic Ocean.

#### Select Recognition

*PLAIN Magazine* 2021

*Martha's Vineyard New Island Homes* 2021

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Thomas Maier Headquarters

New York, NY | 2013

Combining work experience from commercial and cultural projects, Young's vision for this showroom for fashion designer Tomas Maier gained inspiration from the work and furniture of Donald Judd to reflect Maier's belief in elegant functionality. Simple, economic plywood veneer boxes form movable storage modules to subdivide the space, depending on the needs of the day's activities. The space morphs to accommodate the offices, design studio, and display space for Maier's apparel enterprise and allows the branded venue to showcase each season's lineup to retail partners while being home to the ever-changing needs of staff.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



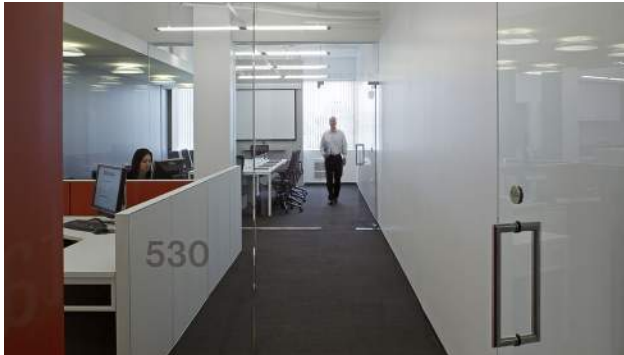
### Central Park Penthouse

New York, NY | 2012

This renovation focused on providing an extensive program to clients within a small footprint. Young removed walls between communal areas to create a sense of overall cohesiveness and connection. A palette of warm, comfortable materials and colors create an environment that feels both upscale and down to earth. In the home's communal and private areas, old windows were replaced with floor to ceiling glass doors and windows that connect to the wrap-around terrace and remarkable views of Central Park. Original materials, fixtures, and appliances were salvaged through a nonprofit to support a rehab center in upstate New York.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer

## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



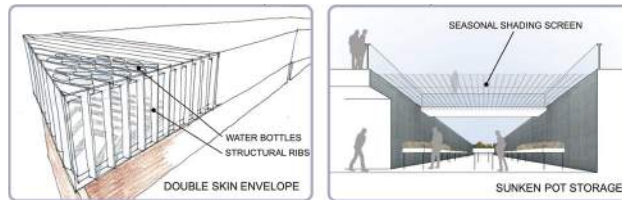
### Koltan Pharma

New Haven, CT | 2008

This office renovation translates Young's empathetic design philosophy into a corporate environment focused on research and innovation. The minimalist, art-studio aesthetic uses glass walls and natural light throughout to foster creativity and well-being.

Uniquely, the design provides social interaction areas for scientists and visitors, promoting collaboration in new solutions to treat and cure human cancers. Young's highly efficient interior embraced circular design principles, zero-waste sourcing, and creates a powerful sense of cohesion and engagement.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### National Wildflower Centre

Liverpool City Region, UK | 2008

An enclosed garden sanctuary is distinguished from its wild landscape by a strategic layout that orchestrates visitor circulation and experience. The building is a high-performance case study in honest craft and passive lighting and heating strategies: building heat is sourced from a heat-sink trombe roof with reclaimed water bottles and a narrow footprint facilitates natural ventilation.

Young's commitment to tectonic clarity allows sunlight to filter through the roof, celebrating the energy capture system and providing a space for visitors to gather, admire, and learn. Garden pathways allow interaction with the numerous wildflower species cultivated on site.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Further Lane Kitchen

East Hampton, NY | 2008

This kitchen renovation transforms a long, narrow room into a space of intentional, tactile design. The work involved restoring a structure that was rotting from within due to the original poor construction methods. Young negotiated the challenge of limited space by using two islands to maintain a central circulation spine. Craft is expressed through a warm material palette of salvaged wood, raw copper—intended as a 'living' finish—and perforated metal, which creates a sense of movement across the space. The result is a kitchen is both functional and humanistic, expressing the active life of the space and its ability to change over time.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer

## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



### Art Barn

Greenwich, CT | 2007

To create this 10,000-square-foot studio for an artist couple, Young devised a green façade system. Metal mesh is held 18" away from the building on robust standoffs, allowing wisteria to grow across the building without risking its structural integrity. The mesh is 'sacrificial,' with the Wisteria eventually replacing the function of the mesh. This "living skin" adds thermal insulation, frames views of the woodlands, and celebrates craft. The design provides a sanctuary for creativity, transforming a functional art space into an immersive experience that is both poetic and pragmatic. The building houses two large galleries with 16-foot ceilings, polished concrete floors, and a chef's kitchen.

#### Select Recognition

*Connecticut Cottages & Gardens* 2012

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Montauk Lake House

Montauk, NY | 2007 | exhibit 3.4

Designed for a growing family and friends, this lake-front compound includes a main house, guest house, and barn. Young's design uses an aggregate of small, informal volumes to disguise the structure's bulk, aligning with the neighborhood's scale. The result is a variety of experiences with great rooms open to water views and sunlight across the rooms. Modern design couples with the gabled vernacular of cedar shingles and white-painted wood. Elements of the existing structure were salvaged through a nonprofit.

#### Select Recognition

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2012

Residential Architect 2008

*At the Water's Edge* 2013

*Design Bureau* 2011

*HC&G (cover)* 2010

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Kettle Hole House

East Hampton, NY | 2007

This early example of one of Young's commitment to enduring value over demolition demonstrates how a ca. 1980s home's structure can fuel reinvention. He salvaged the home's original materials, fixtures, and appliances through a nonprofit. Using the existing footprint, his contextual strategy connects interior spaces to the forested site, with coastal light and views introduced by new, high-performance windows that open what had been solid facades. High-R-value insulation helps create a robust thermal envelope. The project illustrates how renovation to optimize the site and improve building performance can repurpose an outdated home for contemporary living.

#### Select Recognition

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2008

*Custom Home* 2010

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer

## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



### Carroll Gardens Townhouse

Brooklyn, NY | 2007

One of Young's first Brooklyn projects, this gut renovation transformed a warren of small rooms with a narrow connecting stair into an open, loft-like home. The design incorporated cinematic and narrative inspiration to connect with the owner's profession as a film editor. It provides a comfortable, light-filled space with few doors and points of connection across floors. The architecture reflects a humanistic approach to design, transforming an existing structure to serve the needs and sensibilities of a specific client and family.

New, high-performance windows add energy efficiency, bring in abundant natural light, and increase thermal comfort.

#### Select Recognition

*The New York Times* 2008

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### River Loft

New York, NY | 2007

This Tribeca loft, designed for first-time parents, serves as a testament to Young's empathetic philosophy. The project transforms a raw space into a calm sanctuary, blending modern aesthetics with the warmth of natural materials. The design thoughtfully defines the entrance with a textured wooden structure that houses a mudroom and powder room. Throughout the interior, a refined material palette and clean details, such as white oak flooring and a preserved structural column, showcase a tactile charm and tectonic clarity that elevates the living experience.

High-performance replacement windows add energy efficiency and thermal comfort. Original materials, fixtures and appliances were salvaged through a nonprofit.

#### Recognition

*Est.* 2018

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Further Lane Bathrooms

East Hampton, NY | 2006

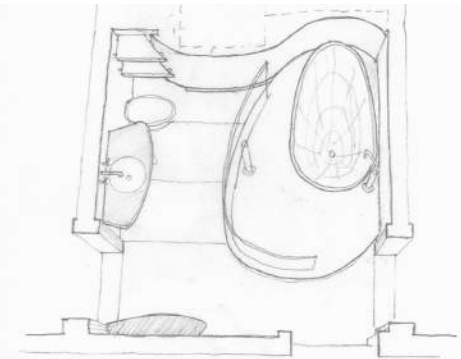
In this 1913 masonry house, Young 'stole' dead space under a staircase to transform a small space into a refuge of calm. He resolved the challenge of a tiny footprint with gracefully curved walls and platforms. The result merges a tub and shower behind a sweep of glass to create a highly functional space that maintains a sense of elegant ease. The organic shapes of the glass and other elements combine with neutral finishes to create a sense of harmony, allowing for moments of escape. A window across from the tub brings in natural light and offers views of the yard. The solution reflects how creativity can emerge from functional needs.

#### Select Recognition

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2008

*House & Garden* 2007

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



## 2.1 accomplishments | significant work



### Bluff House

Montauk, NY | 2002 | exhibit 3.3

Young's first ground-up residence creates a retreat of indoor/outdoor spaces in direct response to its natural setting. The design thrusts living spaces out over the hillside's native scrubland to frame ocean views of the surroundings and as part of a strategy to preserve 200 acres of natural wetlands and forests. Clad in cedar, ipe, and board-formed concrete, Young chose materials that would patina over time in the marine environment and emphasize the home's connection to its place.

#### Select Recognition

AIA Long Island 'Archi' 2006  
The Chicago Athenaeum Awards 2006  
*Contemporary Houses* 2006  
Custom Home Merit Award 2006  
*Oculus*, AIANY 2004  
*Contemporary Houses of the World* 2002

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Brooklyn Bridge Loft

New York, NY | 1998

Young's first project as a newly-founded firm, this loft near South Street Seaport overlooks the Brooklyn Bridge. His economical renovation uncovered structural ceiling arches, which became part of a design that celebrates the original architecture, including exposed brick walls, newly revealed beams, and restored plank flooring. This shell of original elements surrounds a minimalist staircase connecting the two levels, a floating bathroom clad in a perforated metal, which transforms into a lantern at night by a layer of translucent fiberglass, and a palette of simple materials that provide a minimalist backdrop to the loft's expansive views.

#### Recognition

*Oculus* 2002  
*Interior Design* 1992

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Lead Designer



### Aviary

Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic | 1996

This early project established Young's empathetic design approach. The structure functions as a "viewing machine" that serves both as a habitat and human promenade. The design prioritized the flamingo's running area, while a catwalk and pink stucco tower provide visitors with varied vantage points, allowing them to see the birds from their perspective. The structural steel poles were deliberately angled to recall the rhythmic legs of the flamingos, demonstrating an early focus on tectonic clarity. Coil mesh is hung like a curtain, showcasing a minimal structural expression that enhances the experience of the habitat.

**Role of Nominee:** Architect / Designer, Keenen/Riley

## 2.2 accomplishments | awards & honors

*An intrinsic connection to and respect for nature defines the East Lake Residence. The property was sited to fully capture and embrace the calming lakeside views, summer sunsets and cool breezes, while respecting and celebrating the tricky hillside drainage patterns present.*

### 2020 ASLA Awards



East Lake House Montauk, NY

### International / National



#### America's Top Residential Architects

Forbes | 2025  
Hither Hills House



#### Honor Award

ASLA, American Society of Landscape Architects | 2024  
Ocean Bluff House with landscape by Laguardia Design Group



#### International Architecture Award

The Chicago Athenaeum | 2023  
Honorable Mention for Hither Hills House



#### International Architecture Award

The Chicago Athenaeum | 2023  
Virginia Tree House



#### International Architecture Award

The Chicago Athenaeum | 2022  
Honorable Mention for Mitchell Lane House



#### Best of the Year

Interior Design | 2017  
Finalist for East Lake House



#### Merit Award

ASLA, American Society of Landscape Architects | 2020  
East Lake House with landscape by Laguardia Design Group



#### Grand Award

Custom Home Design Awards | 2010  
Further Lane Poolhouse



#### American Architecture Award

The Chicago Athenaeum | 2006  
Bluff House



#### Merit Award

Custom Home Design Awards | 2006  
Bluff House

## 2.2 accomplishments | awards & honors

*Eschewing both historicist and contemporary style-driven approaches, the design for this project finds a balance between contextual reference and modern functional design. From either of the short ends, the elevations create the classic shape of a pitched-roof house, drawing on East Hampton's tradition of beach cottages and cabanas, while from the pool and the house, the design is decidedly modern.*

2021 AIA Tri-State Design Award



Pool House East Hampton, NY

### Local / Regional



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2023  
Commendation for Hither Hills House



#### Design Award of Excellence

SARA, Society of Registered Architects | 2023  
Hither Hills House



#### Design Award of Merit

SARA, Society of Registered Architects | 2023  
Virginia Tree House



#### Design Award

AIA Tri-State, NY-NJ-PA | 2021  
Design Award for Further Lane Pool House



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2021  
Mitchell Lane House



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2021  
East Lake House



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2019  
Mitchell Lane House



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2017  
Commendation for Further Lane Poolhouse



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2012  
Commendation for Montauk Lake House



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2008  
Kettle Hole House



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2008  
Kettle Hole House



#### Archi Award

AIA Long Island | 2006  
Bluff House

2.2 accomplishments | achievements

**Social Media**

Instagram & Facebook Followers	8018
United States	62.7%
Canada	3.8%
Australia	2.5%
United Kingdom	1.9%
India	1.6%
France	1.5%
Brazil	1.5%
Mexico	1.4%
Italy	1.4%
Argentina	0.8%
Taiwan	0.7%
Portugal	0.4%
Egypt	0.3%
Other	19.6%

**Publications**

Books & Articles (Print)	42
North America	14
Europe	10
Asia	4
Middle East	1
United States, Italy, United Kingdom, China, France, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, Greece, India, Ireland, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates	
Online	38

**Projects**

New York City	135
Eastern Long Island	73
New York	231
Connecticut	18
Maine	5
Maryland	5
New Jersey	4
Virginia	3
Massachusetts	2
Washington D.C.	2
California	1
Delaware	1
Florida	1
South Carolina	1
Dominican Republic	1

**RYA Alumni Founded Firms**

- Kevin Baxter | Baxter Projects, New York, NY |
- Justin Blejer | Blejer Architecture, New Paltz, NY
- John Buckley | John Buckley Architecture, Boston, MA
- Michael Casey | Michael Casey Architect, Stowe, VT
- Jaime Donate, AIA | Jaime Donate Architect, New York, NY
- Sophie Girard | Sophie Girard Interior Design, Quogue, NY
- Jason Shannon | J-SPY Architecture & Design, Jersey City, NJ
- Elizabeth Rush | Elizabeth Rush Architect, Summit, NJ
- Kiyomi Troemner | Kiyomi Troemner Architect, New York, NY
- Shea Murdock, AIA | Murdock Solon Architects, New York, NY
- Eva Ouano | Eva Ouano Interiors and Architecture, Melbourne, Australia
- Charisma Panchapakesan | CAB Architects, Toronto, Canada
- Naoki Sheshimo | Seshimo Architects, Tokyo, Japan
- Kelly Solon, AIA | Murdock Solon Architects, New York, NY
- Marina Tomic | Marina Tomic Architecture, Paris, France

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Wallpaper\*



VILLE & CASALI



### Selected Articles

#### Regenerative Landscapes

Katharine Logan | Architectural Record | Sep 2025

#### LaGuardia Design Group. Un giardino con vista sull'Atlantico

Elisabetta Pozzetti | VilleGiardini Magazine | Apr 2025

#### After Her Husband's Death, She Rebuilt Her Life by Building a New Home

Nancy Keates | The Wall Street Journal | Apr 2023

#### Hither Hills House in Montauk Cascades into the Foliage

Ellie Stathaki | Wallpaper\* | Feb 2023

#### Robert Young's 'Hither Hills' is Nestled into the Sloping Coast of Montauk

Kat Barandy | designboom | Feb 2023

#### Home of the Week: Hither Hills House by Robert Young Architects

John Gendall | NUVO | Feb 2023

#### Giardini d'autore: Con vista sull' Atlantico

Elisabetta Pozzetti | VilleGiardini Magazine | Jan 2022

#### A Curved Sloping Roof Tops this Stunning Home in Martha's Vineyard

Kala Barba-Court | PLAIN Magazine | Sep 2021

#### Featured Project: Mitchell Lane House / Robert Young Architects

Paula Pintos | ArchDaily | Mar 2020

#### 21 Finely Finessed Getaways in the Hamptons and Montauk

Samantha Ramirez | Dwell | Jun 2019

#### Embrace Your Inner Minimalist in Long Island's East Lake House

Kalsey Machado | The Manual | Apr 2019

#### Two Cedar Clad Structures Form a Unique Montauk Retreat

Jennifer Baum Lagdameo | Dwell | Sep 2018

#### Architects Create Stylish Doghouses for a Good Cause

Hadley Keller | Architectural Digest | Jul 2018

#### Pets' Posh Pads On ARF Auction Block

JD Allen | 27east: Southampton Press | Jul 2018

#### Montauk House by Robert Young Architects

Josephine Minutillo | Architectural Record | Apr 2018

#### Robert Young's East Lake House is designed to weather over time

Jenna McKnight | Dezeen | Jul 2018

#### River Loft by Robert Young Architects

Melia Rayner | Est. | Jul 2018

#### Featured Project: Pool House / Robert Young Architects

Fernanda Castro | ArchDaily | May 2018

#### Lake House, Montauk, New York

IW Magazine: Issue 87 | Sep 2012

#### Step Inside a Studio Turned Home in Fairfield County

Sarah Firshein | Connecticut Cottages & Gardens | Nov 2012

#### Tra il sole e il lago

Francesca Tamberlani | Ville & Casali | Jul 2011

#### From Dreary to Dreamy

Sandra Marcel | Design Bureau | Oct 2011

#### Kettle Hole House, East Hampton, N.Y.

Bruce D. Snider | Custom Home | May 2010

#### A Vision in White (cover)

Cara Greenberg | Hamptons Cottages & Gardens | Aug 2010

#### How to live in the city? Environment, interior, friendliness, and substations

Elaine Louie | Interni | Mar 2009

## 2.3 accomplishments | publications



### Selected Articles

#### Ghost Stories

Nendo | FRAME | Jul 2009

#### Subtract Walls, Add Color

Elaine Louie. | The New York Times | Aug 2008

#### When architects rethink the little things, big achievements result

Meghan Drueding | Residential Architect | Sep 2008

#### Shock to the System

Jorge S. Arango | House & Garden | Sep 2007

#### Design of the Times

Julia Chaplin | Wallpaper\* | Dec 2007

#### Double Space

Wendy Goodman | New York Magazine | May 2006

#### The Big Picture (cover)

Lockhart Steele | Hamptons Cottages & Gardens | Aug 2004

#### Unique Site in Montauk

New York Living | Mar 2002

#### Strip Search

Monica Geran | Interior Design | Jan 1999

#### Playing the New Angles in the Pocket Kitchen Game

Elaine Louie | The New York Times | Nov 1998

### Selected Books

#### Martha's Vineyard: New Island Homes

Keith Moskow & Robert Linn | The Monacelli Press | 2021

#### Contemporary Gardens of the Hamptons: LaGuardia Design 1990-2020

Christoper LaGuardia | The Monacelli Press | 2021

#### The Big Book of the Hamptons

Micheal Shnayerson | Assouline Publishing | Apr 2018

#### The Big Book of the Hamptons

Micheal Shnayerson | Assouline Publishing | Jun 2014

#### At the Water's Edge

Sally Hayden | Ryaland Peters and Small | Mar 2013

#### Collection of 2006 Awarded Projects in the World

Dalian University of Technology Press | Oct 2007

#### Contemporary Houses (cover)

Antonio Corcuera | Konemann | May 2006

#### Exclusive Houses: Sea & Mountain

Hugo Kliczkowski | LOFT Publications | Jul 2006

#### Contemporary Houses of the World

Martha Torres Arcila | Atrium Group | Feb 2003

### Article By Robert Young

#### Life After Fountainhead

Robert Young | Oculus | Mar 2004

*The house is integrated into its natural surroundings with its stepping green roofs. To strengthen the connection between the inside and outside, the architect created an exterior staircase which connects all of the levels and spaces. On the higher floors, the concrete stairs match the architecture of the house, and on the lower floors, the concrete steps transform into landscape pavers, allowing for a visually and experientially unified space between the house and its surroundings.*

Karen Brandy, designboom, February 2023



Young moderating a discussion on 'Agency' at AIA New York, June 2024



Young at Foscarini NY, September 2025



### AGENCY: The Power of Architects Inside, Beside & Beyond Practice

Contributing organizer and co-moderator

AIA New York | Center for Architecture, June 2024, NY

Member of the AIANY Future of Practice subcommittee organizing the event  
Co-Moderator, with Iben Falconer: "Inside the Profession" panel discussion  
with Claire Weisz, FAIA; Billie Faircloth, FAIA; Jerome Haferd; Shawn Watts  
Day-long symposium on expanding architectural agency across conventional  
and non-traditional practice models

Attended by ~120 AIA members and allies



### Designing Light & Space: A conversation with New York's Leading Architects and Designers

Panelist

Foscarini, September 2025, NY

Conversation on light as a primary design tool and spatial driver, moderated  
by architecture writer Adrian Madlener; with Felix Ade, AIA, and Shelley  
Baxter (MAWD)

Attended by ~40 architects, designers and the public



### RISK: The Economy of Risk & Reward

Lead Organizer & Moderator (scheduled)

AIA New York | Center for Architecture, November 2025, NY

Interdisciplinary panel on valuing risk across architecture, law, insurance,  
development, and community

Projected participation ~100 AIA members and allies



### "The Tree House That Became an Oasis After Loss"

On-camera interview

The Wall Street Journal (video), May 2023

National feature on a house designed for immersion in nature after personal  
loss. ~ 3 million views.



### New York Next: Faces of the Future

Exhibition (work presented)

AIA New York | Center for Architecture, Spring 2004 (New York, NY)

Month-long group exhibition highlighting emerging New York practices.



Popular Media (selected): HGTV's Top Ten: Bluff House (commentary by  
David Rockwell, FAIA) and Montauk Lake House

Aired nationally on HGTV, 2009 (network averaged ~1.2 million primetime  
viewers that year—Nielsen, channel-wide).

**Exhibits**

**3.1** Virginia Tree House  
Great Falls, VA

**3.2** Hither Hills House  
Montauk, NY

**3.3** Bluff House  
Montauk, NY

**3.4** Montauk Lake House  
Montauk, NY

**3.5** East Lake House  
Montauk, NY

**3.6** Pool House  
East Hampton, NY

**3.7** Twachtman House  
Greenwich, CT





*The forest takes on an esthetic but also protective role. The different size trees, their colors, the shadows they cast, the light filtering through leaves and clearings, and the different level sightlines across the tree tops or down to the valley, become an integral part of the architecture. On all levels, the continuity between the natural vegetation and the structure is a constant. From every angle of the house, this two-way exchange is present, a three-dimensional connection between the building and the “virtual volumes” of its wooded context.*

Nancy Keates, The Wall Street Journal, April 2023

**Virginia Tree House**  
Great Falls, VA

Robert Henry Young, AIA | 20

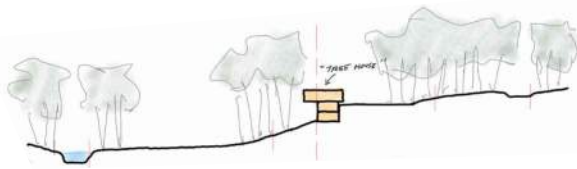
### 3.1 exhibits

A forested landscape invited design that authentically connects the occupants to the natural environment and provides them a range of perspectives on their surroundings from the forest floor to the nearby tree canopy and sky.

Young developed a solution anchored in empathy for the client, who was experiencing personal loss. He envisioned where the client would want to be on the site and what they would want to see. These humanistic insights shaped a home intended to provide a healing refuge by intentionally exposing the occupant to the restorative qualities of nature, including a “poet’s corner,” where the forest can be appreciated from a built-in window seat of solid oak.

The design creates an “agglomeration of forms” that extends above the hillside, orienting the architecture to the healing power of the trees. Each form offers a singular experience and view.

The house becomes an architectural embodiment of human experience, prioritizing comfort and perspective. *Wall Street Journal* coverage of the project validates Young’s human-centered approach to creating consequential, contextual architecture.



**Declaration of Responsibility:**  
*I have personal knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the exhibit listed.*  
Susan Deagle, Client

#### **Virginia Tree House**

Great Falls, VA | 2020

#### **Design Firm**

Robert Young Architect, PLLC

#### **Role of Nominee**

Partner / Lead Designer

#### **Select Recognition**

- 2023 SARA NY Design Award
- 2023 The Chicago Athenaeum American Architecture Award
- 2023 *Wall Street Journal*
- 2023 *The Plan*

#### **AIA Framework**

**Integration:** design meticulously integrated with natural forest environment.

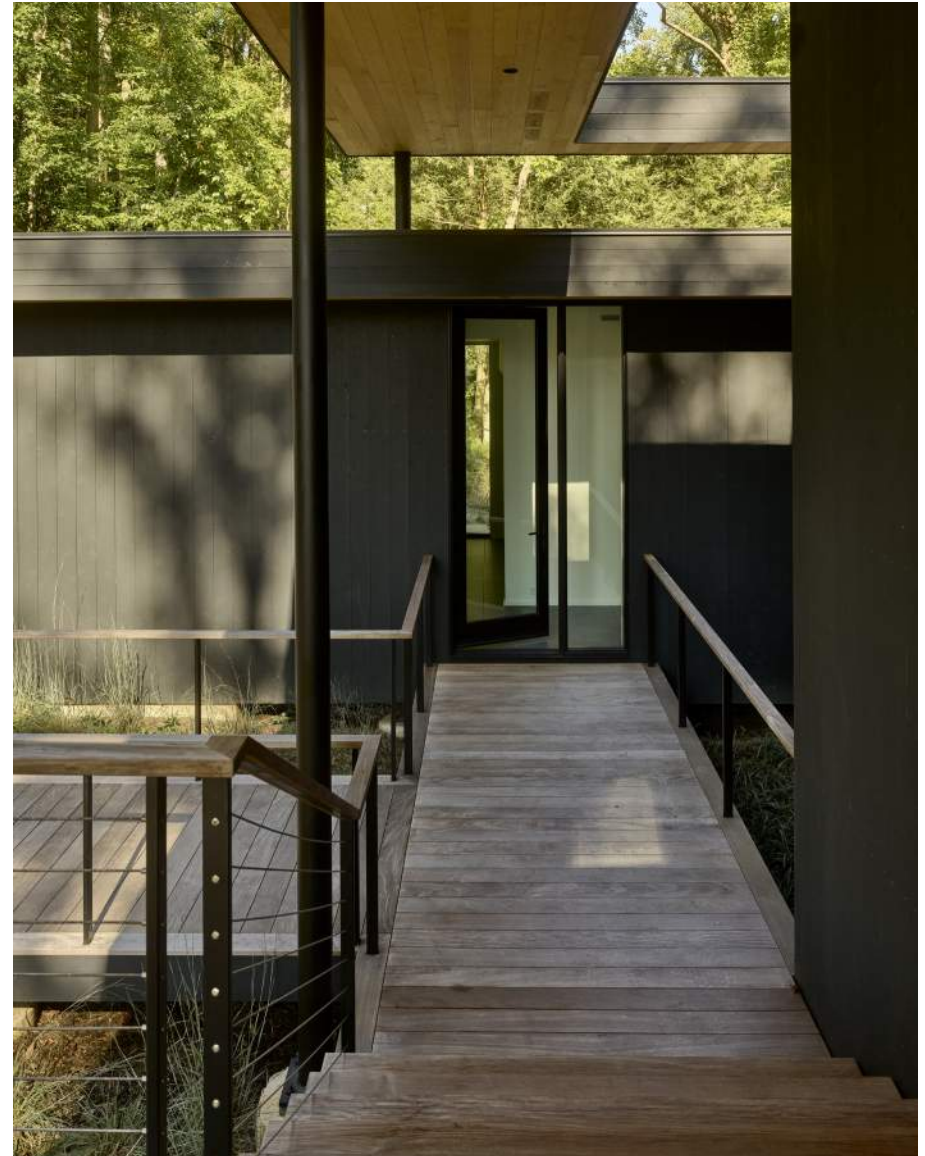
**Ecosystems:** minimal footprint on the landscape, with a focus on preservation; site revegetated with native species.

**Water:** maximally revegetated site with native species; minimized non-permeable surfaces; extensive subsurface drainage system reduces stormwater contamination.

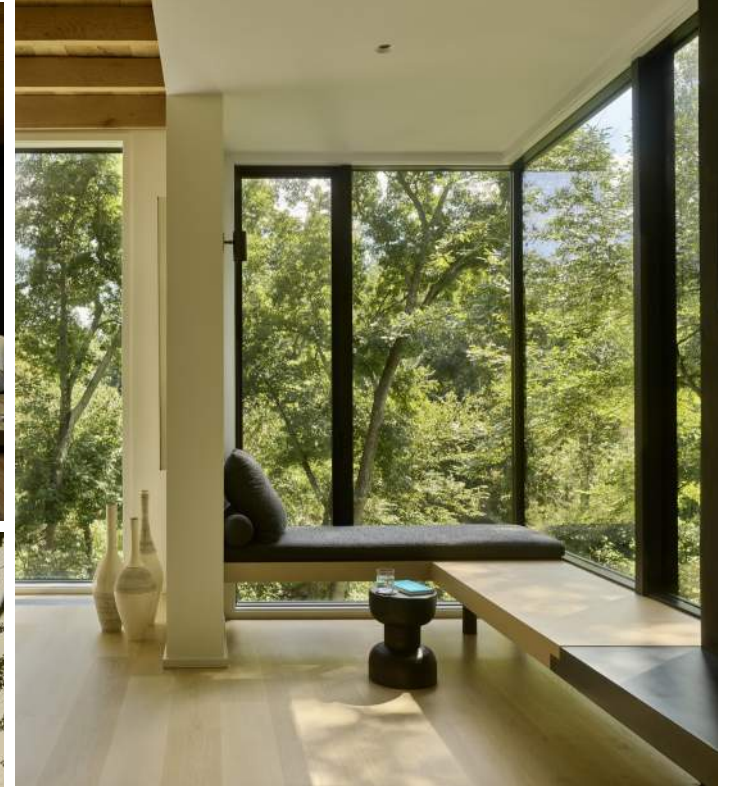
**Well-being:** biophilia for a healing refuge oriented to healing and restorative qualities of nature.

**Resources:** Rockwool insulation with 75% recycled content; local cabinetry for reduced carbon; solar orientation, overhangs and other passive strategies.

**Discovery:** provides a range of experiences through varied views, from panoramic “weather station” perspective to intimate forest views.



3.1 exhibits



*Embedding the structure into the site, the architect worked with charred shou-sugi-ban timber exteriors, broken down in smaller, rectangular volumes to better fit into their natural surroundings. This way, the home's generous size, spanning three levels, is cleverly concealed from the street – where the Hither Hills House presents as a fairly low-slung, single-story pavilion. The material palette, nods to the wider region's local vernacular of timber structures, and a green roof helps it all merge further into the landscape.*

Ellie Stathaki, Wallpaper\*, February 2023



**Hither Hills House**  
Montauk, NY

### 3.2 exhibits

A challenging, steeply sloped site with strict local zoning presented challenges to maximizing ocean views and the basis for the design solution. Young translated the site's constraints using his philosophy of context as function to create a home that is both a private escape and an appealing destination for a multi-generational family.

The design employs stacked volumes that cascade down the slope, reorienting the home to capture dramatic ocean views the site's natural grade would have otherwise obscured. From the street, the building's low-slung, single-story profile satisfied zoning stipulations and contributed to a discreet street presence. From the ocean, the house reveals itself as a more expansive, multi-level living environment, with different "zones" for social connection.



#### Declaration of Responsibility:

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Sean Forrestal, Artisan Construction, General Contractor

#### Hither Hills House

Montauk, NY | 2022

#### Design Firm

Robert Young Architect, PLLC

#### Role of Nominee

Partner / Lead Designer

#### Select Recognition

2023 SARA NY Design Award of Excellence

2023 I The Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture Award Honorable Mention

2023 designboom

2023 *NUVO Magazine*

2023 *Wallpaper\**

#### AIA Framework

**Integration:** seamless with wooded costal environment.

**Ecosystems:** minimal footprint, with a focus on preservation; site revegetated with native species.

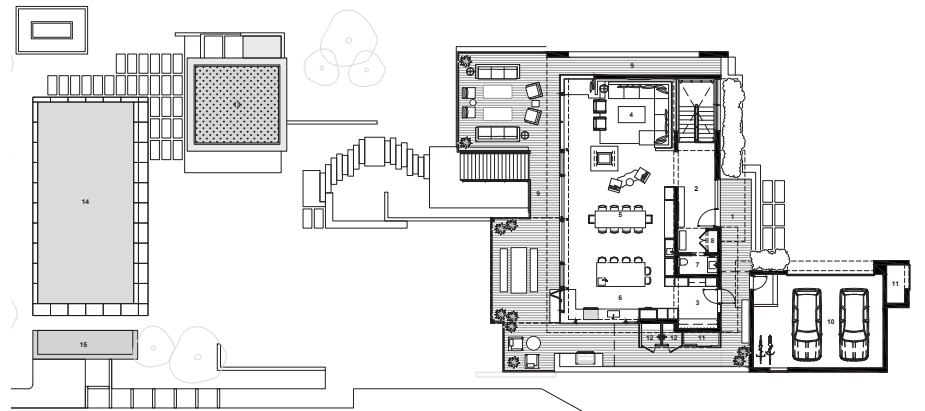
**Water:** minimal non-permeable surfaces; subsurface drainage reduces stormwater runoff; green roof; native plantings.

**Energy:** orientation for sun and natural breezes; design integrates strategies to achieve near net zero energy, net-zero carbon over time.

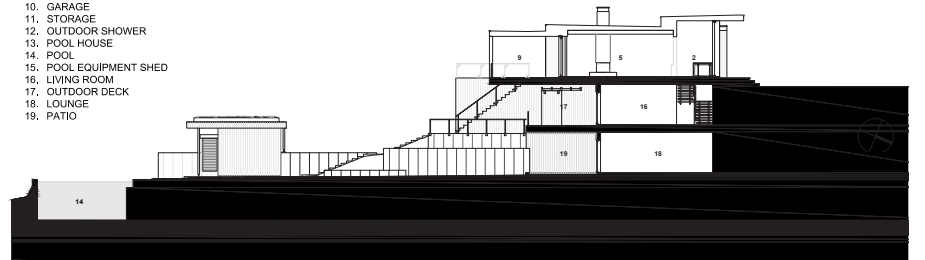
**Well-being:** biophilic designed refuge oriented restorative qualities of nature.

**Resources:** sustainably sourced siding; charred surface requires minimal maintenance and long life; SIPS; elements of the existing structure salvaged through a nonprofit to benefit rehab center.

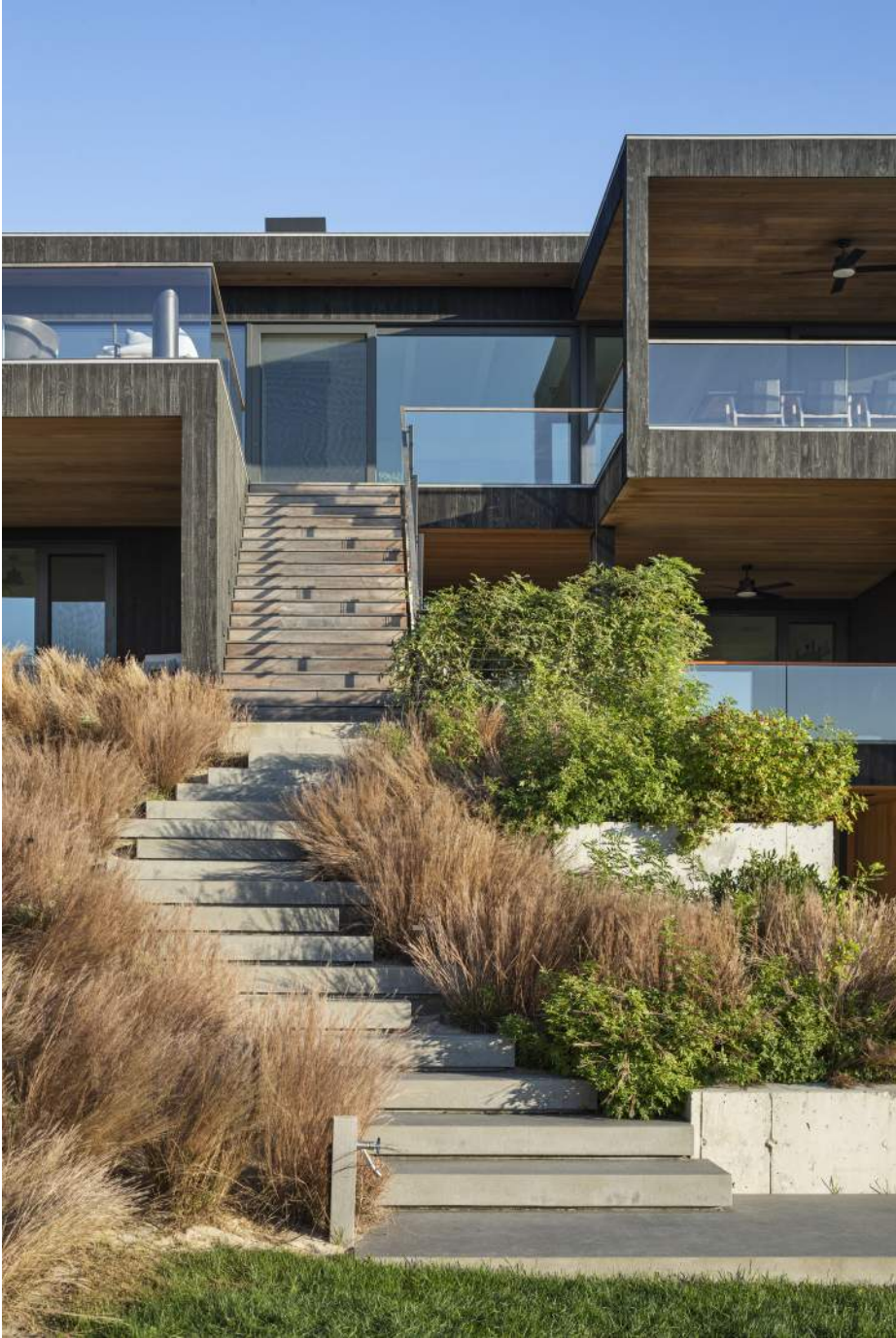
**Discovery:** panoramic "weather station" and intimate views.



1. ENTRY DECK
2. FOYER
3. MUD ROOM
4. LIVING AREA
5. DINING AREA
6. KITCHEN
7. POWDER ROOM
8. CLOSET
9. OUTDOOR DECK
10. GARAGE
11. STORAGE
12. OUTDOOR SHOWER
13. POOL HOUSE
14. POOL
15. POOL EQUIPMENT SHED
16. LIVING ROOM
17. OUTDOOR DECK
18. LOUNGE
19. PATIO



3.2 exhibits





*This remote lot, tucked on the top of a bluff facing the Block Island Sound, is surrounded on three sides by water, wetlands and woods. The client wanted a home that would have minimal impact on the environment, enjoy unbeatable panoramic views and offer all the comfort proper to a second home. Each space was carefully examined with respect to the effects of the sun and wind, as well as the views, and the house was conceived as a lens that continually frames and highlights even the most subtle changes in the environment.*

Hugo Kliczkowski, Exclusive Houses: Sea & Mountain, 2006

**Bluff House**  
Montauk, NY

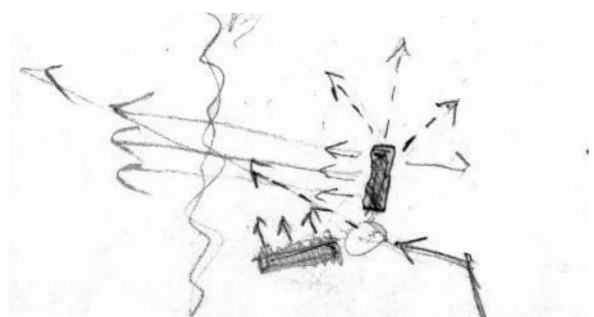
### 3.3 exhibits

Creating a year-round vacation home on a sensitive bluff site amid a 200-acre nature preserve, required design to honor the pristine environmental context while providing a durable and dynamic retreat.

Young's design approach centered on context as function, using site-specificity and material integrity to create a cohesive and enduring residence. The resulting house cantilevers out over the hillside on slender columns, giving it a delicate, respectful connection to the landscape while opening the residence to open ocean and sunset views.

The design frames a variety of views, from expansive ocean panoramas to intimate glimpses. Small-sized bedrooms reflect a focus on diverse social spaces that allow multiple groups to have different experiences at once. Durable materials like cedar and concrete were selected to patina over time, creating a timeless palette that unites interior and exterior.

The project, published widely and recognized with an AIA Long Island award, established Young's distinct design voice and demonstrated how modern architecture can feel "at home" in the natural world.



#### Declaration of Responsibility:

*I have personal knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the exhibit listed.*

Gavin Cutler, Client

#### Bluff House

Montauk, NY | 2002

#### Design Firm

Murdock Young Architect, PLLC

#### Role of Nominee

Partner / Lead Designer

#### Select Recognition

2006 AIA Long Island 'Archi'  
2006 The Chicago Athenaeum  
American Architecture Award  
2006 Custom Home Merit Award  
2006 *Contemporary Houses*  
2006 *Exclusive Houses: Sea & Mountain*  
2006 *Collection of Awarded Projects in the World*  
2004 *AIANY Oculus*  
2004 *HC&G (cover)*  
2002 *Contemporary Houses of the World*  
2002 *New York Living*

#### AIA Framework

**Integration:** cantilevered form creates a delicate connection to the hillside wooded environment.

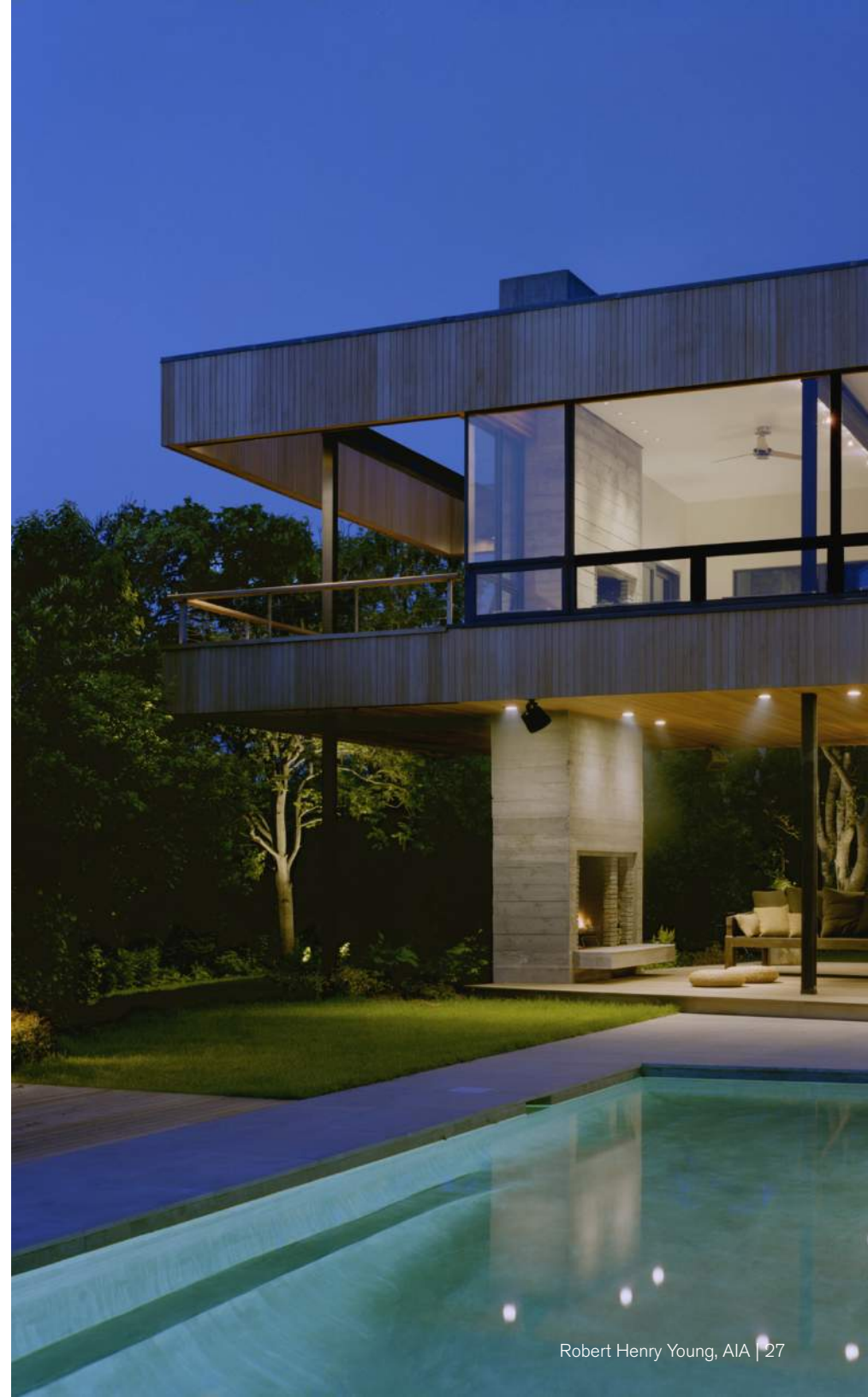
**Ecosystems:** habitat restoration.

**Water:** site revegetated with native species for minimal irrigation; minimized non-permeable surfaces; subsurface drainage system protects watershed; pool house green roof.

**Energy:** orientation, design for cross breezes reduces mech. cooling.

**Well-being:** connects occupants to varying coastal climate.

**Resources:** renovated structure reduced embodied carbon; durable, sustainably grown cedar siding and bamboo flooring.



### 3.3 exhibits



*Young did not want to make the mistake of saturating the house with the vistas beyond, fearing that they might, like a too-perfect postcard, all but disappear from the viewer's consciousness. "We wanted to design the house in a way so that if you moved even five feet in a room, the view would look different."*

Lockhart Steele, *Hamptons Cottages & Gardens*, August 2004



*The elements of this home are carefully integrated using materials common to the area. Cedar shingles, gabled roofs and white painted woodwork give a barn-like feel to the buildings, while large expanses of floor-to-ceiling glass, exposed trusses and steel introduce a contemporary twist.*

Sally Hayden, At Water's Edge, 2013



### 3.4 exhibits

Design for this residential compound combines the standards of a modern home with a contemporary interpretation of local vernacular, disguising its bulk on a sensitive lakeside site.

Young sought to create an environment attuned to the clients' desire for connection with the landscape. He composed a series of small, informal volumes to create a design that is both appropriate to the location and responsive to its natural qualities.

The resulting architecture expertly juxtaposes modern forms, such as large expanses of glass and simple planes, with traditional gabled forms clad in cedar. This approach used visual perspective to disguise the bulk of the 4,500-square-foot main house and its companion structures, making the large house appear more modest from the street. The compound also provides a variety of experiences, including a guest house intentionally designed as a destination, with visitors traveling through a garden to reach it.

Young's belief that "authenticity" emerges from understanding how things are made is evident throughout the design. Inside, the design's tectonic clarity is expressed through exposed trusses, while materials like driftwood-clad elements and gray-painted pine floors reflect local construction. The double-sided great room allows for cross breezes, natural light from two directions, and contrasting views toward the water and the land. The result is a compound that honors its surroundings, maximizes views, and serves distinct functions.

#### Declaration of Responsibility:

*I have personal knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the exhibit listed.*

Nat Oppenheimer PE, TYlin Group, Structural Engineer

#### Montauk Lake House

Montauk, NY | 2007

#### Design Firm

Murdock Young Architect, PLLC

#### Role of Nominee

Partner / Lead Designer

#### Select Recognition

2014 *The Big Book of the Hamptons*

2013 *At the Water's Edge*

2012 AIA Long Island 'Archi'

2012 *IW Magazine*

2011 *Design Bureau*

2011 *Ville & Casati*

2010 *HC&G (cover)*

2008 *Residential Architect*

#### AIA Framework

**Integration:** breaks down bulk to fit the neighborhood scale.

**Water:** extensive subsurface draining; minimized non permeable surfaces; native plantings.

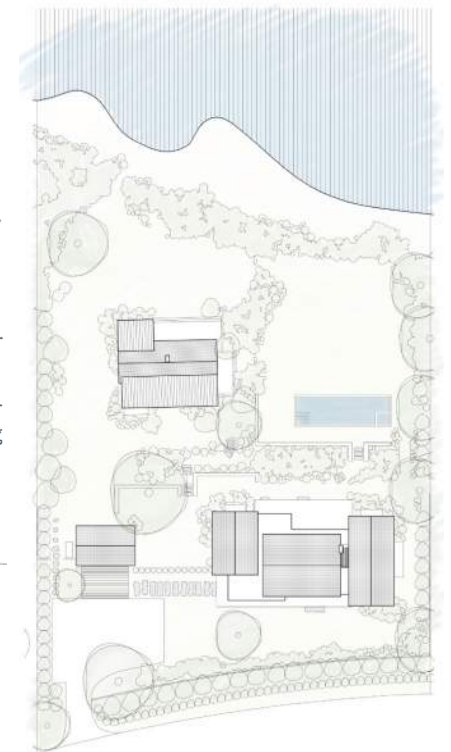
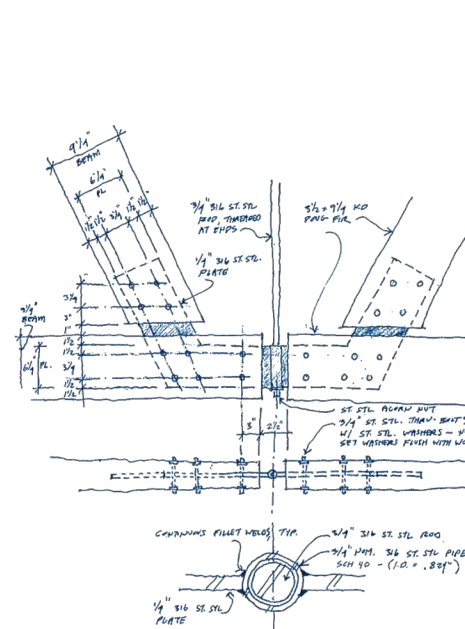
**Economy:** "near-passive" strategies increase energy efficiency, comfort, and longevity.

**Energy:** high performance insulation for reduced demand; solar and cross breeze orientation reduce energy use.

**Wellbeing:** biophilic approach with natural materials and green spaces improve health/well-being.

**Resources:** uses local materials and construction; pre-manufactured SIPS insulation; local crafts people; teardown structure salvaged through a nonprofit to benefit rehab center.

**Change:** design's durability and longevity reduce likelihood of future renovations.



3.4 exhibits



*This light-flooded home...offers its inhabitants a wonderful place to relax and enjoy entertaining family and friends. Views of the lake are maximized from every space...through expansive windows. The living spaces are open and airy, while the bedrooms are serene and cozy.*

onekindesign.com, Jan 2025



3.5 exhibits



*The simplicity of the structures is matched by the materials that form them, ones that will patinate or become duller or more varied over time. Vertical cedar planks clad the exterior walls, standing seam natural zinc the roofs, and rough brick the chimneys, giving the compound a slightly industrial aesthetic while remaining highly contextual and appropriate in the salty air.*

Josephine Minutillo, Architectural Record, April 2018

**East Lake House**  
Montauk, NY

Robert Henry Young, AIA | 32

3.5 exhibits

Designing for a pair of adjacent lots required minimizing the project's visual impact on the landscape while creating a residence with a discreet presence that includes both intimate and expansive experiences. Context became a functional element and the guiding philosophy. Dividing the program into two discrete structures—a main house and a guest house—Young reduced the architecture's bulk, so it feels unobtrusive and timeless. His use of generous decks and interior spaces allow the spaces to open to cross breezes and views.

The design choreographs varied experiences across the two structures, ensuring occupants are continuously re-engaging with their surroundings and rediscovering its beauty. The main house provides living spaces close to the ground with immediate access to nature, while the guest house offers contrasting, high-vantage vistas. An integrated bioswale manages stormwater, and the site was revegetated with low-maintenance, native species.

The architecture's tectonic clarity establishes a dialogue between a modern exposed steel frame and white-painted timber beams that draw from local vernacular. Materials, such as untreated cedar, raw zinc, and solid bronze, were selected for their ability to become more beautiful over time.

*Architectural Record* cited the project's delicate balance of modern purpose and contextual sensitivity.

**Declaration of Responsibility:**

*I have personal knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the exhibit.*

Chris Laguardia, FASLA, Laguardia Design, Landscape Architect

**East Lake House**

Montauk, NY | 2016

**Design Firm**

Robert Young Architect, PLLC

**Role of Nominee**

Partner / Lead Designer

**Select Recognition**

2021 AIA Long Island 'Archi'

2021 *Contemporary Gardens of the Hamptons*

2020 ASLA Honor Award

2019 The Manual

2018 *Architectural Record*

2018 ArchDaily

2018 Dezeen

2018 *Dwell*

2017 Interior Design, Best of Year Finalist

**AIA Framework**

**Integration:** two structures reduce visual bulk, integrate into landscape.

**Ecosystems:** site habitat restored with native species.

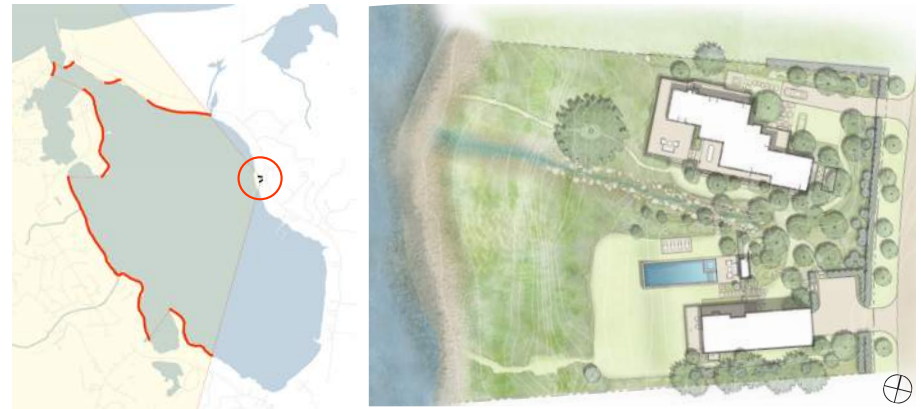
**Water:** bioswale controls stormwater naturally.

**Energy:** high-performance insulation/air barrier and orientation for sunlight and breezes reduce need for air conditioning and heating.

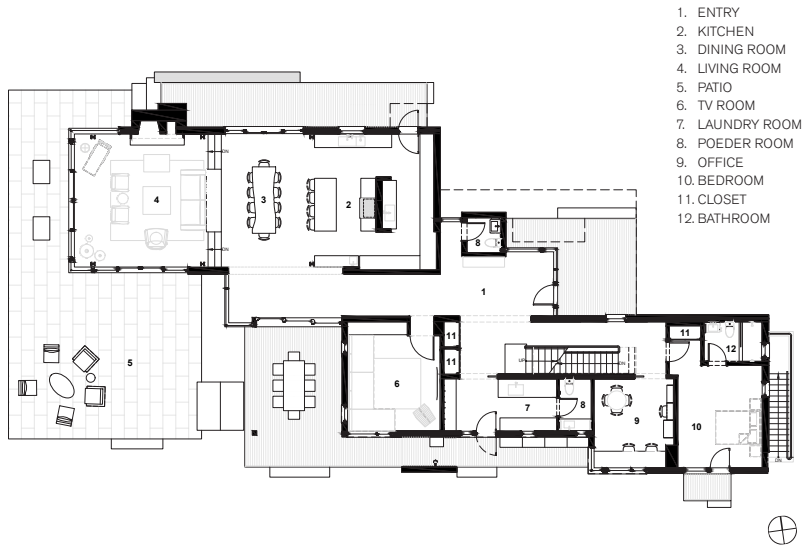
**Well-being:** biophilic, natural materials and green spaces improve health/well-being.

**Resources:** locally sourced siding/decking; durable materials chosen to patina and age. Elements of the structure salvaged through nonprofit to benefit rehab center.

**Discovery:** construction expresses how buildings were made.



3.5 exhibits



*Every detail of East Lake House speaks to the desire of the architects to get away from the coastal mansions of the past and create a new kind of beachside retreat. It is a reflection of the past, with its barn-like shape, while looking to the future with unique finishes, nature-inspired materials, and a minimalist style that allows nature to be the star of the show.*

Kelsey Machado, The Manual, April 2019



*This pool house creates a maximum variety of experiences within a relatively small set of indoor and outdoor spaces, all within eyeshot and earshot of each other. Elements of nature abound, from cedar louvers to blue-stone floors to a natural zinc roof, which will patina over time. Trees and foliage surrounding the structure give it a feeling of enclosure, so that you can't tell where the architecture ends and landscape design begins.*

ArchDaily, April 2018



**Pool House**  
East Hampton, NY

Robert Henry Young, AIA | 35

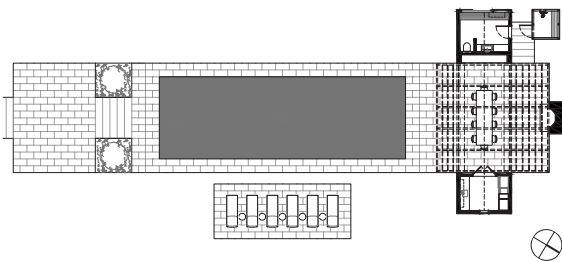
### 3.6 exhibits

Design for a pool house had to visually anchor an expansive landscape while adhering to a strict local zoning regulations limiting its size to 200 square feet.

Young translated a seemingly insurmountable code restriction into a creative opportunity. He reconciled the need for enclosed areas for storage and food prep, and a changing room and bathroom within the severe dimensional constraint. A central, open space was designed to allow a view straight through the structure, an intentional gesture Young employs to blur the line between architecture and landscape.

The resulting indoor/outdoor environment features a seating area with a fireplace and trellises that frame the sky. Natural materials like untreated cedar, bluestone, and zinc were selected to patina over time and ensure the structure will endure gracefully. A chimney made of handmade Danish bricks anchors the composition.

The project's recognition through awards and publications exemplifies how design can leverage regulatory constraints to achieve visually substantial and functionally elegant architecture.



#### Declaration of Responsibility:

*I have personal knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the exhibit listed.*

Gary Seff, Fountainhead Construction, General Contractor

#### Pool House

East Hampton, NY | 2017

#### Design Firm

Robert Young Architect, PLLC

#### Role of Nominee

Partner / Lead Designer

#### Select Recognition

2021 AIA Tri-State Design Award

2018 *Arch Daily*

2017 AIA Long Island 'Archi'

2010 Custom Home Design

Grand Award

#### AIA Framework

**Integration:** linked components create a visually substantial structure within a limited footprint.

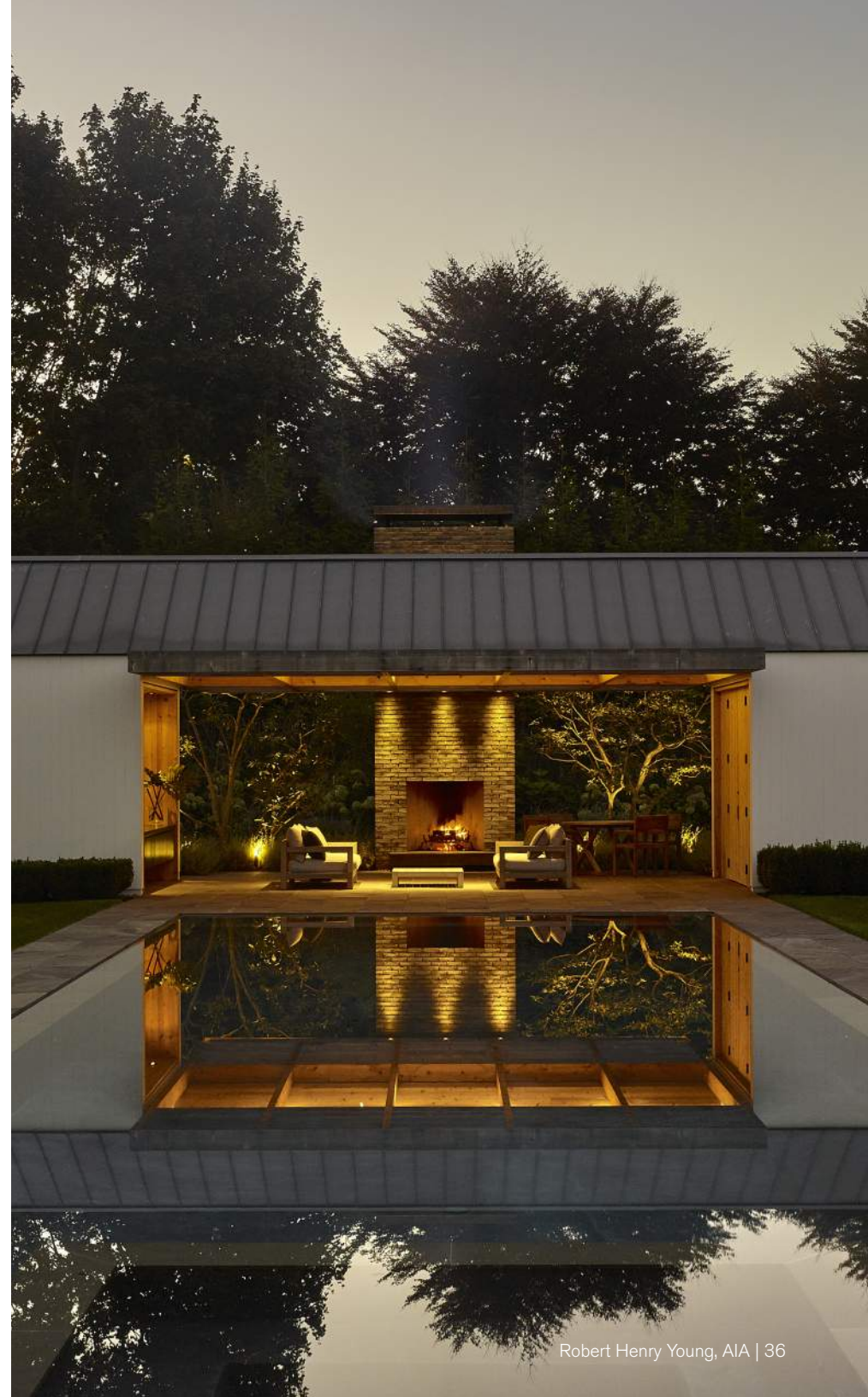
**Water:** extensive subsurface drainage manages stormwater and contributes to health of watershed; native plantings help reduce need for irrigation.

**Energy:** passive strategies, such as natural ventilation, reduce energy use.

**Well-being:** biophilic using natural materials and green spaces to improve health/well-being.

**Resources:** handmade bricks and other materials patina to endure; locally sourced Red Cedar planks; solid zinc roofing for long lifespan/recyclability, with low embodied energy; local millwork reduces resources carbon and supports local economy.

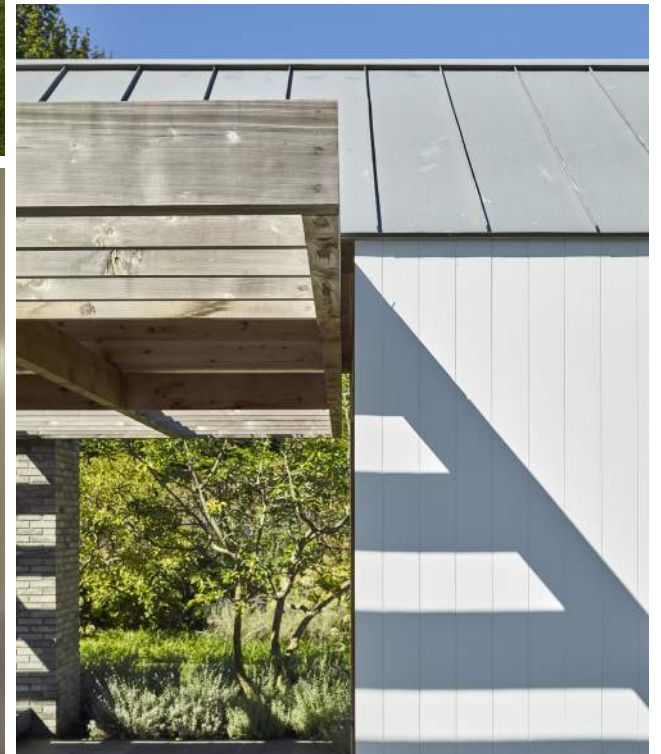
**Discovery:** expressed structure of trellis reveals how it is made, providing a lesson in tectonics.





*Small in scale, the architecture of this pool house in East Hampton, New York creates a visual, spatial, and experiential effect far beyond its diminutive size.*

2021 AIA Tri-State Design Award





**Twachtman House**  
Greenwich, CT

### 3.7 exhibits

Rehabilitating a historic 1926 residence, originally designed by Quentin and J. Alden Twachtman, required integrating an extensive contemporary program to meet the needs of a 21st-century family.

Young established a respectful dialogue between new and old. His belief in architecture's lasting value ensured the home's original Norman integrity was preserved while enabling the structure to function effectively for modern life.

The contemporary expansion was a direct and practical response to the client's desire for a space to be immersed in the restored meadow and view the sunset while being sheltered from the elements. The new wing and garage were seamlessly woven into the historic structure.

A complete contemporary residential program was provided while respectfully adapting the original structure, offering a dynamic representation of how function, layout, and context become the "inevitable" elements in making enduring architecture. Young's commitment to craft is evident in its use of salvaged bricks from the same factory as the originals, ensuring a seamless aesthetic continuity. The landscape was also designed to transition from a manicured lawn to natural meadows, minimizing maintenance and enhancing the site's ecology.

The complex addition demonstrates Young's vision for historic architecture to become an active partner in shaping contemporary design that can extend a building's life and relevance for generations to come.

**Declaration of Responsibility:**

*I have personal knowledge that the nominee was largely responsible for the design of the exhibit listed.*

Beka Sturges, ASLA, Reed Hilderbrand, Landscape Architect

**Twachtman House**

Greenwich, CT | 2025

**Design Firm**

Robert Young Architect, PLLC

**Role of Nominee**

Partner / Lead Designer

**AIA Framework**

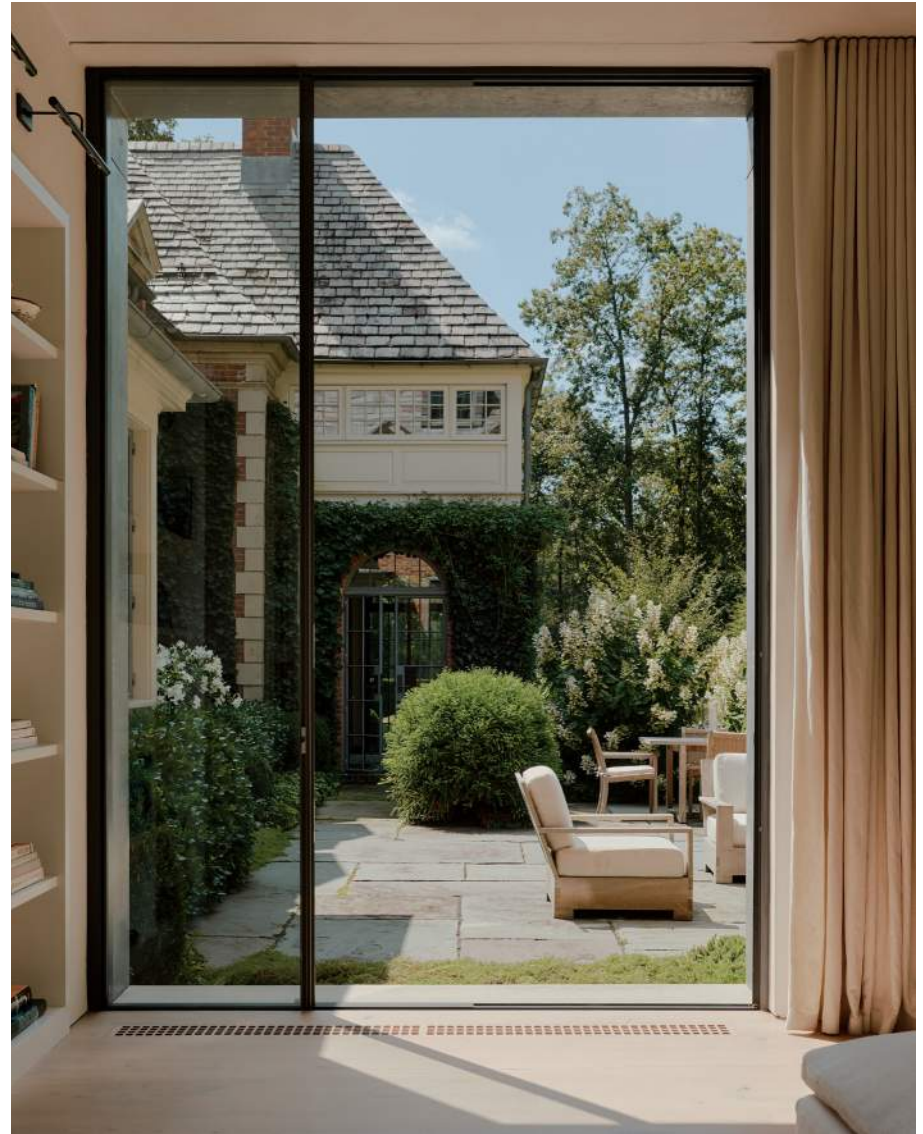
**Integration:** seamlessly weaves new and old from research into materials, details, proportions.


**Water:** increases quality of water in aquifer by revegetating site with meadows instead of lawns

**Energy:** near-passive strategies such as high-performance insulation and air barriers reduce energy use.

**Well-being:** biophillic design leverages natural light, materials, and views for health/well-being.

**Resources:** salvaged brick; hand-troweled lime plaster interior walls for lower embodied energy/ carbon-neutral curing; locally milled and made cabinetry.





**Reference Letters**

Errol Barron, FAIA

Gabe Smith, FAIA

Doug Tieger, FAIA

Jacob Riedel, AIA

Jaime Donate, AIA

Nat Oppenheimer, PE

Nancy Mack