

# RESTLESS LIVING

*"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."*



VOLUME 76



## KHI HOUSE

Methoni, Greece

Amid green olive trees in the serene Greek landscape, an unconventional white volume distinguishes itself. The KHI House is an architectural piece that takes cues from art and meditation and combines these two elements to achieve an expressive house deeply connected to its user. To share the tale of the project, we have invited Co-Founder of LASSA architects, Theo Sarantoglou Lalis.

“The KHI house has two main sources of inspiration. On the one hand, it combines architectural characteristics of a space for art and those of a cloister for meditation. And on the other hand, it takes inspiration from James Turrell’s skyspaces – framing of the sky, and South American Op art – 60’s Optical art”, Theo begins. Essentially, the house’s interesting shape was materialized by means of a single wall framing a total of four wings. Its structure, bespoke elements and landscape formers were produced off-site using digital hot-wire cutting technology performed by a local contractor. Due to the formwork’s lightness which meant ease of transportation and installation, the house was established in only a couple of days. Interestingly, this lightness of formwork can also be sensed through its use of color and shapes, for example, the “absence of corners”, as Theo describes the spaces. Fundamentally, the X-shaped house is divided into four areas with a sheltered garden at the end of each wing. “KHI combines two extreme conditions which complement one another – the courtyards that provide meditative enclosure, and the west wing and roof that, in contrast, offer unobstructed panoramic views towards the sea”, Theo elaborates.

In closing, Theo shares that it is often pricey to build an architecture like the KHI House. However, this case was different. “The realization of bespoke or complex architectural form often requires high budgets and a highly skilled construction company. We were able to achieve a high level of sophistication and finish with a normal budget by borrowing the technology of a local company specializing in the manufacturing of fish crates!”

Architecture by **LASSA architects**

Photography by **NAARO**

*“The project massing engages with its site to define specific uses along its periphery. By doing so it also accomplishes a better integration with its surroundings landscape. The project takes inspiration in the traditional architecture of the terrace, a very common element structuring the Mediterranean landscape.”*

**– Theo Sarantoglou Lalis, LASSA architects**





## PORTAGE BAY HOUSE

Seattle, Washington, United States

**T**ucked along calming waters of Portage Bay in Seattle, Portage Bay House is a residence that establishes a happy living. As a matter of fact, studies indicate that life by the water tends to be happier and more creative. For example, biologist Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, who wrote a book called “Blue Mind”, discusses in his book this phenomenon he calls “blue mind”, which is basically a state of calmness and well-being induced by water. To understand the Portage Bay House, we invited Founding Partner at Heliotrope Architects, Mike Mora.

“The house was designed to live like a studio loft for a bachelor who values privacy, a central location to reside in the city, and a convenient spot to park the float-plane. Hidden from the street, the building is a protective shell of zinc and aluminum – a refined version of the maritime industrial sheds found throughout the waterfronts of Seattle”, Mike begins. The house is twofold and takes advantage of its topography to ensure privacy on the entry side and openness towards the bay. Essentially, the spaces are divided between two floors in a single volume; compact yet spacious and suitable to meet the needs of a single inhabitant. The entry access is through the second floor where the bedroom and bathroom are located along with a garage and storage.



This intimate space made by bedroom and bathroom creates an area that seemingly focuses on tranquility and enjoyment as one wakes up and showers with awe inspiring views of the bay. In the bathroom one finds a Japanese style hinoki tub that establishes a harmonious contrast with white surfaces. On the second floor, common areas share the scene with a wine cellar and a shop, whereas the main floor contains the living room and kitchen. “The kitchen is small and streamlined with equipment paired down to the essentials”, says Mike. The atmosphere proposed by the interior is dominated by wooden elements, combined with white and black. The exterior is mainly composed of zinc and aluminum surfaces and according to Mike “an interior palette of cedar, walnut, flagstone, blackened steel, and marble stands in contrast to the machine-like character of the exterior”. Finally, an outside garden gives access to a pier that ends on the water. Hanging from a pole, two swings create a playful experience as one feels like flying above the lake.

All in all, Portage Bay House generates an ideal home that celebrates life on water’s edges. Evidently, with such an architecture, one could assume that living a happy and creative life would not only be due to the fact that it is located by the water, but also that it is a design that meets the needs and characteristics of its owner.

Architecture by **Heliotrope Architects**

Photography by **Aaron Leitz**





## HOUSE DYE FORE 11

Set on the slopes of an immense golf course, one finds a house that opens itself up to capture the amazing horizon views provided by its landscape. The house seemingly follows the same principles of such golf grounds to offer an impressive spatial experience of the surroundings; almost making one feel like a small golf ball circling around a big beautiful golf course. Leading Architect, Arturo Despradel, tells us more about the project designed for a long time client.

“We have worked with this client for a long time, in several projects, both commercial and personal, which made us have a previous notion of their preference. For this specific project, we accompa-

nied them from beginning to end, including the selection of the site. The selected site provided for privacy and comfort as the two main factors in the design, to be enjoyed with family and friends”, Arturo begins. The project takes advantage of its site to provide expansive views of the outdoors and also to respond to the climatic challenge of the region: the hot weather. By generating generous spaces, flows of fresh breeze are facilitated inside the house while sliding doors of glass and few walls in the main social area help with achieving an open and ventilated house. “With sliding glass doors opening towards the outdoors that hide behind the house structure, the studio, the living room, the dining room and the kitchen are properly adjacent to each other

## La Romana, Dominican Republic

in order to integrate these areas, helping to minimize the visual objects and letting in the breeze”, Arturo explains. House Dye Fore 11 feels like a home that is going to be welcoming both inhabitants and guests. In regards to that, Arturo conclusively says: “The concept of the design was based on this factor, opening the doors to nature and at the same time opening our arms to its visitors, making the ideal setting for the family to fully enjoy their stays, creating memories that they will keep forever.”

Architecture by **Despradel Design & Development**

Photography by **Ricardo Piantini**

and **Arturo Despradel**





## PATAGONIA COMPLEX

Patagonia, Chile

**H**idden in a picturesque scenery combining blue jasmine water lake and native woods topped off with a volcano, Patagonia Complex is a forest retreat encapsulating the beauty of a home amid such iconic landscape. As the saying goes: “Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations”. In this case, one could say that “difficult waters often lead to beautiful destinations”. We reached out to Co-Founder at Estudio Base Arquitectos, Cristián Larraín to share his insights on the project.

“The Patagonia complex is located along a small bay in a lake in Southern Chile. The lake’s main feature is its lack of access by land, only made available by boat. The inspiration is the place itself, with a native forest with trees over 20 meters high. They look at the lake with a volcano in the background. It is a magic place”, Cristián begins. The project consists of a set of houses designed especially for a large family who wished to enjoy strategic views of the magic setting from every volume. The building rests on top of a ravine and is encompassed by native forest, hence, the house was thought to capture as much light as possible throughout the day, so that all spaces would feel vivid despite being surrounded by big trees. Additionally, the forest also acts as a shield, sheltering the complex against wind and rain. Essentially, building on such iconic landmarks means responsibility to preserve them. As Cristián says: “The strategy was to intervene in the land as little as possible. The houses





are built on a single level where independent volumes are raised sharing a common space in between for family gatherings.” Evidently, enjoying majestic Patagonian landscapes pays off any trouble along the way. With this in mind, the challenge about materializing the home was the lack of access by land, meaning, everything had to be done by means of a boat. “The project’s major challenge was its construction process. The availability and distribution of materials and labor in the area were some of the many difficulties that we overcame”, Cristián says. As the project rests on a metallic structure which was built in sections, it enabled ease of transport and on-site installation. To accentuate the challenges of the site even further, the area was actually hit by the storm during construction. “During a very windy and rainy day we were installing the roof, and a few trees fell near the house, on the edge of the ravine a meter from it, we lost ten meters of front patio”, Cristián tells. While the storm created a setback, the complex now needs very little concern as the use of local materials ensure the place to be highly durable, requiring only low maintenance.

One can definitely say that difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations, and Patagonia Complex is an architecture serving as a living proof.

Architecture by **Estudio Base Arquitectos**

Photography by **Pablo Casals Aguirre**



*“A veritable temple of timber, form and space is expressed through the primary use of Tasmanian Oak. As a result the building exudes a unique warmth and homeliness – perfect for a growing family.”*

**– Alice Villella, Interior Designer**





## FLINDERS RESIDENCE

Flinders, Australia

Life on the countryside can be amazing. Waking up before the sun rises, listening to the quiet sounds of nature, breathing in pure and fresh air and having that feeling that there is no better place to be; close to mother nature and distant from the hustle and bustle of the city. Flinders Residence is a house that makes the Australian coastal countryside its home, creating a special place for a family to retreat and recharge.

“Flinders Residence is a study in modern country-style living, manifesting as an enclave of barn-like forms which speak to the land, the earth, and the interplay between texture, grain and light”, Principal Architect Abe McCarthy begins. The residence was born out of a vision: the client wished for a family home that was “non-contemporary in its formal expression”, hence, Flinders Residence materialized to be a country-style home blended with modern elements. “The design is unique in that every vantage point of the building is on display. There is no back of the house. The overall form is sculpted and resolved to ensure framed views from and to the building from all directions”, Abe explains. Essentially, the house carries that country atmosphere with a barn-like formation, gabled roof and materials that evoke feelings of warmth and comfort; highlighted by the Tasmanian Oak. “This is a house that celebrates beautiful modern design but is ultimately livable. It is a marriage between a country-style barn house and a modern expression of architecture, with moments of glamour juxtaposed against moments of pragmatism. A truly unique residence”, Alice Villella, Director at AV-ID, says. The duo – Abe and Alice – ensured a holistic experience with an incredible series of bespoke pieces, including joinery, lighting and a cozy conversation pit. This way, the interiors remain stylish, inviting and highly functional; fully equipped to comfortably accommodate a growing family.

Architecture by **Abe McCarthy Architects**

Interior design by **AV-ID**

Photography by **Shannon McGrath**

## Words of the Week



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*What is most important: Aesthetics or function? Most of you have likely considered this question before. Personally, I admire how the American architect Richard Buckminster Fuller explained his view back in the 70s. He said: “When I am working on a problem, I never think about its beauty. I just think about how to solve the problem, but when I finish it, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong.”*

*In an architecture project there are always things that ‘need to be done’ for a design to work; whether it is heating, ventilation, or other necessary elements. As an example, while an A/C may be functional in itself, the physical element has not been functionally optimized if it is still visually present in the room. You ideally want to ‘hide’ it, so it will not take up any space. When it is hidden – and hence functionally optimized – it is both solving the problem of a heated indoor climate while allowing the space to beautifully stand out. Buckminster Fuller’s notion that beauty is the outcome of a meticulous attention to solving a problem is quite intriguing; as if the two are mutually beneficial.*

*Thank you so much for reading this week’s issue. Have a wonderful weekend. See you again next Friday!*

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Trampedach".

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH  
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

