

WOOD DESIGN & BUILDING

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SURREY CENTRAL CITY
*Meticulous timber engineering converts mundane
to magnificent*

WRITER'S STUDIO
Floating shingle box preserves site, delivers view

EXTERIOR WOOD STAINS
Types, Uses and a Look Ahead



1

2

Writer's Studio

Floating shingle box preserves site, delivers views

Carol A. Wilson

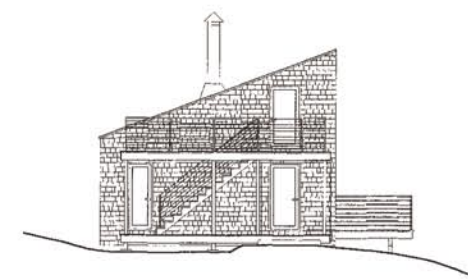
Somes Sound in the center of Mt. Desert Island, Maine, surrounded by Acadia National Park, is the site of a small writing studio that takes advantage of the beauty of the site, while respecting the fragile landscape.

The views are magnificent, the site rugged, but the flora is extremely delicate. The topsoil is only inches deep and the lichens and understory are slow to repair once damaged. A 60% slope down the hillside ends in Somes Sound, the only fjord in North America.

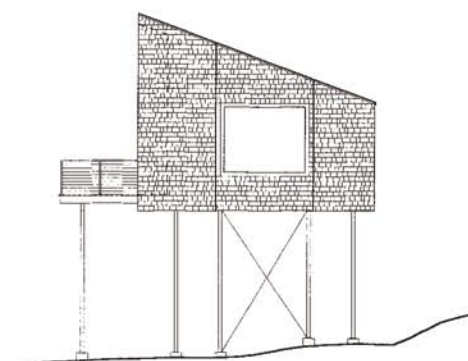
The studio floats above the landscape to minimize its effect on the shore and vegetation. The entire, 1,572sf box-like studio is clad in western red cedar shingles.

The natural color and texture of the shingles, and the transparent connection to the ground through the use of open support columns, helps the architecture to become part of the woods.

The interior is arranged around the bath and kitchen core, a kind of box within a box, that divides the interior into two equal areas: the dining/living area to the west where the main entry is located, and the writing studio to the east. Much of the south elevation, the high side of the shed roof, opens to the views through large glass and mahogany sliding doors that lead to a generously sized wood deck of 1x4 Ipe. The ceiling of the studio



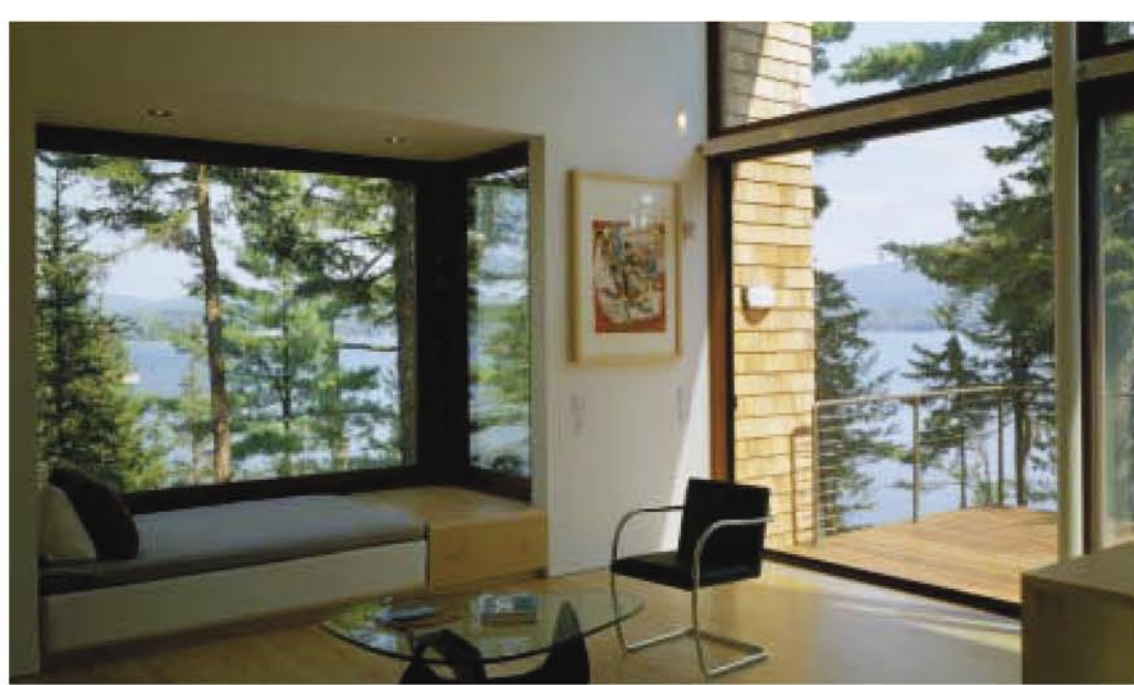
West Elevation



East Elevation

1. Seeming to float on a concrete plinth, the shingle-clad studio rests on steel columns camouflaged among the trees.

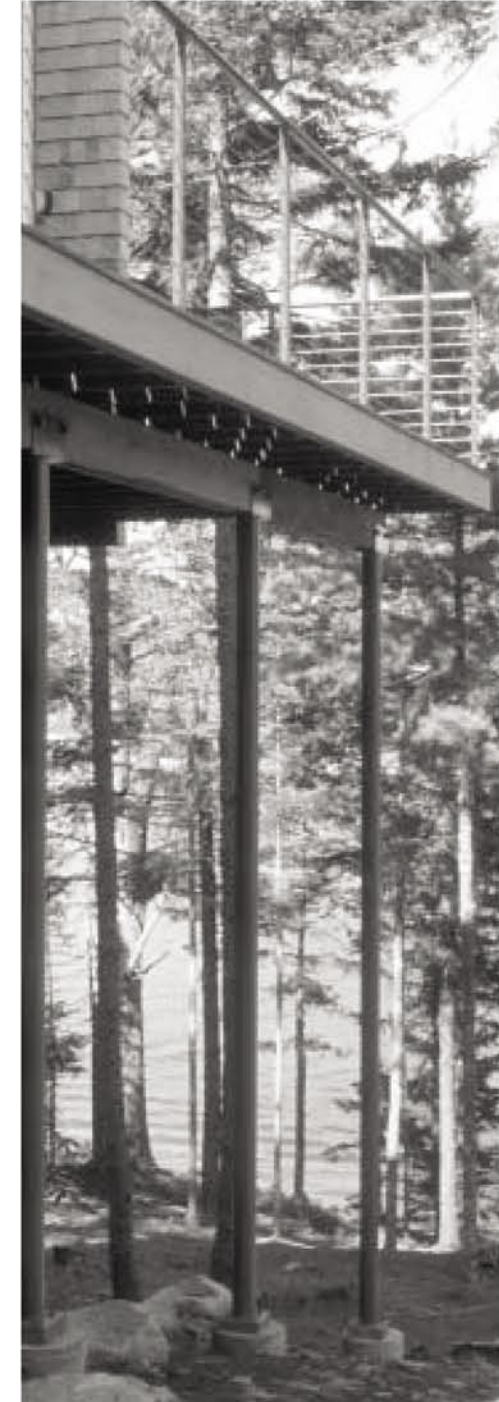
2. The south elevation, a view opposite to that of photo 1.



3



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continues through the glass wall carrying the eye along and making a seamless connection from inside to outside.

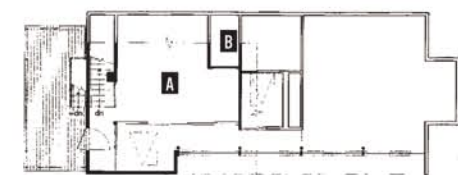
The primary tools of the studio, other than the writer's desk, are concealed in sleek maple cabinetry along the north wall. A window seat/daybed, that cantilevers 20ft. in the air from the west end of the studio, adds an element of interior spaciousness and looks out to an eagle's nest on an adjacent island.

The floor construction of a loft provides an 8ft. ceiling over the dining/living area making it a more intimate space in contrast to the openness and height of the studio. Sliding louvered doors open the loft to the glazed south wall.

CONSTRUCTION

The frame construction of insulated 2x6 Timberstrand [laminated veneer lumber-LVL] and regular stud walls rests on 4-1/2 in. dia. steel columns topped with steel saddles that accept two main support beams of three nail-laminated 2x10s and a central beam of two nail-laminated 1-3/4 x 9-1/4 pieces of LVL. The beams in turn support 2x10 floor joists. Having no foundation, the floor is well insulated with 8in. batts between the joists, and a layer below of 2in. rigid insulation finished with 1/2-in. medium-density overlay [MDO] plywood.

The shed roof consists of 10-1/4 in. thick structural insulated panel system [SIPS] roof panels, with oriented strand board skins on both sides, finished with



Loft Plan

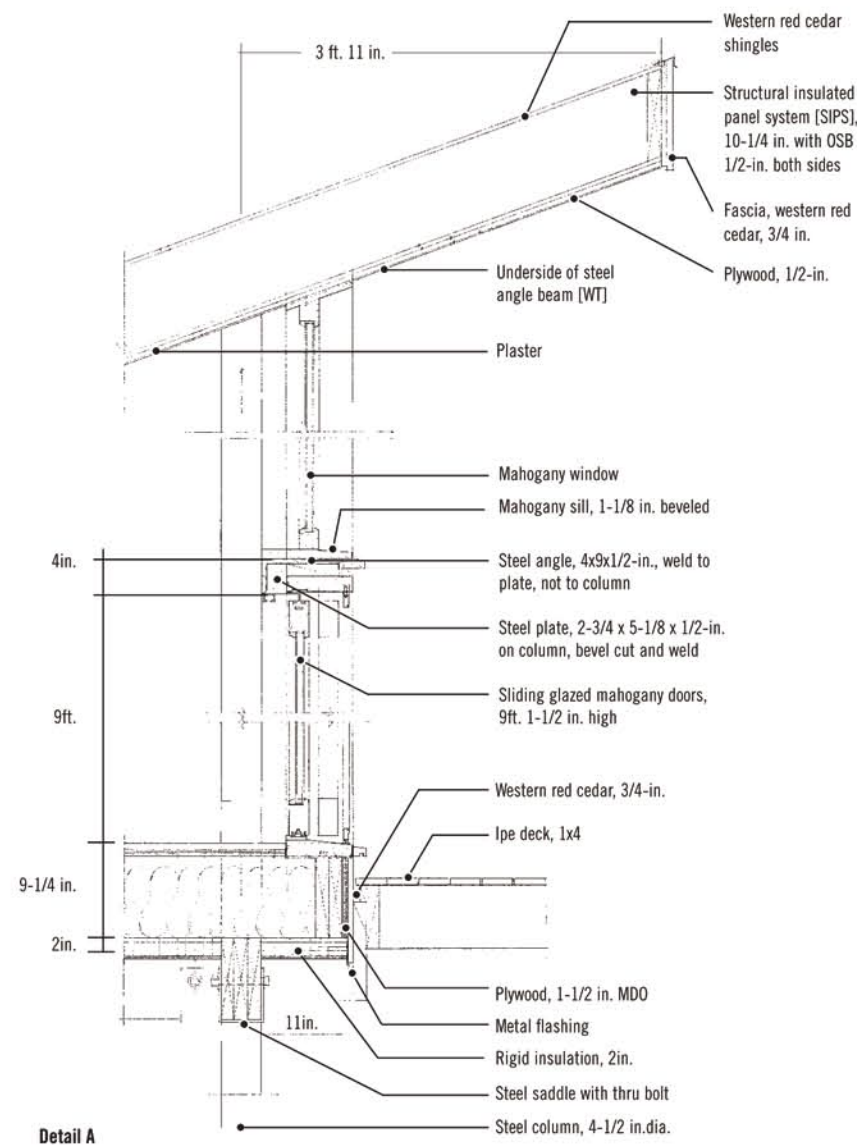


Main floor

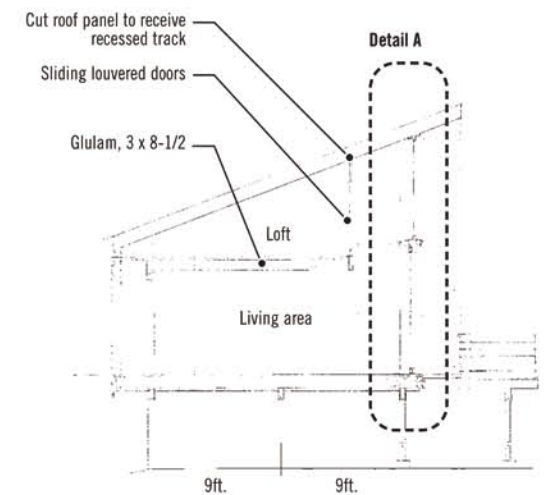


Lower Floor

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| A | Loft | E | Kitchen |
| B | Open to below | F | Studio |
| C | Entry with skylight | G | Bath |
| D | Dining/Living | H | Mechanical/laundry |



Detail A



Section A-A

3. The window seat/daybed at the east end of the studio.
4. One of three main built-up wood beams, here located below the deck, bolted to steel saddles on steel columns.
5. The light-filled studio seen from the window seat with a view past the kitchen to the living area.



PRODUCT SPECS

Frame

- 2x6 wall studs [Timberstrand laminated veneer lumber [LVL] and lumber] and 2x10 floor joists, supported on two outside beams of three nail-laminated 2x10s, and a central LVL beam of two 1-3/4 x 9-1/4, that rest on 4-1/2 in. dia. steel columns; roof of 10-1/4 in. thick structural insulated panel system [SIPS] roof panels that span between steel roof angle beams; two glulam beams, 3x11 and 3x8-1/4, along with laminated 2x6 decking, support the loft

Exterior

- Western red cedar shingles on walls and roof, western red cedar fascia boards, finished with clear, semi-transparent stain

Interior

- Quarter-sawn maple floors, maple plywood desk and cabinetry throughout, painted plaster walls ceilings, and exterior soffit


Windows and Doors

- Oslo mahogany doors and windows, St. Léon de Standon, Quebec

1/2-in. gypsum board on the ceiling and western red cedar shingles over 1x strapping on the roof.

Along the south wall, steel columns on 9ft. centers transfer the roof loads directly to footings. The SIPS roof panels span between steel roof angle beams that run across the 20ft.-width of the building from the steel columns at the south wall to the frame walls along the north side. The bottoms of the steel angles are revealed in the ceilings.

Along the glazed south elevation, a continuous steel angle attached to each column supports the header of the sliding doors and the sill of the glazing above. The loft is supported on perimeter glulam beams on two sides, and has a floor of 2x6 laminated tongue and groove decking. The

track for the sliding louvered doors rests directly on the 3x11 glulam beam parallel to the south glazed wall. 

Carol A. Wilson is principal of Carol A. Wilson Architect, Falmouth, Maine. More photos, drawings and detailed description of this project are found at www.woodmags.com. Click on Wood Design & Building, then Mag Rack, and issue #27.

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PHOTOS: BRIAN VANDEN BRINK, ROCKPORT, ME; JAY COCKS, NEW YORK, NY AND KRISTEN SHAW, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

6. Looking along the south wall to the main entrance and living room with overhead loft and louvered doors.

7. The glorious deck complements the shingle cladding, and mahogany windows and sliding doors.

