



Exceptional Dwellings

X-HOUSE

别墅设计

The unique site-specific designs featured in X-House
blend contemporary notions of sustainability with
eye-catching forms and supremely livable spaces.
Fascinating residences are featured from around the
world, including

*Argentina Australia
Brazil Chile Denmark
Indonesia Japan
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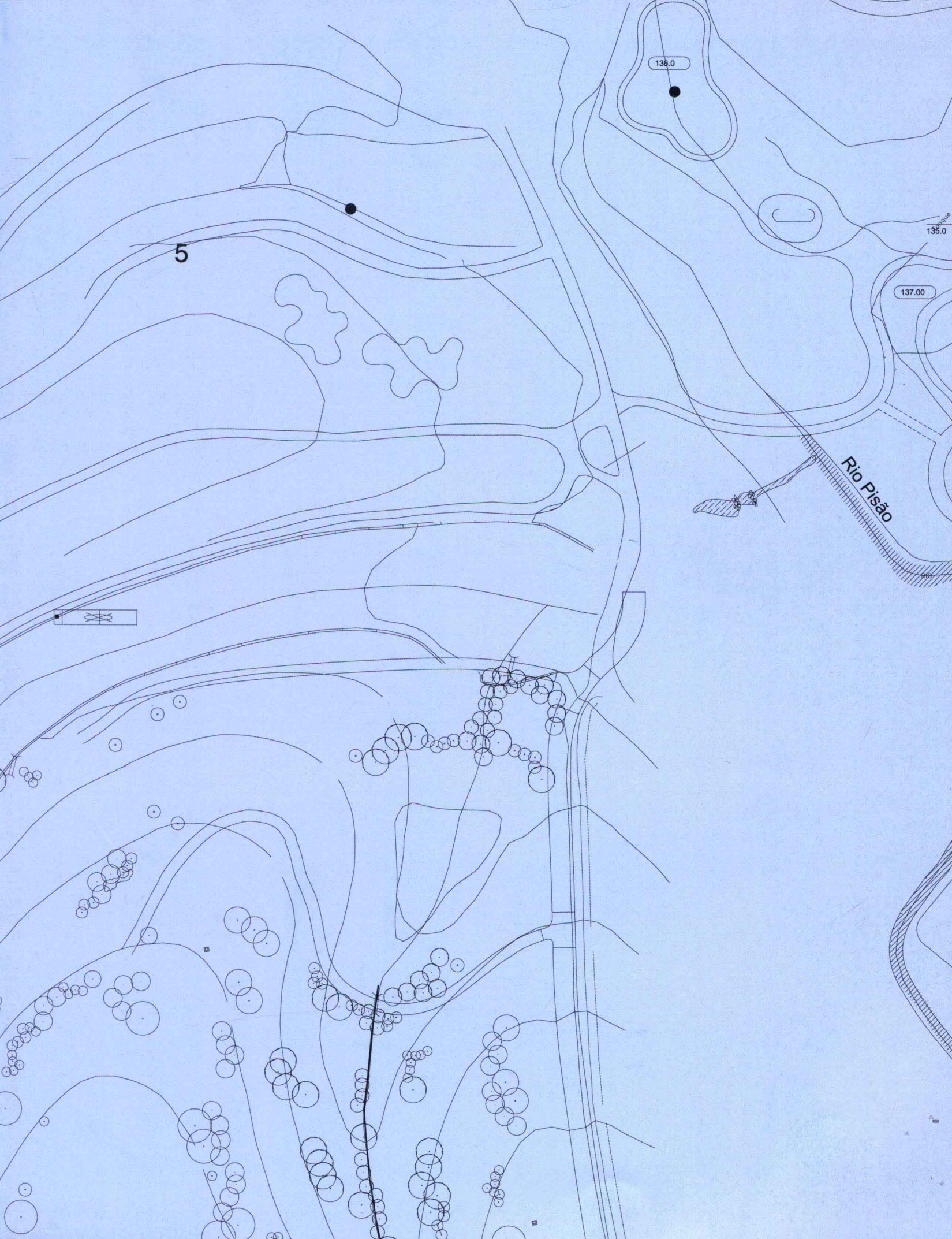
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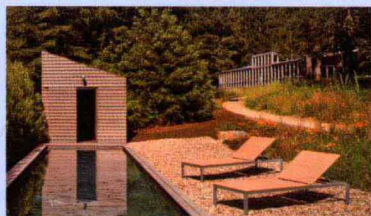
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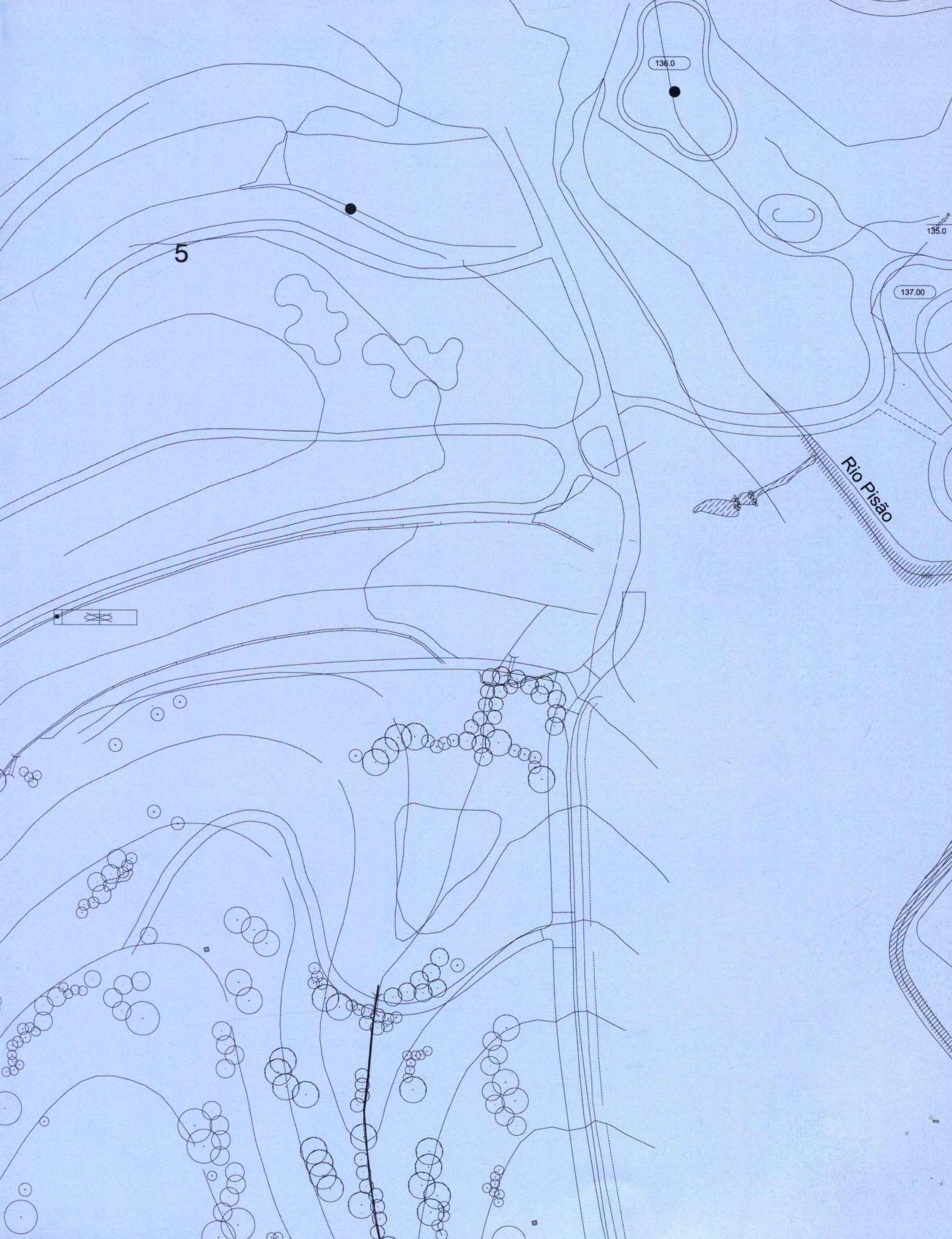
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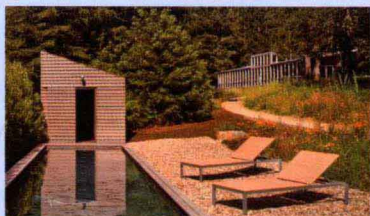
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PREFACE

Ellen Christensen

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The house is often seen as the most personal of architectural forms, with its formal characteristics, mood, and layout linked to the contentment of inhabitants. The architect's role in creating this most-personal type of space has long been contested. Renowned and influential Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, a founder of the International style of architecture, known as the Modern architecture movement, penned basic and "scientific" guidelines for house function in the early 20th century, arguing that a house must be:

- /
- "1) A shelter against heat, cold, rain, thieves, and the inquisitive.
 - 2) A receptacle for light and sun.
 - 3) A certain number of cells appropriated to cooking, work, and personal life."
- /

Today's architects approach the idea of the completely personalized home armed with knowledge of past trends and contemporary ideas. House spaces are tailored to the individuals within each family, rather than expressing a cookie-cutter notion of gendered spaces. In contrast with early architectural Modernists, who wanted local styles to disappear and all houses to look the same, today's houses exemplify the unique. Multifariousness is again valued. Today's houses are groundbreaking in their use of materials and styles specific to each site, with many projects in line with the tenets of critical regionalism, placing emphasis on the geographical context of the building and the typography, climate, and light; and valuing tectonic form, rather than an impressive scene. The houses highlighted in this book are truly "dream houses"—

spaces created by talented, visionary professionals with an eye to the impact these houses will have on the surrounding land, as well as an inward look at the real needs and tastes of the specific individuals for whom the rooms are tailored. Within the architecture of houses, ideas and values for other types of architecture can be found; for, as Renaissance architect Leon Battista Alberti asked, "What is a house but a small city? And what is a city, but a large house?"

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The global architecture scene stands poised as a powerful harbinger and creative force within the criss-crossing cultural forces that together forge new cultural terrain. Renowned architectural firms are making groundbreaking developments in sustainability and eco materials, championing both fresh ideas and those with a seed in earlier earth-friendly movements, such as "Land Art," which was spearheaded by artists such as Robert Smithson, famous for his naturally water-eroded and constantly changing "Spiral Jetty." Land Art emphasized natural materials and increased focus on the relation of a structure or installation to its surrounding natural space. One of the predominant themes of the projects featured in this book is the relation of designed houses to their surrounding natural plot, with great care taken to not uproot existing trees or soil types. The chapter divisions of X-House also prioritize terrain—projects are grouped according to the type of climate to which they are tailored.

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The projects within X-House respond to site challenges and issues of sustainability in innovative, smart ways. Natural solutions to design challenges such as lighting, heating, insulation, and

ventilation are utilized as often as possible. For example, Dune House, created by PM ARQ within a forest in Portugal, was planned on a site that would foster the least intrusion on the natural environment. A site with easy access and open space was chosen, rather than cutting down trees. A shade-providing concrete slab, new plant growth, and a swimming pool create air patterns that provide natural cooling, and the thick weight of the building's walls was designed to respond to the great temperature variation in the area by delaying the heating and cooling cycles. Artificially created sand dunes on the site were constructed entirely out of excavation sand and construction debris, rather than wasting new materials. Even the ceiling of the structure incorporates sand and natural vegetation in order to maintain a comfortable interior temperature naturally. In OFIS Arhitekti's 6x11 Alpine Hut in Slovenia, a window is positioned facing the sun so that on sunny winter days, no additional heating is needed. Extra thermal insulation is embedded within the wooden cladding, with black foil placed behind the wood to absorb the sun's heat and guide it to the walls. The upper floor protrudes over the lower floor in order to protect inhabitants from summer sun during the months when the sun is higher in the sky, and on rainy days, rainwater is collected on the roof and carried into the building for use through vertical pipes. Blank Studio, Inc.'s Xeros Residence in Phoenix, Arizona was named with the Greek word "Xeros," meaning "dry," in accordance with the architects' belief that all projects should be in direct response to the surrounding natural environment, and vegetation requiring low water use was employed throughout the site. Other projects such as Andrew Maynard Architect's Barrow House in Melbourne, Australia use found elements and recycle

parts of the previous house on the site, in order to decrease the project's carbon footprint. Although the spaces within this book are highly individualized and site-specific in that they are tailored to inhabitants' wishes and local conditions, the vanguard of creative design minds in X-House approaches architecture with a sense of international and ecological responsibility, recognizing that the design solutions they choose will have an impact elsewhere in the world.

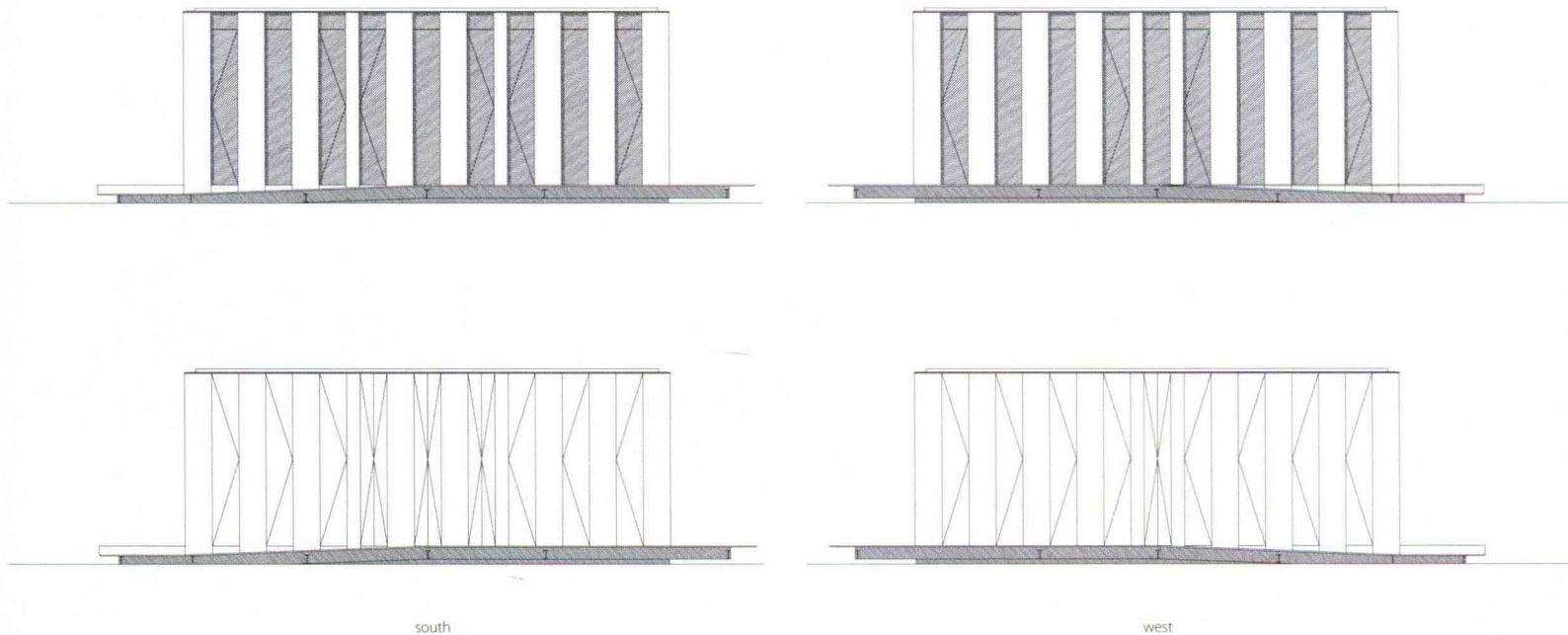
Bureau Ira Koers

Merry-Go-Round

Location/ Ruinen, Netherland

Area/ 55m²

Photography/ Bureau Ira Koers



Although ideas about recreation and the design of the landscape have changed over the years, the typology of the holiday cottage has hardly altered at all. Ever since the recreational outing of several days or more came into vogue in the sixties, the same mini-version of the standard home has been seen. Whereas the confined space of a boat or caravan has led to clever design solutions, the country cottage has never developed an identity of its own.

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The design of the Merry-Go-Round gives new meaning to the holiday cottage by taking the traditional floor plan with rooms opening onto a central hallway and turning it inside out. The rooms are replaced by eight open alcoves in which furniture, colour, light, material, lines of sight and views of the outdoor surroundings are bundled into one compact, fixed interior. The alcoves are connected by a corridor that runs all around the perimeter of the dwelling and opens onto the landscape. By adjusting the façade, which is comprised of shutters, the vacationing residents of the Merry-Go-Round can determine their own view and degree of privacy.



