

# SEVEN HOMES

ARCHITECTURE  
RESEARCH  
OFFICE

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**Unique to their site and their owners,  
each of these seven residences exemplifies  
Architecture Research Office's approach to design.**

A home is at once a world unto itself and a frame for understanding the larger world in which we live. Imparting rhythm to life, a home organizes daily routines and activities. Whether an avenue or a wilderness lies outside the front door, your home mediates your experience of the environment. The architecture of a residence is an exchange between inward and outward lives, between the personal and worldly. A home influences all aspects of your life, from mental health to carbon footprint.

We work with light, landscape, color, materiality, tactility—and yet a home is always more than a sum of its elementary parts. We want to know: How does a house exhibit a sense of place? How can an apartment embody a single personality or the values of

an entire family? How can craft inform a modern house? Are there ways architecture can move our daily lives towards sustainable practices and energy efficiency?

Over time, a great home becomes richer and more compelling. As the seasons and years go by, as it shapes and accommodates the lives of its owners, a home should become more closely connected to the people who live there. No single surface or form, atmosphere or material yields this effect. What is required instead is an alignment of qualities unique to each home and each individual. Our design methodology brings forth these qualities through a deep understanding of the client. This is essential to creating architecture of engaging spirit and enduring character.



## Central Park West Apartment

NEW YORK CITY

THE OWNERS OF THIS APARTMENT envisioned a serene retreat high above Manhattan. The apartment is located on an upper floor of a historic tower with expansive views that include Central Park and the Hudson River. Its plan comprises 2,500 sf of rooms arrayed around the building's periphery.

Lattice screens designed by ARO and milled from fiberboard unite the apartment as both functional and decorative elements. Situated between the living and sitting rooms, the screens mediate daylight and views. The appearance and opacity of each screen alters with the viewer's posture and position in the apartment. Stationary lattice panels line the interior walls of the dining room and master bedroom. LED lighting from the ceiling rakes the lattice panels to emphasize their texture.

The project also represents the owners' commitment to resilient design practices. The apartment includes many sustainable materials and products, such as recycled cotton insulation, FSC-certified white oak flooring and sycamore veneer, Pennsylvania slate, and the restored original steel kitchen cabinets.









## Martha's Vineyard House

CHILMARK, MA

THE OWNERS OF THIS 2,700 sf house have been summering in Martha's Vineyard since the 1970's. On the dramatic waterfront site of their former home, ARO created a new house, winter-ready and closely attuned to the surrounding landscape.

Two L-shaped walls clad in Alaskan yellow cedar enclose each of two volumes—one dedicated to the owners, and a second to guests. Between them, a third glass-enclosed volume parallels the shoreline and contains the living and dining rooms, which are separated by a fireplace. Within each volume, floor-to-ceiling windows open to distinct views of the scrub oak forest and the sea. An entry garden, planted with flowers and a flowering Hawthorn tree, is composed

of walls made of reclaimed granite blocks. A generously proportioned low wall made of the same blocks creates a seating area beside the front door.

A modern translation of New England clapboard siding is the house's most notable detail. Employing conventional siding construction in an inventive way, this tongue-and-groove detail sets cedar boards at varying depths to cast compelling, evolving shadows. Vertically oriented zinc panels comprise the north and west façades. Both wall types enter the house, blurring the boundary between within and without. One cedar-clad wall wraps from the garden through the house and out towards the sea, from the sheltered entry garden to the deck facing the horizontal expanse of the ocean.











## SoHo Loft

NEW YORK CITY

ATOP THIS FORMER WAREHOUSE in New York's SoHo neighborhood, ARO created a vast interior landscape. Its owners might relish the chance to entertain a crowd, but they also love the serene calm they find in the outdoors. ARO responded with a design that balances significant open spaces and ample daylight with intimate, room-like spaces and distinctive natural materials.

The loft includes the building's two upper floors plus its rooftop. New openings in the existing floors create a light court to connect all three levels.

ARO distributed the main living spaces on the top floor according to the daily and seasonal cycles of the sun. At dawn, the bedroom receives sunlight from the east. The kitchen, dining, living, and finally the library space receive light progressively

during the day, as the sun moves to the west. These areas each feature specific materials used in bold, industrial formats to distinguish their individual programs within the larger open plan. In selecting materials, we paid close attention to qualities of light, color, texture, reflectivity, and transparency. Among the materials in use are schist, bubinga wood, cleft slate, and blue Bahia granite, each possessing distinct natural patterns and complex textures.

Two staircases tie the loft together, one connecting multiple levels within the light court, the second linking the interior of the loft to the rooftop garden. The latter staircase is a work of functional sculpture, with cascading risers partially supported by a single floor-to-ceiling sheet of glass.







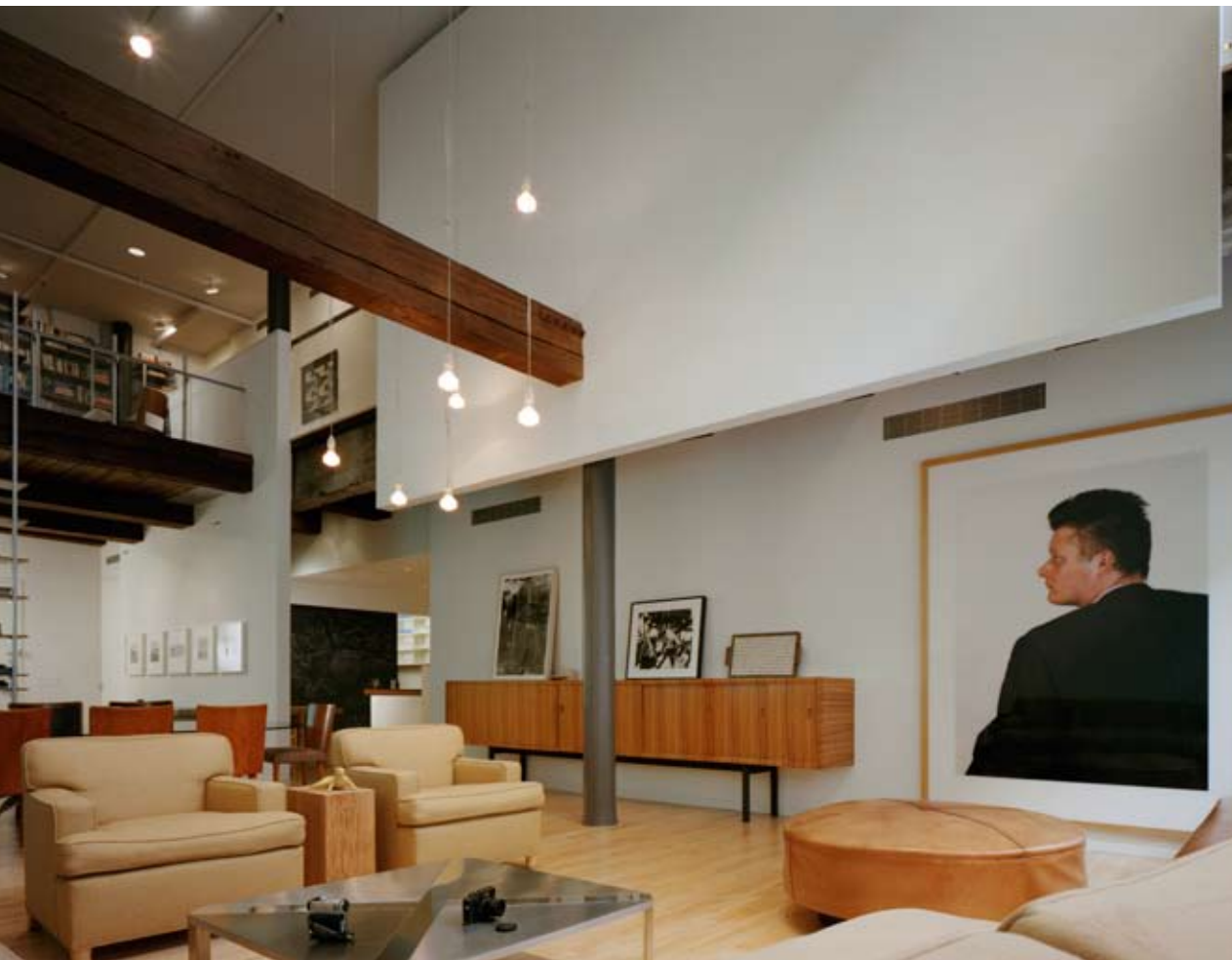
## Desbrosses Street Loft

NEW YORK CITY

ELEMENTS OF OLD AND NEW UNITE in this loft on Tribeca's Desbrosses Street. Working within two floors of an industrial warehouse, ARO created a home for both young children and an extensive photography collection through a process of subtraction. Demolition opened a two-story living space and revealed historic iron, concrete, and timber structures, which we preserved and juxtaposed against a series of layered and intersecting planes. The result is a series of dramatic spaces united by a palette of reclaimed materials.

Light from a double-height wall of windows reaches far into the loft. Glazed panels at the southwestern corners of the bedrooms afford views through the living room windows to the west. Strong sightlines crisscross the loft. When open, full-height pivot doors for the bedroom spaces nest into the wall, enhancing the open character of the space. A library mezzanine, crafted from the warehouse's recycled timbers, is positioned between the two floors. A wide staircase adjacent to the kitchen offers a place where children and guests can hang out while dinner is being prepared.











## Garrison House

GARRISON, NY

A WEEKEND RETREAT for a small family, the house serves as a wilderness outpost for hiking, gardening, and relaxing. ARO's design establishes two overlapping, south-facing blocks that terrace the sloping site. The loft-like upper volume, glazed from floor to ceiling, houses living room, dining room, and kitchen. Bedrooms in the lower volume feature horizontal fenestration to frame the distant view. The proportions and spacing of windows, exposed framing and shelving are arranged in calculated rhythm to define the experience of Garrison House without interfering with views of the wooded landscape. Materials used throughout are modest and durable, from corrugated aluminum to composite lumber still bearing the manufacturer's mill stamp. Garrison House's low-profile design allows for an honest encounter with the forest.









## Flatiron Loft

NEW YORK CITY

THIS RESIDENCE ADAPTS a former industrial space for intimate family life while also making room for an eclectic collection of art and furniture. The apartment is one 5,600-sf floor plus one-third of the floor below, connected by a mezzanine library that acts as a pivot between the two floors. A row of columns and a system of sliding fabric scrim and solid panels divides the upper floor between open and intimate spaces, balancing privacy with openness. The latter half of this loft apartment is subdivided by distinct functions: sleeping, bathing, exercising, studying, playing.

Highly tactile materials play off the apartment's industrial origin. Custom leather tiles floor the dining area, which is partially enclosed by a beeswax screen that filters daylight. Throughout most of the apartment, the building's old-growth pine planks are retained, still bearing stains from former industrial and artisan tenants. Blackened steel bookshelves tie the mezzanine to the balustrades leading up and down while the handrail is itself a pale holly wood. Tucked below, a guest bedroom on the lower floor is separated from gallery space by a wall of water-white glass panels.









## Colorado House

TELLURIDE, CO

THIS RETREAT for an extended family lies on a remote mesa within a 120-acre parcel of land. Accessible by an eight-mile dirt road, the house is located on a knoll at the edge of a meadow. ARO's design weaves the family's love for the outdoors into the daily life of their home, creating a frame for the dramatic Rocky Mountain landscape.

At 10,000 sf, the house accommodates everyone in spacious living and dining rooms. The kitchen is the hub of activity. Each of the five adjoining bedroom suites has its own unique vista. To precisely calibrate these views and determine the plan of the house, ARO built a digital wireframe model of the site's topography.

Durable materials plus elegant detailing and solid construction all reinforce this house's connection to the landscape. Exterior walls of weathered steel shingles rest on sandblasted concrete foundations. The shingles' warm, ruddy color relates the house to the region's historic mining structures. Their scale and pattern denote the monolithic quality of the walls while also lending a subtle directionality. At certain points, these shingles slip inside the house, blurring the boundaries between in and out. Interior walls are white plaster, to present the family's art collection, while the floors are a continuous surface of polished, radiant heated concrete.

















**ARO has designed over thirty homes  
encompassing a broad range of  
clients, sites and budgets.**

**HOME:** Central Park West Apartment  
**LOCATION:** New York City  
**SIZE:** 2,500 sf  
**AWARDS:**

- Design Citation, New York State Chapter, American Institute of Architects;
- Finalist, Apartment Category, Best of Year Awards, *Interior Design*.

**PUBLICATIONS:** *Interior Design; Praxis; The Architects' Newspaper; Planning; Dimensions; Re-crafted* by Marc Kristal.

**HOME:** Martha's Vineyard House  
**LOCATION:** Chilmark, MA  
**SIZE:** 2,700 sf  
**AWARDS:**

- American Architecture Award, Chicago Athenaeum Museum;
- Merit Award, New York State Chapter American Institute of Architects.

**PUBLICATIONS:** *Boston Home; Arquine; Wallpaper\*; Planning; Architecture; Architecture Lab.*

**HOME:** SoHo Loft  
**LOCATION:** New York City  
**SIZE:** 7,000 sf  
**AWARDS:**

- National Honor Award for Architecture, American Institute of Architecture.

**PUBLICATIONS:** *Interior Design; Metropolitan Home; Architectural Record; Lofts and Apartments; The New York Times; Architecture; Contemporary Staircases* by Catherine Slessor.

**HOME:** Desbrosses Loft  
**LOCATION:** New York City  
**SIZE:** 1,700 sf

**HOME:** Garrison House  
**LOCATION:** Garrison, NY  
**SIZE:** 2,800 sf  
**PUBLICATIONS:** *Oculus; A+U; House & Garden; Global Architecture; Architectural Digest Germany; Architectural Review; Weekend Retreats* by Susanna Salk; *At Home in the Hudson Valley* by Allison Serrell.

**HOME:** Flatiron Loft  
**LOCATION:** New York City  
**SIZE:** 6,200 sf  
**PUBLICATIONS:** *Metropolitan Home; Architectural Digest; Global Architecture Houses; A+U; Loft* by Mayer Rus.

**HOME:** Colorado House  
**LOCATION:** Telluride, CO  
**SIZE:** 7,000 sf  
**AWARDS:**

- Record Houses for Excellence in Design, *Architectural Record*;
- American Architecture Award, Chicago Athenaeum Museum;
- Architecture Award, New York Chapter American Institute of Architects.

**PUBLICATIONS:** *Architectural Record; House & Garden; Architectural Digest Germany; Contemporary World Interiors* by Susan Yelavich; *New Country House* by Dominic Bradbury; *Art/Invention/House* by Michael Webb; *Elements* by Oscar Riera Ojeda and Mark Pasnik; *Materials* by Oscar Riera Ojeda and Mark Pasnik; *The Smart House* by James Trulove.

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Central Park West Apartment

RAIMUND KOCH; PAUL WARCHOL

Martha's Vineyard House

THOMAS BRODIN; ELIZABETH FELICELLA; BOB O'CONNOR

SoHo Loft

PAUL WARCHOL

Garrison House

PAUL WARCHOL; WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ

Flatiron Loft

PAUL WARCHOL

Colorado House

WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ; PAUL WARCHOL