



STELLE LOMONT ROUHANI

ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS

INTRODUCTION BY PAUL GOLDBERGER

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The Journey of Architecture

Fred Stelle

The book you hold in your hands is the story of our office, Stelle Lomont Rouhani Architects, from about the year 2000. Much of the earlier work, since I started practicing in 1976, is not shown. It is referenced in the foundations laid and the experiences gained that led to the work you see here.

You will learn two things about the office as you spend time with this book: First, the work is rooted in a response to location and our sense of stewardship for it. Second, what you cannot see is the continuing belief in the value we get from and the importance we place on collaboration, which Paul Goldberger helped us articulate.

The presented work is informed by our clients' personal experiences and intentions, yielding a variety of expression for building. Each client is different, each program and site is different, so is the outcome.

Each project carries with it the responsibility to find and respect the beauty of the site, to preserve that beauty and find the right places for all the structures we place there, and, of course, to design the right structures. One of our early clients had some land on a lake on which to build a personal retreat. Walking the site, we came upon a beautiful shady knoll adjacent to the water, a tranquil undisturbed outlook. We decided that the perfect structure for that bucolic location was a bench. The retreat was placed in a wooded clearing upslope from the knoll and lake—a short walk away. We left the most beautiful portion of the site essentially undisturbed.

Our process is an intentionally managed ramble toward a work of architecture that encourages creative explorations. It is an opportunity to learn from and with each other, to achieve an outcome unique and delightful for each client and us, over the long term. Success may come quickly or take time to reveal itself

as the process is subliminal and spontaneous, not formulaic. That success is expressed in architecture that feels personal and inevitable, and in the number of clients who invite us to work with them on multiple projects.

Inspiration comes from collaboration. The work you will see is the result of the efforts of the four principals of the office, our staff, clients, consultants, contractors, tradespeople, and sometimes other architects. We invite collaboration to create openness and inclusion for the best solutions, from the smallest detail to site planning. It is the core of the design process, the "patient search," and the resulting discovery, the part of the journey we love most.

We believe that doing what we love achieves the best results. At the same time, we recognize that we don't have all the answers, but we do have the means and experience to find them. Some of that comes from the early work, much of which we built, working with the trades side-by-side in the field. That experience is invaluable in bringing truth to the beauty we try to create, understanding the necessary means to achieve specific architectural ambitions.

Collaboration creates a trust that comes from the affirmation of the diverse voices heard in the process. Such is the trust gained with our clients that altering the project with them, as conditions change, is one of the benefits of the continuing engagement that underpins this process. The thoughtful structures with well-considered details you will see throughout the book are the result of that trust.

We hope each of these projects give you a sense of the inspiration and delight we and our clients found in doing them.





Elevated

Elevated is a direct response to sea level rising that fully embraces the views that these sites have to offer, and creates a sense of place and purpose for the space below.

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Field House

A building site can sometimes be overlooked because its potential isn't immediately evident. The location for this house at the end of a tight, winding road with brilliant oceanfront on one side and a neglected pond on the other, provided a challenge because of its relatively small building envelope. Our clients saw the possibility of the location when others did not.

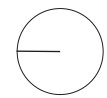
The compact footprint of this site required minimizing some room sizes and a thorough analysis of circulation. This approach gave us the ability to incorporate the site's unique landscape into the overall plan. The house is a place to experience nature during the sublime days of summer as well as during turbulent winter storms.

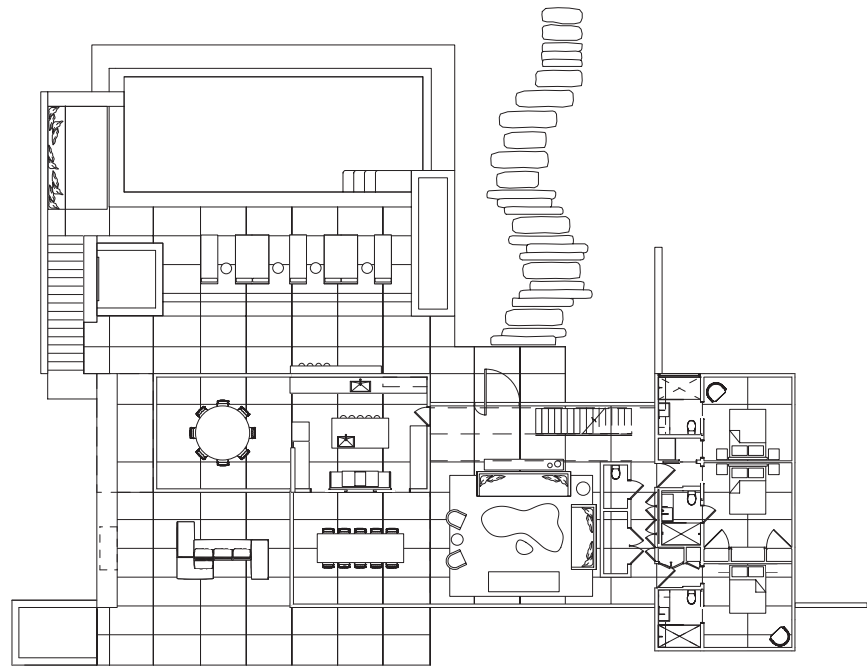
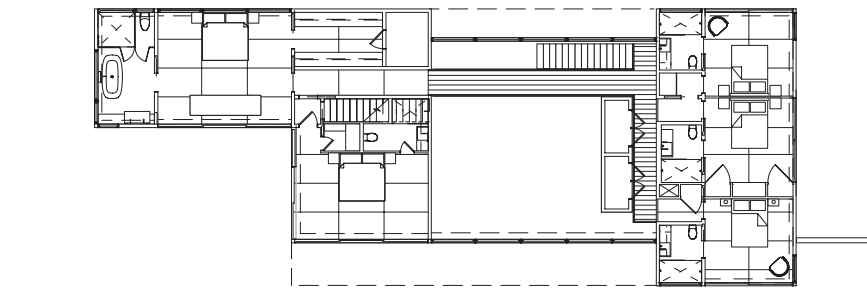
From the outset of the project, we worked with a landscape architecture team that specializes in coastal habitats to restore and reimagine both the oceanfront dunes and the native vegetation of the pond. The two landscapes meet at the house, beginning at the front door and oceanfront terrace. The house naturally lent itself to the idea of visual transparency, allowing one to experience each landscape—its light, its sounds, its smells—from the vantage of the other.

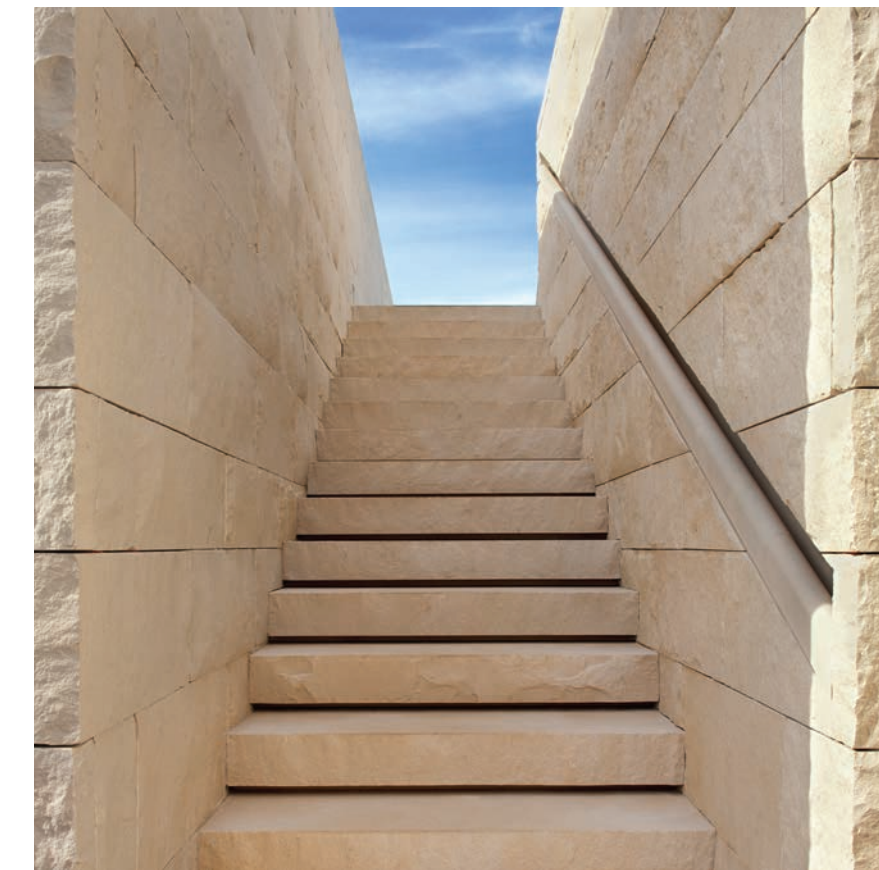
Discussions concerning the passage of the sun and wind as it related to life on the water informed decisions about the outdoor spaces linked directly to the house. The owners had a clear idea of how they liked to spend their days, from time at the ocean in the morning to afternoons at the pool. The pool, placed on the pond side of the house, provides an opportunity for a quieter experience; it is sheltered from the afternoon sea breeze and shielded from beach bathers. Close to the main entry of the house, the pool reads as an extension of the pond and functions as an elevated element that overflows and greets arriving guests with the sound of water.

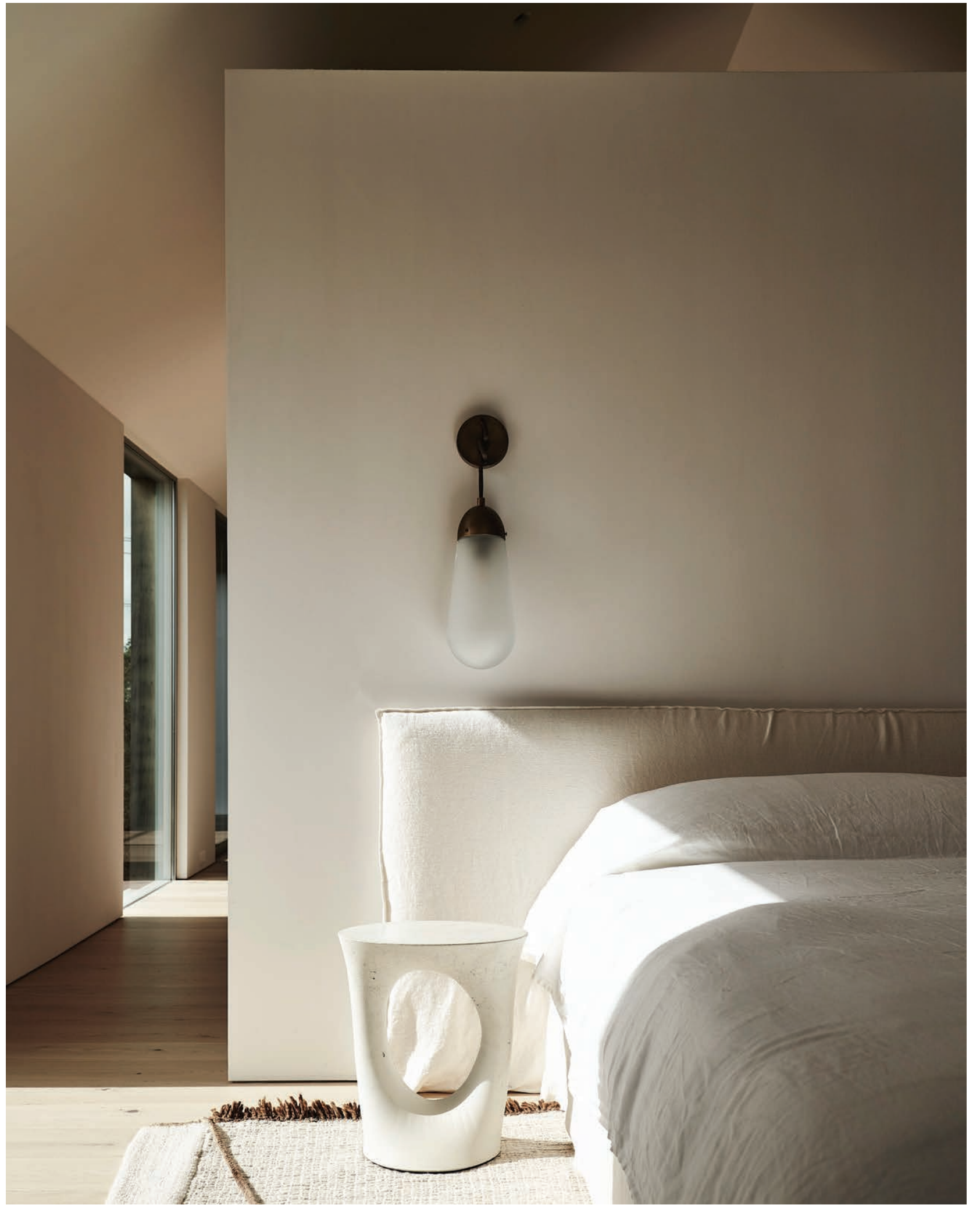
Modestly sized bedrooms are balanced with a spacious two-story, light-filled living room. The bedrooms upstairs are connected on an east-west axis by a bridge that highlights the indoor-outdoor experience. Downstairs, a separate kitchen opens like a concession stand to the pool area for easy living and conversation.

Domestic limestone is used throughout the main level, inside and out, in recognition of the surrounding sand dunes. The material reinforces the concept of the house being grounded in the landscape. The two elevated stories of the house, simply framed and extensively glazed, are light and airy, and reminiscent of beach houses of the past.

















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Park
Residence

A creative couple with a shared appreciation of art and sculpture asked us to revisit the interior design of their city apartment. We had completed their house near the beach together and enjoyed the collaboration and working relationship very much. We were asked to look anew at their three-bedroom, prewar apartment where they had raised their children, as a one-bedroom apartment for the couple who were now embarking on a new phase of life.

The execution involved a careful rethinking of structural and building system components to reimagine the apartment as two larger zones—one private, the other public—rather than a series of discreet rooms.

The former children's bedrooms became a den and a home office near the master bedroom. A large, eat-in kitchen was configured, as was a formal living room and dining room. What had been a dark, closed-in apartment transformed into one with an open and loftlike feel.

This transformation included the integration of custom millwork that wraps rooms and defines individual spaces while allowing light in and over. Consideration was given to art and sculpture, incorporating them into the custom millwork in some cases, and creating intentional focal points within the spaces in others. A muted fin-de-siècle palette complements the era of the building's conception.

Our clients' shared sensibilities allowed for an aligned vision throughout the project. This renovated, mature apartment, with ample space for entertaining, ushers in a new era of life within familiar walls. It also accommodates an evolving relationship with grown children who frequently visit for dinner and get together.





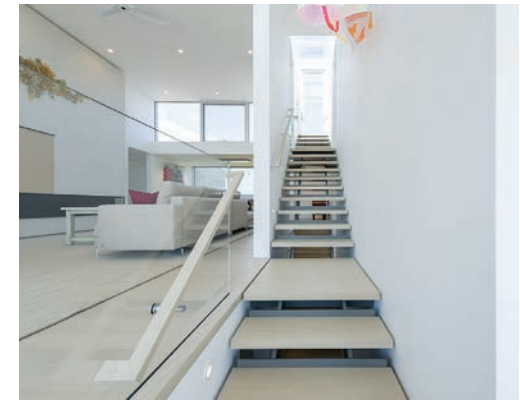
BOND 2019/2020



BUTTER LANE 2018/2021



THE DUNES 2015/2018



SEASIDE 2017/2020



POND VIEW 2017/2020



HEALTH + FITNESS 2017/2019



MURRAY 2015/2018



MEADOW FARM 2017/2021



Studio

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