

# PENSACOLA HOUSES

## **Pensacola Houses**

Dog-Trot and Shotgun Revisited  
Pensacola, FL

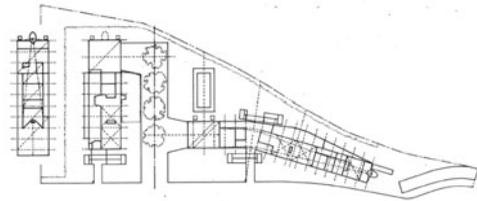
*In collaboration with Jude Leblanc*

Shedding water—movement and stasis. As Alfred Barr observed of painting, that “it admits of movement only metaphorically”, so too with architecture. Buildings tend, on the whole, to resist literal movement. But architecture is easily and often framed in terms of ideas related to motion and change, for example—change over time regarding use or meaning, flexibility of use, changing constituencies, durability and duration, weathering, etc.

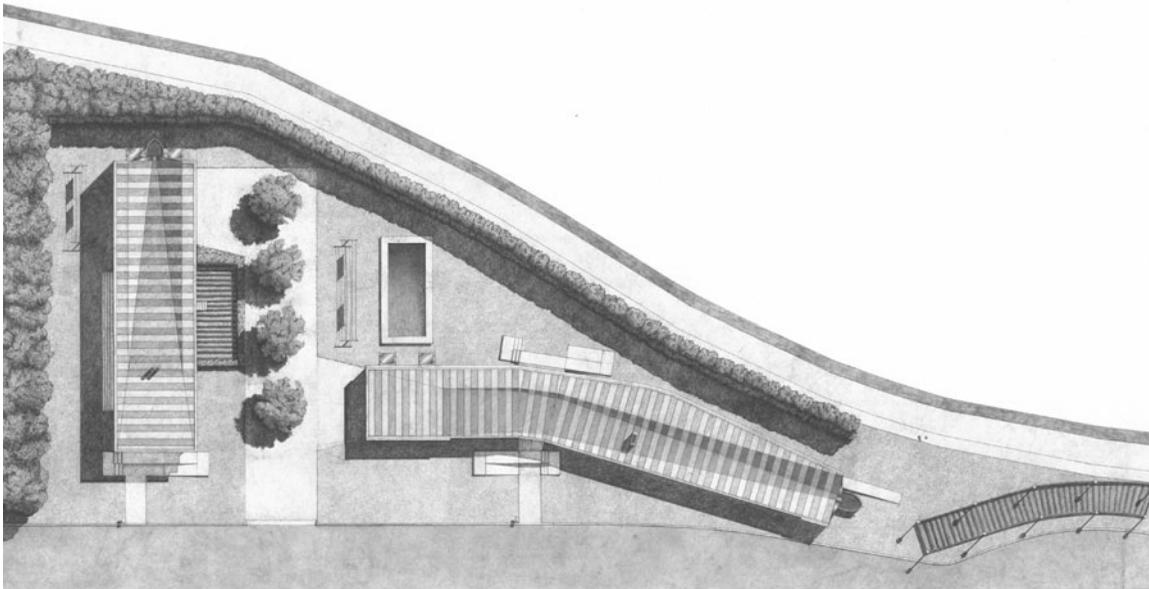
The five sided silhouette of a triangle atop a square, the child’s hieroglyph for a house, is often an expression and a symbol for solidity and stasis. The gable roof however, is a response to, and an expression of, motion. The gable roof can be considered an up-righted version of the triangular prow of the speed boat. The former, a static, up-pointed wedge, designed to divide falling water, is similar to the latter, a horizontal wedge designed for propulsion, to slice through a liquid medium. In other words, the roof is a vehicle of potential movement and the boat is a vehicle of kinetic motion.

The roofs of these two northwest Florida houses are designed with inverted sloping gable roofs. These upside-down gables function as large scuppers. The ceiling shape, a result of the shared contour with the roof configuration, is a primary consideration in developing the internal spaces of the dwellings. The slow downward longitudinal slope of the ceiling is a constant reminder of the full downpours of the Gulfcoast. The faster lateral ceiling slope to the clearstory windows trace site lines to the open view of the sky.

Types and site. The roof represents a response to geographic location. An exaggerated roof configuration brings attention to the tropical locale. In addition to moving and shedding water these roofs work to make a dwelling. As dwellings among other dwellings both of these houses were developed in relation to known house types.



Proportional Diagram



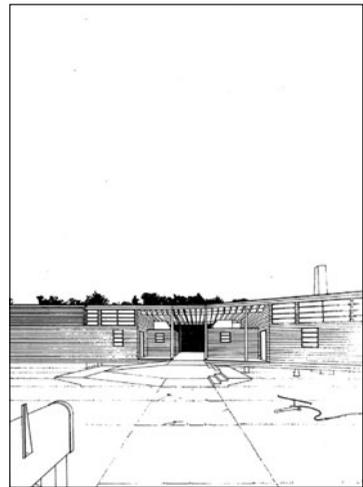
Site Plan



Aerial Photograph of Site

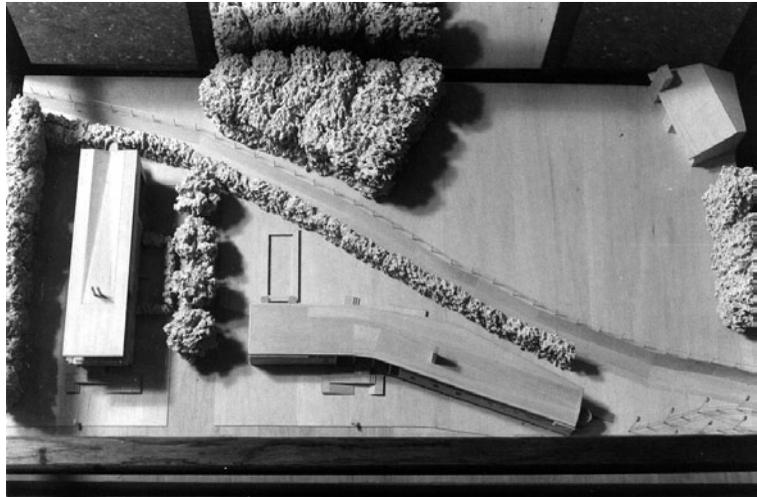


Shotgun House



Dogtrot House

The house at parcel B is patterned after the vernacular “dog trot” house. The dog trot type is thought to be historically related to the center hall house. Both of these house types relate to the out of doors. The dog trot structure with an open middle passage is common to hot humid climates. The through space of the center hall house is typically open at both ends connecting the hall with the front and rear yards. Historically, the decoration of such entry halls continued this allusion to the outside through details such as floral wall coverings or faux stone, and hall “trees”. Either literally as in the dogtrot, or metaphorically as in the center hall house, an exterior



Model



Model

the exterior with cypress siding bleached to light silver-gray. The exterior louvers, the columns, and all wood trim are cypress. The interior walls are made of painted pine siding and the floors are natural cypress. The ceilings inside and out are painted pine. The abutting shell driveways are divided by a row of crepe myrtles.

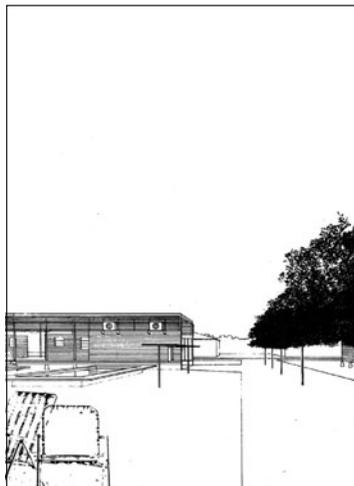
The primary rhythm of both houses in plan and section is an eight foot bay over a four foot module, in relation to standard material dimensions.

Storing water—use and conservation. Though a house may be a machine for

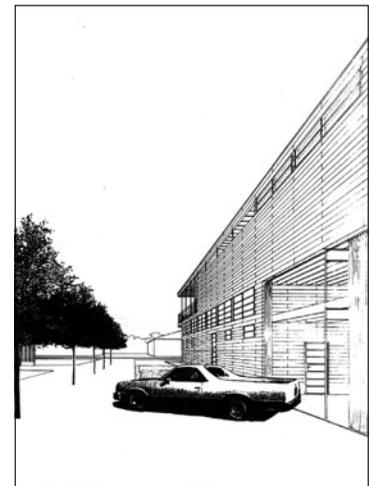
space is positioned at the literal center of the dwelling.

The house at unit #5 is related to the spirit of the “shotgun” house. The interior rooms and areas are spatially and visually related longitudinally. This project varies from the shotgun model in its relation to the exterior. Typically, shotgun houses were placed close together with narrow side yards. In this house a porch on the first and second floors open all interior space to a more spacious side yard, reminiscent of the Charleston house type.

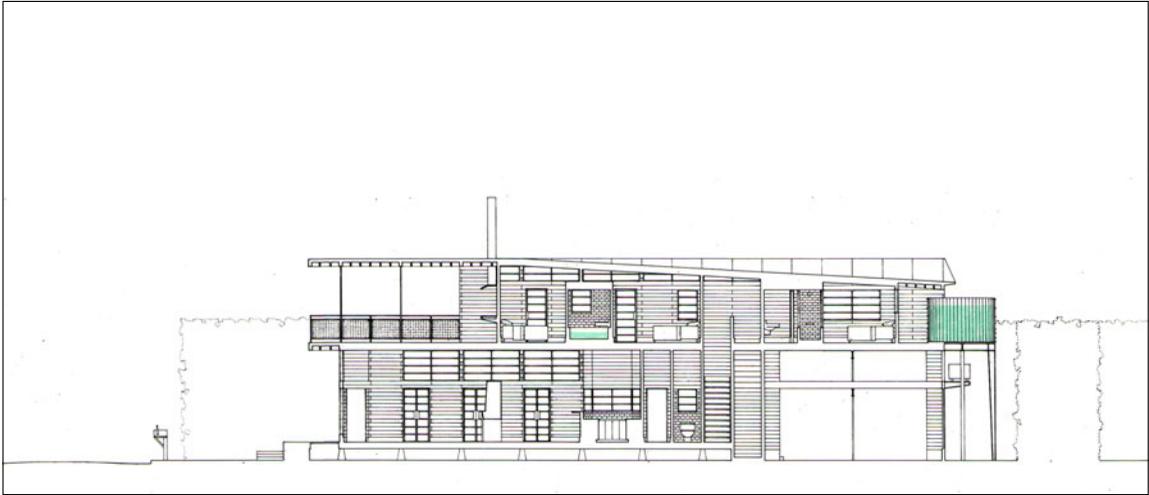
Rooms vs. areas. Most interior spaces



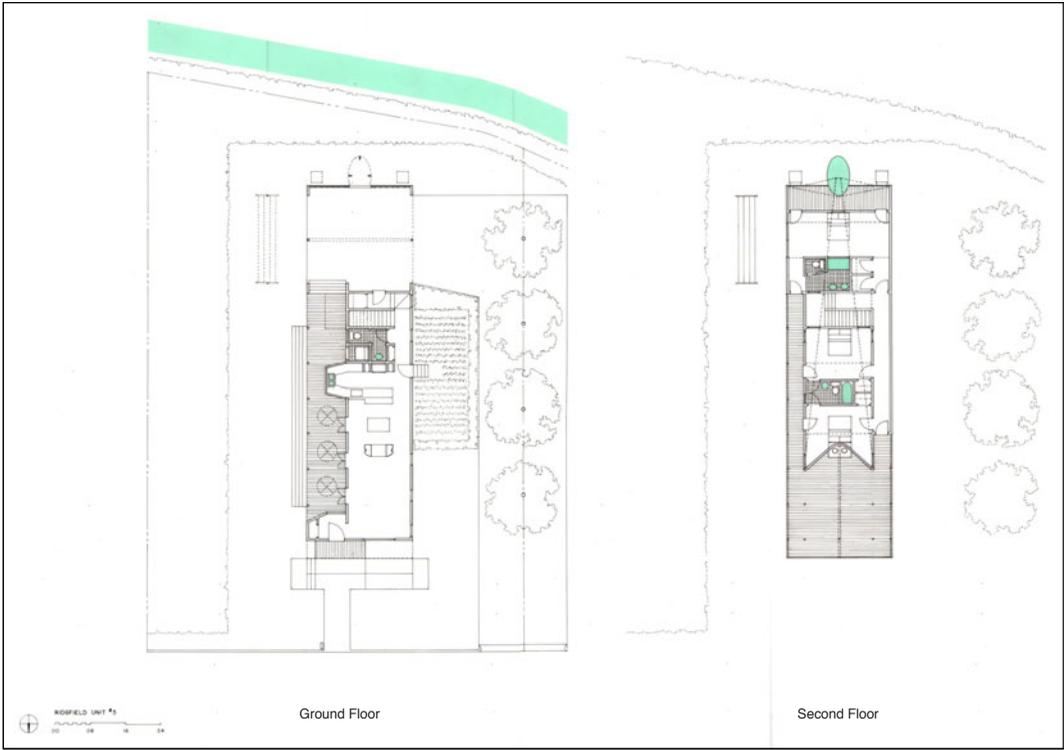
View of Backyard (Dogtrot House)



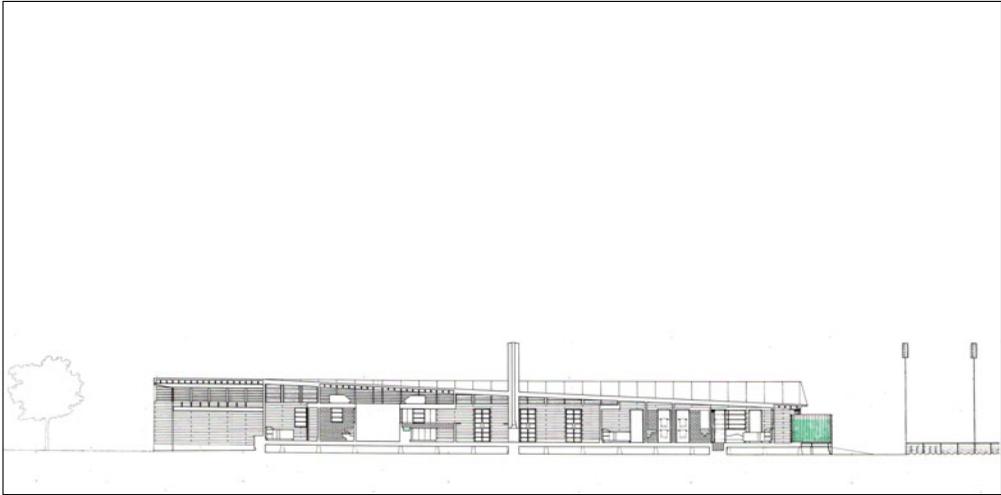
View Towards Street Showing Parking (Shotgun House)



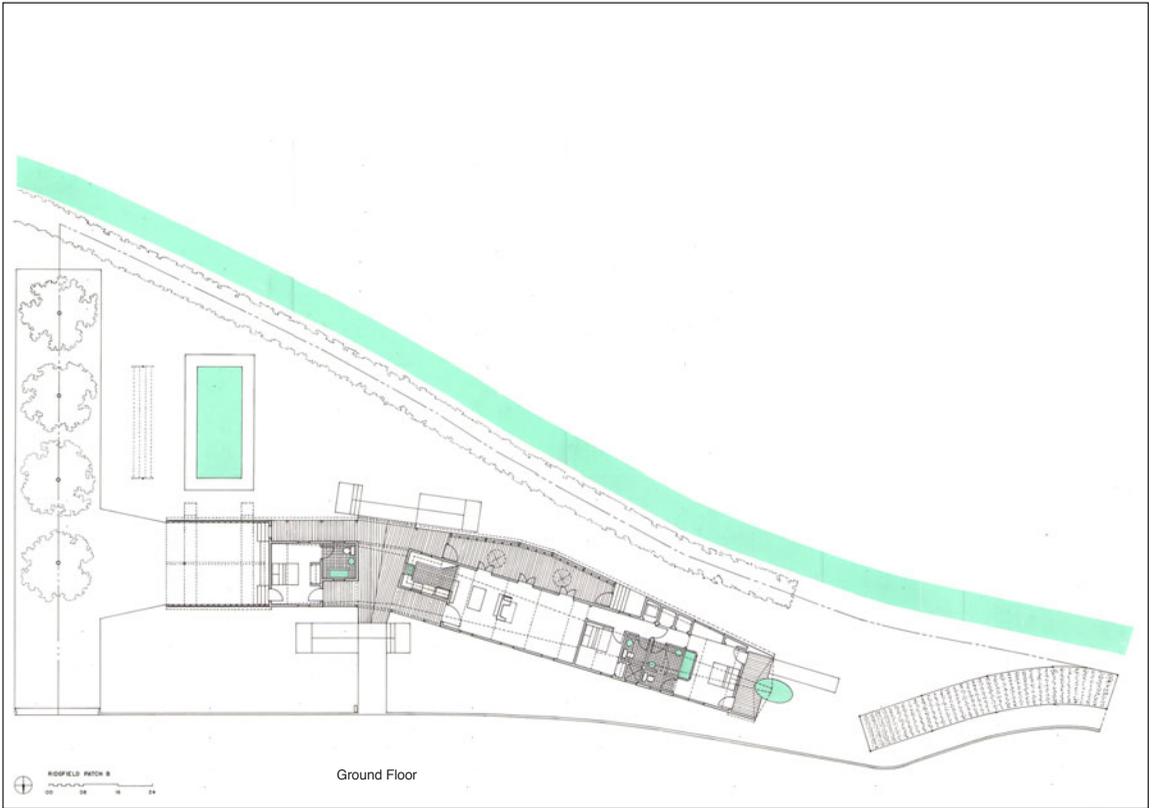
Section Through Shotgun House



Shotgun House Floor Plans



Section Through Dogtrot House



Ground Floor

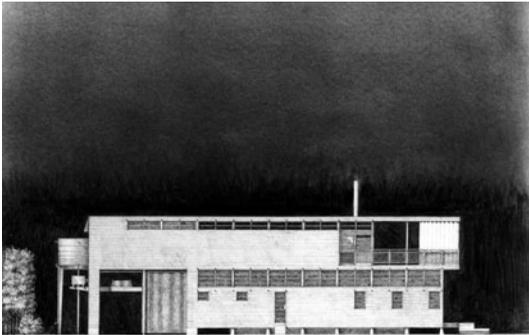
Dogtrot House Floor Plan



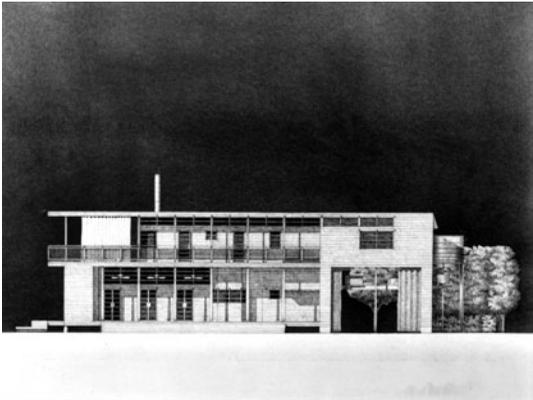
North Elevation



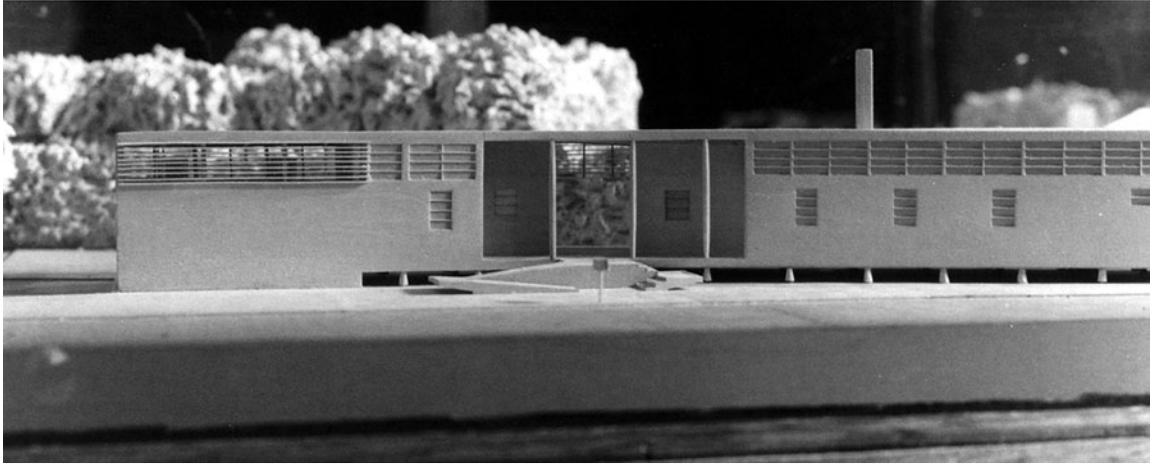
South Elevation



East Elevation



West Elevation



Dogtrot House

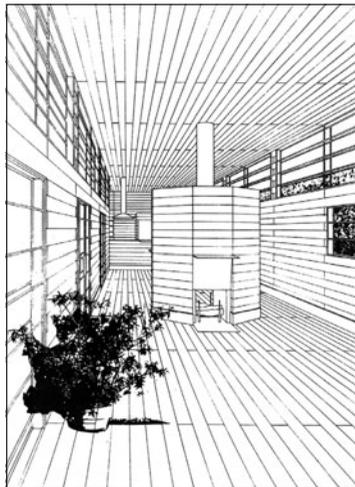


Shotgun House

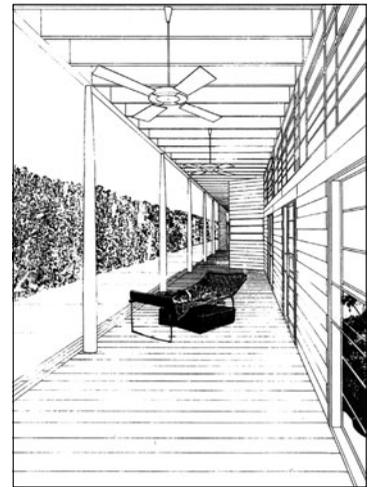
living, it is rarely merely that. A house may literally be a collection of mechanisms, but as today's machines change so rapidly, this fact provides a poor poetic armature for a building which is meant to endure.

In both of these houses the air conditioner condensers are exposed as a reminder of energy exchange. To the degree to which machines appear in our work they are used as frank presentations not as fetishistic ends in themselves.

Traditional responses to climate include high ceilings, louvered window openings, and ventilation near the ceiling.



View of Interior Showing Hearth and Main Living Space (Shotgun)

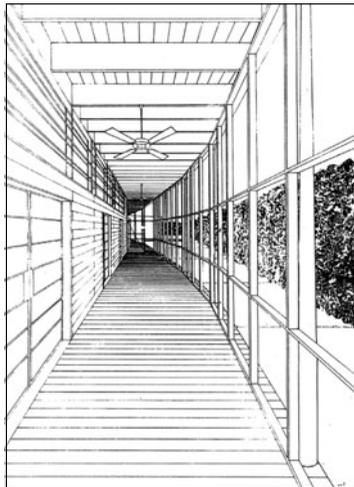


View of Porch Showing Sideyard (Shotgun)

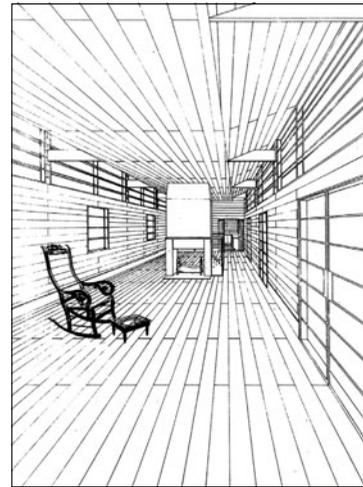


Shotgun House

The gardens are watered with rain water collected by the scupper/roof. The site plans show the location of these gardens which include compost areas. Clothes lines are planned to provide a supplement



View of Side Porch Showing Backyard (Dogtrot)



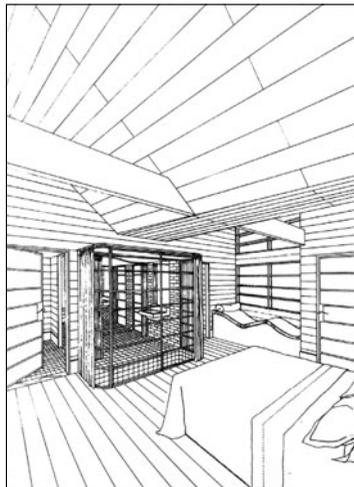
View of Interior Main Living Space (Dogtrot)

#### References

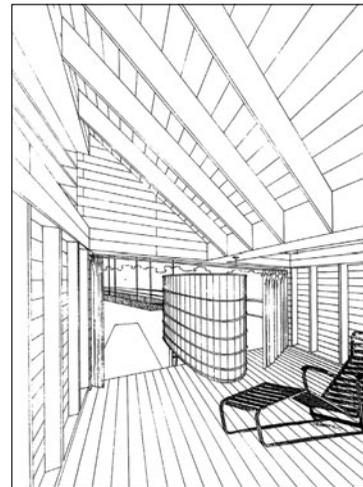
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View of Bedroom (Dogtrot)



View of Bedroom Porch (Dogtrot)

