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Transforming Timber into Louvers

18. Jul, 2010

1 Comment

Somewhere at an undisclosed location on 150 acres and a small lake in the hills of New England, lies a garden shed, boathouse, and barn.

It's called Lakewood and it was planned and put together by Mark Simon of Centerbrook Architects and Planners in Connecticut.

"It was designed as a weekend getaway, but the clients liked it so much they left New York and moved up there," he said.

The architect deliberately set out to take advantage of natural materials on site. A forester discovered a stand of mature cherry trees ready for harvest. They plucked boulders from the property and reinterpreted them inside as seating, then inserted them into a fireplace.

But it's the yellow pine logs disguised as louvers that make these structures stand out. With the help of rustic furniture maker Daniel Mack, some of them two and a half feet in diameter, and treated them with salt preservatives.

"We laid them out on the ground in a pattern, then looked down from a cherry picker at them," he said. "Then we rearranged them in a position that worked." They tested mounting them on the boathouse over a period of three days. "Once we got the hang of it, we moved pretty quickly," he said.

The louvers shade the structures in the summer but in the winter after leaves have fallen, they allow warmth from the sun inside.

The south side of the structure is three stories high, with two and a half stories of glass and phantom screens that are motor controlled. It can be lowered so that the house is transformed into a massive screen porch.

"It's designed to be sustainable," the architect said. "It's highly insulated, it's got high walls facing south, and the fireplace backs up to a chimney of masonry before venting it out. There's also a radiant heating system down near the floor that's proving to be very efficient."

For more on Centerbrook Architects and Planners, go to <http://www.centerbrook.com>

For more on Daniel Mack, go to <http://www.danielmack.com>

ware



PLACEFEATURED, LAKEWOOD

[Clients as Friends, Friends as Client](#) One Response to "Transforming Timber into Louvers"

1.



John Field [9. Jul. 2010 at 12:29 pm](#)

Mark: great job. the blending of the sophisticated and the rough might be a metaphor for all concerned

John

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