

Record News

Highlights **Herzog & de Meuron win Pritzker** p. 28
Seinfeld and Gwathmey p. 30
Denver Art Museum by Libeskind p. 32
Architects mobilize after Seattle quake p. 36

34 top architects selected for Hamptons houses

A model for contemporary housing design at the start of the 21st century may begin to take shape in the Hamptons on Long Island, N.Y. Developer Coco Brown has selected 34 architects (see list at right), each of whom will design a house for his latest development in Sagaponac, Long Island. Called the Houses at Sagaponac, the development will showcase some of the best architectural talent in the United States at this time.

"I think this will be somewhere between something very nice and the most important architectural event of the 21st century," says Brown, a former screenwriter who made a fortune in real estate in the Los Angeles area. In 1994 Brown purchased 100 already-subdivided acres in Sagaponac. He waited, watched the real-estate market, and decided to create an antidote to the poorly designed, out-of-scale mansions springing up in the Hamptons that, he says, are "financial, social, and artistic disasters."

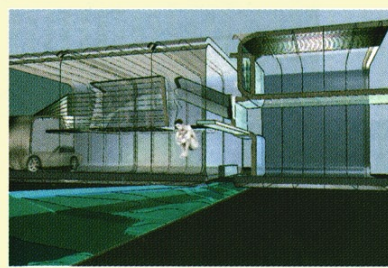
Brown asked his friend, architect Richard Meier, FAIA, to assist in selecting visionary architects (see interview with Meier on the following page). Meier will design one of the houses himself and is advising Brown without a fee.

Meier called upon many younger architects, some of whom have never had a freestanding house built, such as Jesse Reiser and Nanako Umemoto. The mix, with 23 New York architects, includes a few of Meier's contemporaries and friends. Peter Eisenman, for example, plans to build a variation on his unbuilt House IV. Henry Cobb has never had a house built before.

In terms of guidelines, architects were simply directed to be conscious of site, scale, and budget. Construction on the 1½- to 3-acre lots will begin within months, and the first house will be complete by the end of the year. According to Brown,

houses will range from 1,800 to 4,500 square feet and will cost from \$750,000 to \$2.5 million—relatively modest by Hamptons standards. Potential buyers will be matched with a house that meets their needs.

"What we may be doing," Brown asserts, "is creating a new model for a summer house." *John E. Czarnecki, Assoc. AIA*

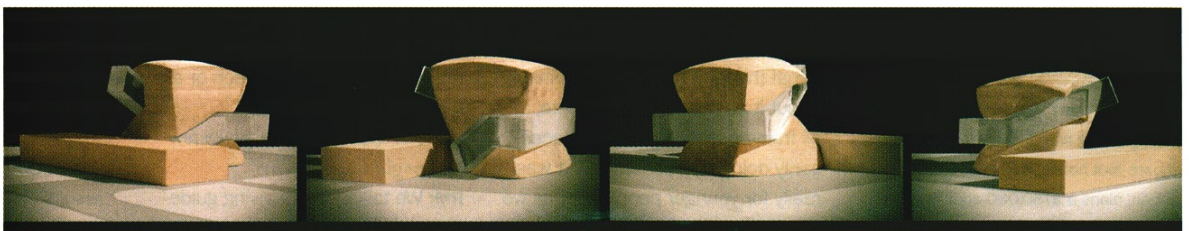
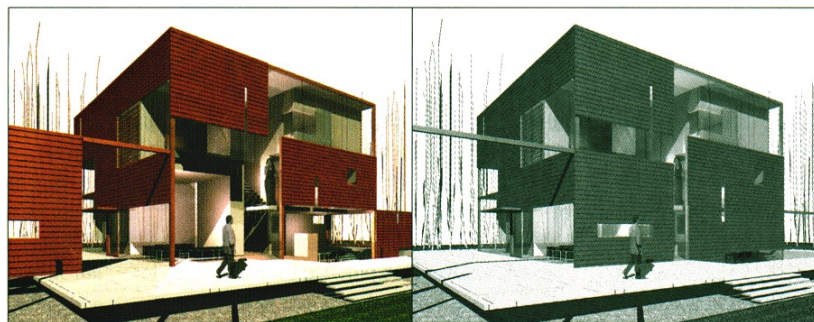


HANDPICKED BY MEIER

Richard Meier and Coco Brown selected the following architects to design houses at Sagaponac:

1. Al-Sayed and Grybaitis
2. Stan Allen
3. Anthony Ames
4. Deborah Berke
5. Henry N. Cobb
6. Francois de Menil
7. Peter Eisenman
8. James Inigo Freed
9. Richard Gluckman
10. Michael Graves
11. Charles Gwathmey
12. Hanrahan and Myers
13. Hariri and Hariri
14. Steven Harris
15. Hodgetts and Fung
16. Steven Holl
17. Carlos Jimenez
18. Robert Kahn
19. Stephen Kanner
20. Mark Mack
21. Richard Meier
22. Samuel Mockbee
23. Eric Owen Moss
24. Thomas Phifer
25. Reiser and Umemoto
26. Jacquelin Robertson
27. Richard Rogers
28. Rotondi and Stevens
29. Dan Rowen
30. Lindy Roy
31. Annabelle Selldorf
32. Smith-Miller + Hawkinson
33. Tsao and McKown
34. Williams and Tsien

Houses in the Sagaponac development will include (from top) the first freestanding house built by Jesse Reiser and Nanako Umemoto; a home by Lindy Roy with a "water zone" including an integrated pool and diving platform; a design by Stephen Kanner with panels that can be opened and closed; and a sculptural house by Eric Owen Moss that is enveloped by a walkway and stair.



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY (FROM TOP) REISER AND UMEMOTO, LINDY ROY, STEPHEN KANNER, ERIC OWEN MOSS