

53243049_RESIDENTIAL

The Raynal House is sited on the worn, familiar spot of an old family cabin. The contours of the house honor the best parts of the old cabin – orientation to a chattering mountain stream, an intimate back entry gathering space, and a deck outstretched to the Big Piney Valley. The interior is organized for large gatherings of family and friends in a double-height, poplar-clad living space anchored by a river stone hearth. Every space has an operable window for prevailing breezes and to make sure one does not soon forget the stream sounds in the forest valley.

the old cabin



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|----|--------------------------|----|------------------|
| 01 | Big Piney Branch | 09 | primary bathroom |
| 02 | entry deck | 10 | WC |
| 03 | dining | 11 | bunk room |
| 04 | kitchen | 12 | den |
| 05 | double-height living | 13 | bathroom |
| 06 | back entry <i>grotto</i> | 14 | guest bedrooms |
| 07 | mudroom | 15 | office |
| 08 | primary bedroom | 16 | laundry |



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section

The front of the house is a simple gabled form clad in natural shingles. The entry and deck are carved from this volume to reveal the main living spaces as a glass volume. Construction access was prohibited from this side of the house to preserve 100-year-old stone walls and native vegetation.

The back of the house is tucked below grade and accessed through a sunken *grotto* that is a gathering space between the slope and the house. This end of the house is the daily arrival for the owners and is connected to the mudroom by a small stoop carved out of the house volume. The window of the upstairs den is level with the parking area, allowing kids in the bunk room to see who is coming and going throughout the day.





Every room in the house opens to the stream on the south side of the house. The main living space is carved from the larger form of the house, with bedroom windows being more targeted openings in the wall. Three skylights admit light from above, with the largest bringing light into the double-height living space, twenty-eight feet above the living room floor. Shingles are not stained or sealed and will silver naturally, eventually looking like tree bark.

The main living space is double-height and naturally lit by a large skylight. The upper volume of this space is clad in white-washed poplar to echo bead board details from the original cabin. The hearth is the same river stone as the rear *grotto*, and a wall of windows admits southern light and provides views of the stream. The house is located in the Montreat Cove, which is one of the few temperate rain forests on the east coast. Access to light is important, and the house is designed to admit light from multiple directions in nearly every primary space.





The fireplace wall is river stone, with a massive bluestone hearth quarried nearby. The kitchen is built into a large cabinet that contains a closet at the entry, a bookshelf that engages the stair, and HVAC chases. The island is an object in the room.



The main deck is accessed at the reentrant corner between the living and dining spaces. The old cabin had a large deck in this same location, one of several ways the new house keeps things the way they were.



upstairs hall



The stairs and upper hall are hidden behind the kitchen cabinets and connect to the secondary bedroom, WC, closet, and laundry functions in the house. This consolidation of supporting spaces along the north side of the house allows every main room in the house to open south towards the stream. Despite their secondary function, these support spaces are designed to connect with the section of the house and have a pleasant quality of natural light.

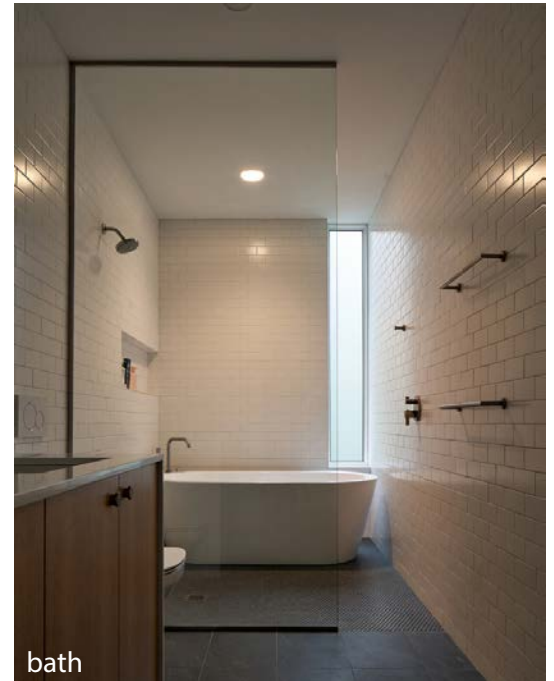
primary bedroom



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office



bath



The owners enter from the back, down a stair, and through a *grotto*. This space is for evening fires, bound by the house and river stone site walls that surround intimate gatherings. The site walls miss the house at each end to allow passage into the landscape. One of these paths leads to a small swimming hole in the stream. The Montreat Cove is cool and wet, and stone and shingle walls take on this environment.

entry deck





from the back

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