





## *willow house*

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Built for a book maker, a poet and their son in a clearing in the Catskill forest, this house provides space in which each family member can work or play, alone or together. Writing, music listening, homework, film developing, conversation and printing can occur simultaneously in each of many “far corners” in this house. In addition to meeting the program needs of this family, the design takes advantage of the geographical benefits of the site. Buried into the corner of a south-facing slope, the house opens onto views of a nearby meadow with mountains valley in the distance.

During the winter the house is protected from northerly winds by twelve feet of earth and a highly insulated curving metal roof, and opens to the passive solar heat of the sun through a window-wall facing south. Flagstone floors provide constant heat from embedded warm water tubing, and a ducted heat recovery system recycles the heat. Furthermore, great internal mass keeps the house warm on winter nights but cool on summer days when fabric awning, roof overhangs and a “Trombe” wall block the heat of the summer sun. Thirty-three windows sashes can be opened to the mountain breezes.



**The Client:**

Name withheld at client's request

**The Team:**

Kiss + Cathcart, Architects  
Goldstein Associates, Structural  
Drew Gillette, Mechanical

**Project Details:**

\$420,000  
4,000 sf  
Completed 1994

