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# HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

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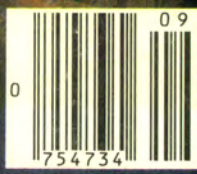


HOUSE BEAUTIFUL ■ SEPTEMBER 1985

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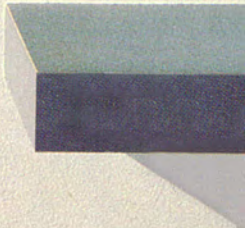
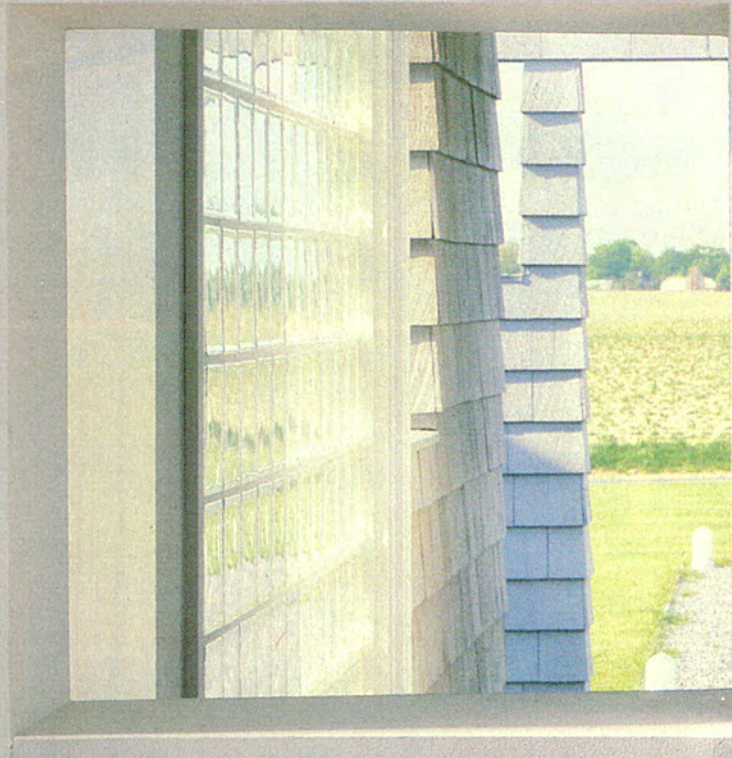


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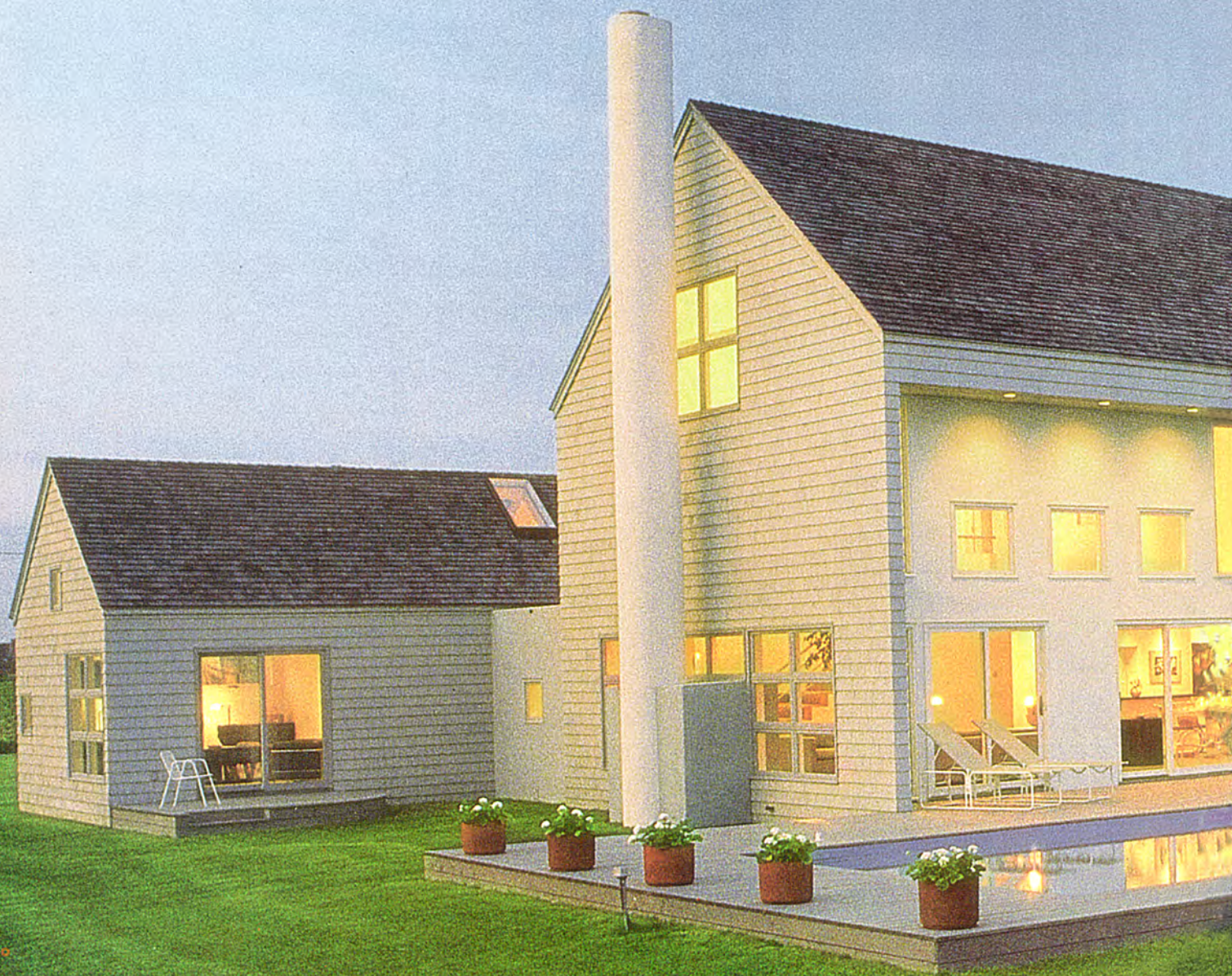
# BEYOND THE FARMHOUSE

A cutout to see through to the front and a mirror to reflect the fields in back make the partition in the dining area become an almost magical abstraction of the surrounding landscape ■



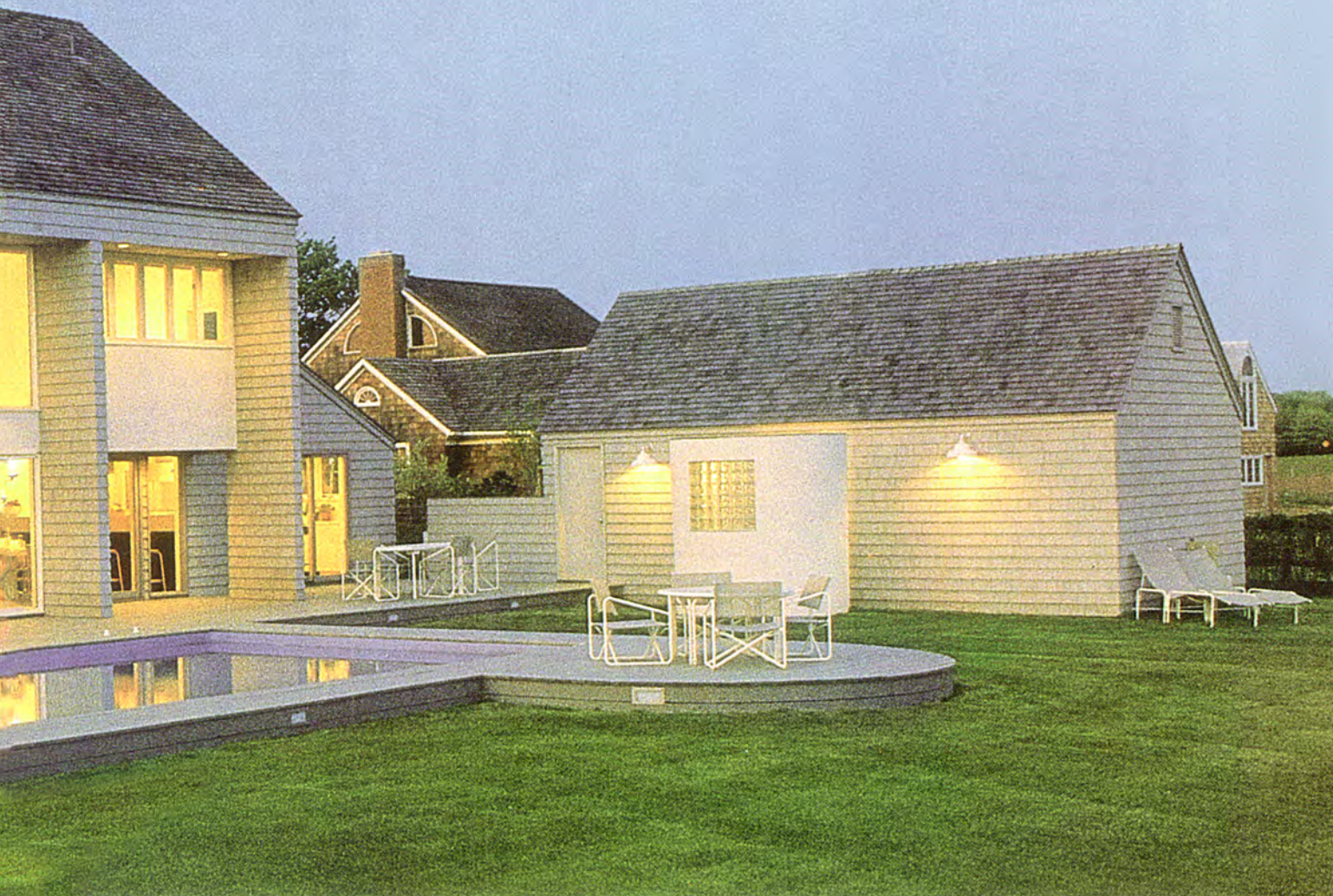


# ARCHITECTURE

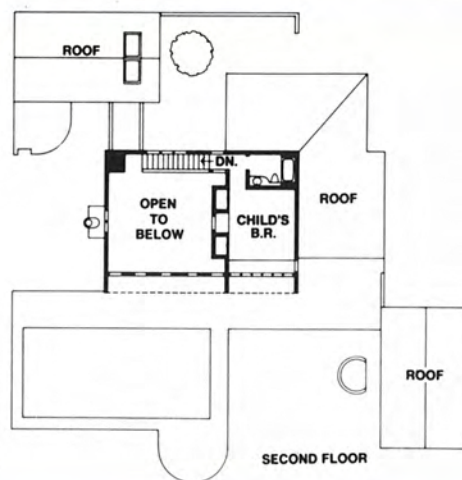
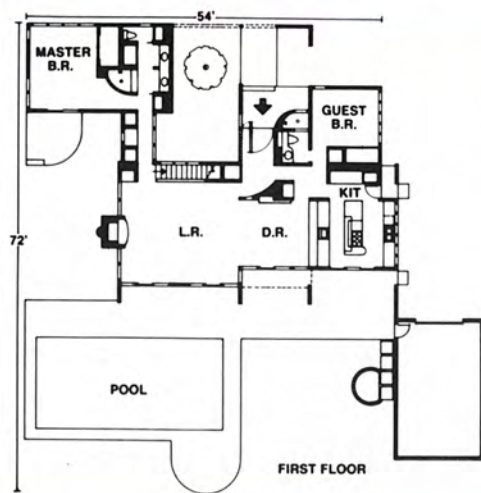


# BEYOND THE FARMHOUSE

Like the farmyard complexes indigenous to the region, the house appears to be a cluster of separate geometric shapes that form their own landscape on the fields



To create the feeling of a farmyard compound, architect Bruce Nagel broke down the volume of this house into a cluster of seemingly independent structures: the main double-height space that contains the living and dining areas with the daughter's room above; the kitchen and guest room; the master bedroom suite; the garage; a silo-shaped outdoor shower. With no shrubs or trees, except in the enclosed courtyard at the front entrance, the house appears to form its own landscape on the flat fields. ▶



# BEYOND THE FARMHOUSE

Inside there's the surprise of open, light-filled interiors that present a contemporary contrast to the shingle-sided exterior

With deference to its neighbors and the land it stands on, the house's north and west facades, which border the street and neighboring houses, are shingle faced and farmhouse shaped to blend politely with the surrounding landscape. "The house has real neighbors and is adjacent to 40 acres of potato fields in Bridgehampton, New York. We believed that it should recognize its neighborhood," the architect says.

However, Mr. Nagel's mastery of the modern idiom is apparent in the white stucco exterior wall facing the fields. Behind the sliding glass doors and windows are crisply contemporary interiors left open to maximize light and views and also allow for a variety of entertaining options.

The main house contains one lofty 28-foot-high living space open to both the kitchen and dining areas and delineated by carefully placed architectural elements. The dining area is defined by a black custom-designed buffet that houses stereo equipment.

A curved entry wall separates the entrance from the dining area, drawing you toward the living room. "The curved entry wall is painted pink to symbolically extend the entrance sequence of the pink curved outside wall," Bruce Nagel says. "It's like the same wall displaced."

Sliding glass doors open the main room to the pool deck. "This open area easily accommodated a party for 85," the owner recalls.

For the owner's wife, an excellent cook, Mr. Nagel designed a highly functional kitchen, which he left open



View of the fireplace from a cantilevered bedroom romanticized with a window seat (above); the main living area (opposite above), with gabled fireplace wall, contains an open kitchen and dining area (opposite below).

to the main area so that she is not removed from guests' conversation. However, a high counter conceals cooking preparations.

The ceiling above the dining area was dropped to make the space more intimate and to contain the daughter's bedroom, situated on the second floor. "To make the bedroom larger and to give it presence in the main living area, we cantilevered it out and romanticized it by creating a window seat," explains the architect. This gives the teenager her own private place apart, yet the

window keeps her tuned in to what's going on downstairs. To reinforce the symmetry of the space the square bedroom window overlooking the living room is on a direct axis with the fireplace below.

At the owner's request the gabled west wall surrounding the fireplace was left as open as possible for viewing the sunset. "This is a very tranquil house," the owner says. "The windows are so well placed and detailed that they frame the views like paintings in a museum."

The stucco fireplace, painted in colors complementary to the exterior window frames, stands like a sculpture at the west wall, while on the outside its silolike chimney rises independently from the house, reinforcing the illusion of a compound of separate buildings.

To provide privacy the master bedroom suite is in a self-contained structure that on the outside forms a front entry courtyard. It is linked to the main living space by an enclosed passageway, the only flat-roofed structure. "It is like a piece of modern architecture that slides out of the living room," Bruce Nagel says of the passageway.

The garage creates yet another independent structural element. It is placed so that it forms a wall for the backyard "room" and provides the pool with privacy from neighbors.

"The cylindrical outdoor shower places an additional primary shape in the landscape that furnishes this outdoor space as a room," says the architect. At night it acts as an outdoor light fixture, standing like a beacon on the dark, flat fields. ► —SUSAN ZEVON

