

Sunset Cabin
Lake Simcoe, Ontario, Canada

Project Team
Michael Taylor, Michael Lafreniere

Landscape Architect
GROW

Main Contractor
The Brothers Dressler / Yaan Poldas

The clients for the Sunset Cabin entertain up to 15 overnight visitors at a time during the summer at the family cottage on Lake Simcoe, to which they have been coming for the past 25 years. During the summer, they move to the cottage full time and requested a new private retreat in a separate sleeping cabin for their personal use where they would be able to lie in bed and watch the sunset. All components are built-in, including the bed and a wall of storage cabinets on either side. The floor of the cabin extends outside towards the lake to become a deck with access to an outdoor shower enclosed by a cedar screen. Cedar is used for window frames, doors and cladding. The timber is untreated, gradually turning silver and blending into the landscape. All interior surfaces are birch veneer plywood panels – floors, back wall, ceiling and storage, so no repainting is required.

The cabin was first constructed in a car park in Toronto over a period of four weeks by a group of furniture craftsmen. This allowed for details to be worked out precisely and all the components to be prefabricated. These were numbered, disassembled and reconstructed on-site in just ten days. Three walls of the cabin are floor to ceiling glass, wrapped by an exterior horizontal cedar screen on two sides for privacy and sun shading. A large cut-out in the screen is carefully located to provide spectacular views of the setting sun from the bed. Gaps between the individual members of the screen increase arbitrarily as the cabin gets closer to the lake. The gaps frame snapshots of random, seemingly abstract compositions of vegetation, lake and sky. As the sun sets, the varied openings within the screen filter the light into shifting patterns on the interior surfaces. At night, the effect is reversed and the cabin glows like a lantern.



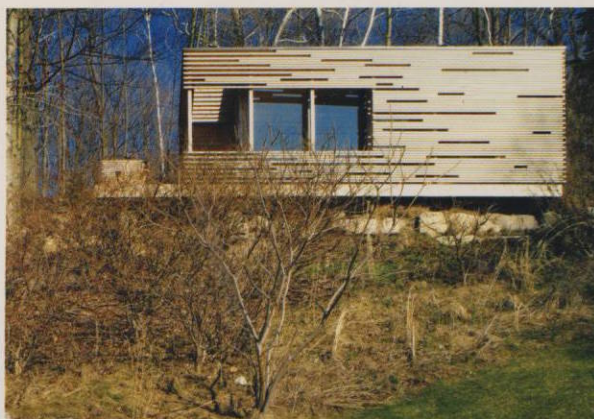
1 View of the south facade. Beyond the cedar screen, the chimney for the wood-burning stove is visible. The timber-clad volume to the north contains the WC with

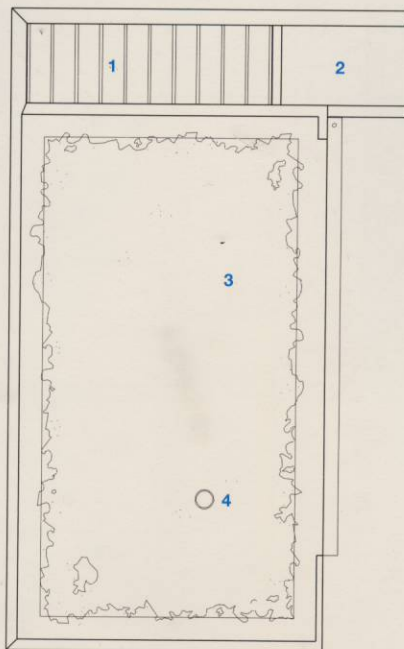
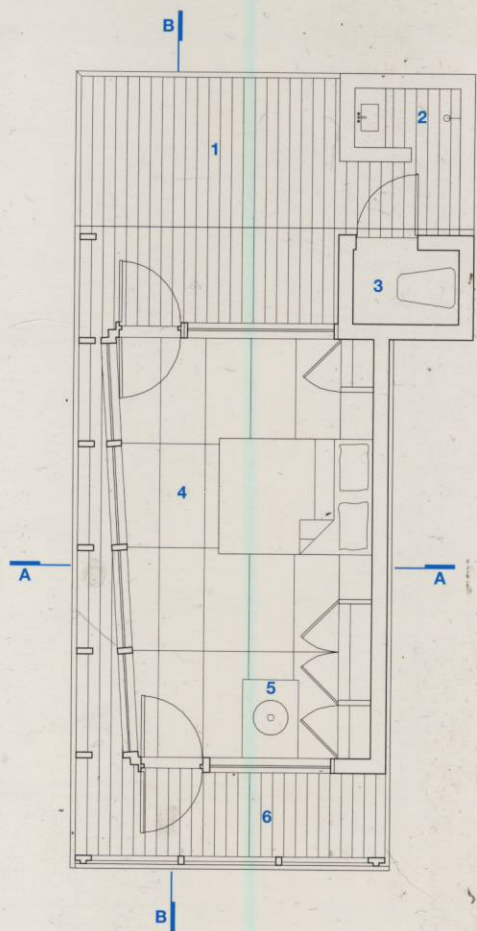
the open shower on the deck beyond. 2 The western facade introduces panels of unscreened glazing which are placed opposite the bed so that the occupants can

enjoy views over the lake. 3 The bedroom contains abundant built-in storage fabricated from veneered plywood. The veneered plywood

continues in the floor, and ceiling, while the windows, door frames, and the rhythmic screen are all solid cedar. 4 To the west, the cedar screen is placed

close to the full-height glazing to protect it from solar gain and glare.



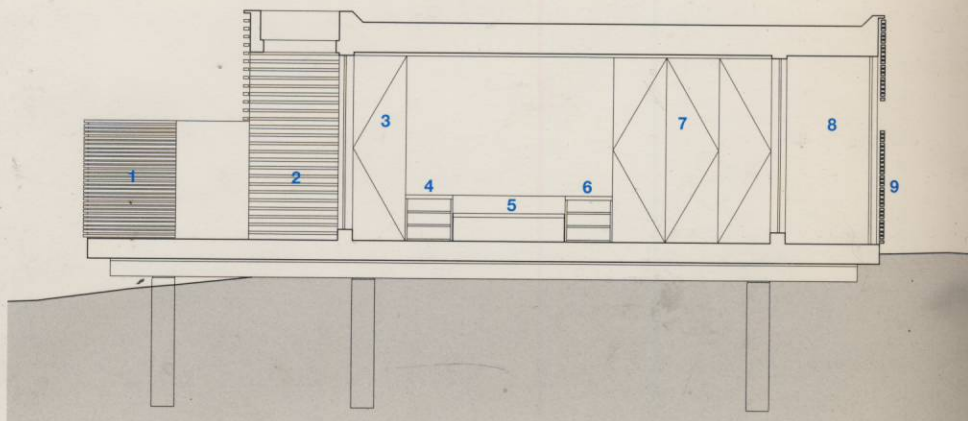
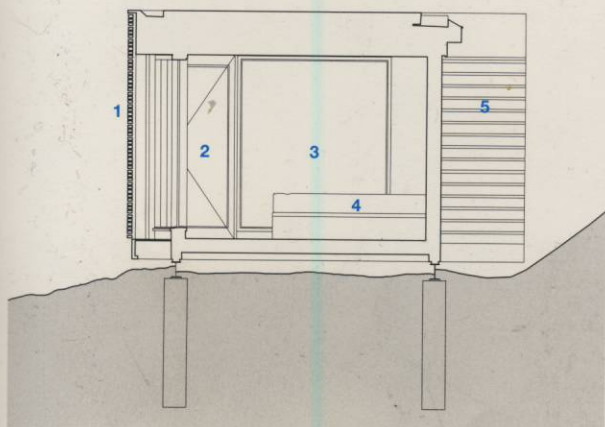


30.01
Ground Floor Plan
1:100
1 Deck
2 Outdoor shower
3 WC
4 Bedroom
5 Fireplace
6 Deck

30.02
Roof Plan
1:100
1 Open trellis
2 Roof to WC
3 Green roof
4 Chimney



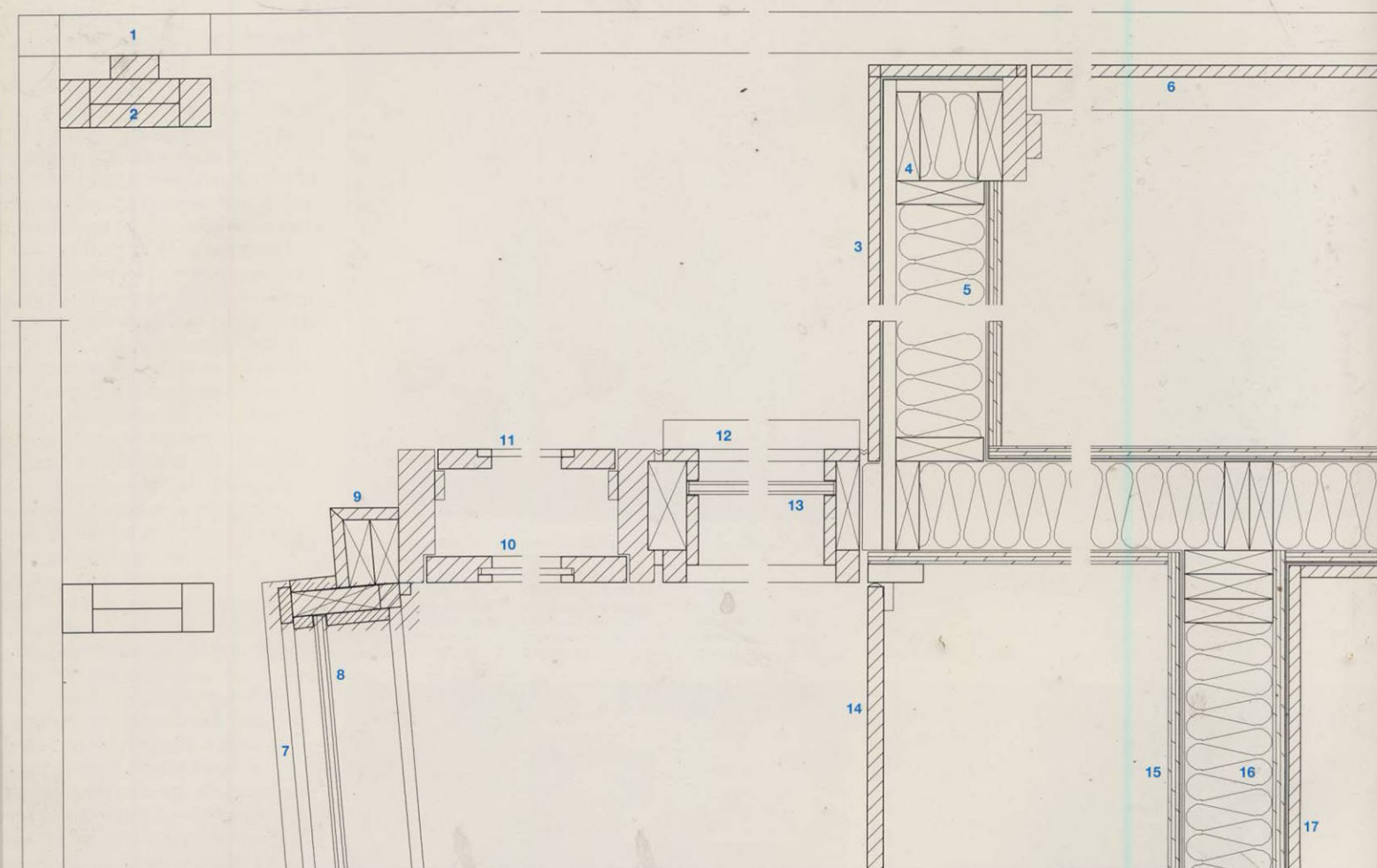
0 5 10m
0 15 30ft



30.03
Section A-A
1:100
1 Cedar screen
2 Glass door
3 Fixed glass window
4 Bed
5 Timber WC enclosure

30.04
Section B-B
1:100
1 Screen to outdoor shower
2 Timber WC enclosure
3 Storage cupboard
4 Bedside storage
5 Bed

6 Bedside storage
7 Storage cupboards
8 Deck
9 Cedar screen



30.05

External Wall Plan

Detail

1:10

1 Cedar screen
 2 Built-up cedar post
 3 Cedar siding to WC enclosure
 4 Timber stud frame
 5 Wall insulation
 6 19 mm (3/4 inch) cedar siding on cedar door
 7 Cedar sill below
 8 25 mm (1 inch) thermal glass unit in built-up cedar frame
 9 19 mm (3/4 inch) cedar trim
 10 44 mm (1 3/4 inch) insulated glass door in cedar frame

11 6 mm (1/4 inch) screen door in cedar frame
 12 Cedar sill below
 13 25 mm (1 inch) thermal glass unit in built-up cedar frame
 14 25 mm (1 inch) birch veneer plywood door on pivot hinges
 15 19 mm (3/4 inch) cedar siding
 16 Wall insulation
 17 19 mm (3/4 inch) cedar siding

