A COMPACT SADDLE-ROOFED HOUSE THAT EXPLOITS A DIFFICULT SITE

E. H. and M. K. Hunter design a sophisticated little house for a steep, wooded slope

Joseph W. Molitor photos
An off-centered saddle roof, with canted edges, forms the major design emphasis for this compact little house. Placed as it is on a densely wooded, steep slope—the house is approached and first seen from above. From this angle, a light, hovering quality is given to the distinctive roof by the use of glass under the eaves on all sides of the house.

The structure is a variant of a post and beam frame, with the members exposed and painted white for accent. Exterior walls are of vertical red cedar siding.

The house measures about 32 by 32 feet, and has a very workable and well-zoned plan in these compact limits. The lower level, which has its own access to the outdoors, is devoted to the children's areas: two bedrooms, a bath, a study and a "play hall." The heating and laundry room are also on this level. At the back, the upper floor is supported on steel lally columns, providing a 12-foot covered play terrace.

The principal living areas are on the top floor, along with the master bedroom suite. An extremely open plan is used for the living areas to add a sense of space: even the kitchen is open to the dining area, with a curtain provided for shutting it off when desired. The exterior walls of these areas are mostly glass, with fixed panes flanked by casement vent sash. Interior partitions are gypsum board. The long wall separating the living room from the master bedroom and bath is surfaced with cork for added quiet. Ceilings on this level are exposed wood decking. Floors are mostly vinyl asbestos tile on plywood, with carpeting for the master bedroom, and cocoa mat on the stairs and landing. The lower floor has a 4-inch concrete slab and cane fiber tile ceiling. The roof has a built-up surface.
Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Roos
Hanover, New Hampshire
ARCHITECTS: E. H. and M. K. Hunter
The Roos house provides brightly daylighted interiors, in spite of the dense foliage of the surrounding woods, as can be noted in the photos of the entry (left) and the stair well (above). A little bridge links the main level of the house with the road to make the formal entrance to the house.

In addition to the terraces provided on the lower level, outdoor sitting space adjoining the upstairs living areas is provided by a cantilevered balcony.

The upper level is fitted with two long banks of closets—one ranging the entire wall between the master bedroom and the living room, which also adds some sound isolation; and a door-high bank which partitions the kitchen from the entry, yet permits even daylighting.