



Hourglass House

Bidwell, OH 2012

The client approached OPA with the intention of building a lasting family residence. The family had already purchased a beautiful site on the crown of the hill surrounded by a grove of mature pines mixed with deciduous trees.

Through discussions and diagrams, a plan emerged, which created an open linear space composed of a large living area to the east and a kitchen & dining area to the west. East and west areas join through a hall that connects directly to other shared spaces of the house. The hall itself accommodates a catering center that provides access to food and beverage without having to disrupt kitchen activities. Living area, hall and kitchen form a single space resembling the form of an hourglass, which is oriented along a visual axis that frames grand views to the east and west throughout the house.

Local craftsmen were identified to provide framing, cabinetry and finish trim work. The house is heated by solar hydronic heating distributed through pipes in the floor slab, which radiate through herringbone-pattern tile floors. Rainwater is captured and distributed underground to the defined lawn area to the west of the house. Most of the site is left as meadow and forest.

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