

Project: Shenandoah House

Team: SCHAUM/SHIEH

Size: 255 m²

Location: Lexington, USA



Feature:

Project - Unfolding over a lush Allegheny Mountain slope in western Virginia, the Shenandoah Writer's Retreat designed by SCHAUM/SHIEH epitomizes organic architecture with its harmonious integration into the dramatic topography. The 2,750 square foot home's elongated plan consisting of irregular pods connected by a single corridor ingeniously embraces the contours of the hilltop site, while creating intimate pockets of gardens and outdoor nooks between each room on both sides. The genius of the design lies in its simplicity - a restrained material palette of insulated stucco and metal roofing allows the surrounding landscape to shine as the main feature. Strategically placed windows visually connect the interior rooms through a fascinating telescope effect, focusing views on either the dense forest or the open meadows. The custom quasi-furniture objects adding unique texture demonstrate admirable attention to detail, with locally-sourced materials like soapstone and bamboo adding a touch of nature inside.

But the pièce de résistance is the sensuous folding metal roof whose undulations mirror the surrounding slopes to poetic effect. Coupling pliability and durability, the roof formally and spatially ties together the home's sprawling horizontality, almost like a gently protective mantle enveloping the writer's retreat into the mountainside. An inspiring slice of modern architecture in harmony with the ancient Allegheny ridges, SCHAUM/SHIEH's latest creation promises to be the archetype of biophilic design.

Design Team - Established in 2009 between Houston and New York City by Rosalyne Shieh and Troy Schaum, SCHAUM/SHIEH is a small architectural collaboration exploring the intersection of art, form and the urban fabric. Across projects spanning buildings, installations and speculative visions, they have nurtured a creative dialogue grounded in

theoretical experimentation yet transformational in built reality. Operating at varying scales, their distinct sensibility shines through completed and ongoing commissions in Detroit, New York, Marfa, Houston and Virginia.