

MARCH/APRIL 1998

# Custom Home

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## THE BEST!

### 1998 CUSTOM HOME DESIGN AWARD WINNERS

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BUILDER

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**This vacation house strings together past, present, and future in a chain of linked pavilions, creating the illusion, said the judges, of a "very Modern little vernacular village."**





# Grand Award

Custom Home More Than 5,000 Square Feet  
Great Barrington, Mass., Weekend Residence



**"T**his house is really a tuxedo," said the judges. Formal, elegant, cultured, it imposes its civility on the landscape in a triumph of manners over matter. Architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen believes this 7,200-square-foot vacation home in the Berkshire Mountains is his best work to date, coming closest to an aesthetic he's polished for decades.

If you think the series of linked pavilions looks like those little houses in Monopoly, the effect is entirely intentional. "I've been working on that form of the Monopoly house for years," says the architect. "I wanted the edges like that. And the window glass comes right up to the face with no reveal." The judges admired the effort, and about builder Louis Boxer's execution they said, "Talk about crisp detailing—this is skillful stuff and very hard to do."



The house spreads its ample wings toward the mountain view. But Jacobsen withholds it from visitors until the front door opens and he reveals all through a 22-foot-high, floor-to-ceiling window in the living room. Beyond it, a disappearing-edge pool and an allée cut through the trees drive home the Berkshire prize.—S.C.C.

Entrant/Architect/Landscape Architect: Hugh Newell Jacobsen, FAIA, Washington, D.C.; Builder: Louis Boxer Builder, West Stockbridge, Mass.; Interior Designer: Hugh Newell Jacobsen and Thérèse Baron Gurney, ASID, Washington; Living Space: 7,200 square feet; Site Size: 550 acres; Construction Cost: \$220 a square foot; Photographer: Robert C. Lautman. ■ See p. 160 for products.

