

# Merit Award

**Bodron + Fruit's** 1950s interpretation receives special honors.

**On one hand,** the Shadywood residence that won this year's Merit Award feels larger than its 4,200 square feet. At the same time, the house fits its site so well that it hardly feels like it's there at all. Mil Bodron and Svend Fruit of the architecture firm Bodron + Fruit designed it that way.

The judges noted that the house had the feel of a 1950s ranch house, which was exactly what was on the site when the clients fell in love with it. The site, not the house, that is. "There were raccoons living in the attic," Bodron remembers of the place that once stood there.

The architects razed the old structure and started over with the consent of their clients—a husband and wife, both trial lawyers—to do whatever they wanted. "What we tried to do is keep the floor plan simple and the footprint small so that it doesn't take away from the site," Bodron says. Not only did the site dictate the size and shape of the house, it influenced the materials, too. Bodron + Fruit sensibly used a warm palette—teak floors, mahogany windows and doors, and maple cabinetry—throughout the home.

Fruit, the architect of the partnership, designed a house that features a long gallery with windows—windows the contractor made himself—that give the house a sense of transparency. The house relates well to both sides of the site. Corner windows in the upstairs master bedroom and the guest bedroom beneath create long, diagonal views of the site, making it seem larger than its 1.2 acres.

The judges praised the Shadywood residence for being "smart" and also applauded Bodron, the interior designer half of Bodron + Fruit, who appointed the home with furniture that was consistent from room to room and with the design of the house itself.



**SITE FOR SORE EYES:** The slope of the roof (top) parallels the slope of the hill where the house sits. Warm cabinetry (above) hides an entertainment center. Bodron's décor (below) complements and accentuates the view of the surrounding woods.



**DINNER PARTY:** A split dining table adjusts to the number of guests entertained.

