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Bonstral|Haresign Architects

The Hazel River Cabin
Woodville, Va.
Client: Joe Svatos

Nestled into the western slope of Juba Mountain, a 1794 toll keeper's log cabin and its 1856 clapboard addition had long been guarding the remnants of the Old Sperryville Pike. And in Howard County, Md., at Mount Joy Farm, a former slave quarters (the "chestnut log cabin") was slated for demolition. Instead, the building was catalogued, dismantled, and rebuilt adjacent to the Sperryville toll cabin with a modern glass link to create the new Hazel River Cabin.

This is a very nicely designed integration between the legacy of the building's components and their evolution to a new use, the jury observed. "The result is a beautiful small-scale residence in a serene setting that recreates the delightful vernacular randomness of frontier structures. Juxtaposed against modern elements reflecting a 21st century industrial vernacular, it is a home that is at the same time traditional and cutting-edge. It is beautifully integrated into the site with a nice balance of the historic cabins and distinctive new elements."

Arching stone walls carve out a mountainside garden on the site, grounding the cabin and creating a terrace with views of Hazel River and Old Rag Mountain. Modern additions are distinct from the original log structures. For example, the cedar shake roofing on the historic log cabins contrasts with the copper roofs of the modern frame addition, link, and porch roofs.

The interiors are reinterpreted for contemporary life. Subtraction of the second floors creates uninterrupted double-height spaces and emphasizes the materiality of the original log structure. Raw steel and refined wood define the modern inserts of the sleeping loft, built-ins, kitchen, stairs, Wittus stove, and view window along with the toll cabin's modern bathrooms, wet bar, and dormer, all carefully joined to and contrasted with



rough-hewn original materials.

The wood, stone, hardware, and fabricated steel were locally sourced. More than 70 percent of the wood was reclaimed from the original cabins or nearby structures. Efficient modern systems—super insulated roofing and foundations, lighting, air conditioning, radiant floor heating, and state-of-the-art electronics—are integrated without impacting the character of the historic cabins.

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