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Eminent Domains: Residential Design Award Winners for 2014

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Inside:

Marvelous Minimalism

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The Hazel River Cabin, with the restored toll keeper's log cabin at right, the historic clapboard addition at the center, and the relocated log cabin at left (the roof of the narrow, modern connector is barely visible between the left and center structures).



Photo © Anice Hoachlander/Hoachlander Davis Photography

Hazel River Cabin

This unusual project in Rappahannock County, Virginia, has been garnering rave reviews, scooping up architecture awards, and, for our jurors, ticking all the right boxes: historic preservation, sustainable design, and a contemporary aesthetic that incorporates efficient systems and modern technology.

When the owner purchased a piece of mountain land for a weekend retreat and started demolishing what he thought was a derelict teardown, he discovered a historic gem beneath the vines. It was a 1794 toll keeper's log cabin along the Old Sperryville Pike that had been expanded in the 1840s with a small clapboard addition. Although he knew the structures should be saved, the property owner needed more space if this was to be his home. His next step was to purchase a dilapidated chestnut log cabin in Maryland, have it dismantled, and moved to his site. It was at this point that **David Haresign, FAIA, of Bonstra | Haresign Architects LLP**, entered the picture. The architect carefully assembled the three cabins to create a 2,400-square-foot home that respects the history of the venerable structures and the beauty of their materials while meeting his client's 21st-century requirements: a large, modern kitchen, dining

and living areas, a library, and two bedrooms each with its own bath.

The three different structures are cohesively connected without losing their individual character, and all new elements are transparently contemporary; there is no attempt to pretend they are old. A granite-and-glass landing connects the chestnut cabin to the clapboard addition. The cedar shake roofing on the log cabins contrasts with the copper roofs of the 1840s frame addition and the brand new connecting link. Large new windows and dormers open views to the river and Old Rag Mountain. Modern stairs, bathrooms, kitchen, inserted sleeping loft, and built-ins take their place comfortably adjacent to original flooring, hand-hewn beams, and a stone chimney.

Over 70 percent of the wood of the project was reclaimed, some of it from nearby Madison County's courthouse, and much of the new building materials and fabrication—nails, lumber, forged hardware, and cabinets—was locally sourced. "This project brought back two old buildings but did not take anything away from the originals," said one juror with enthusiasm.

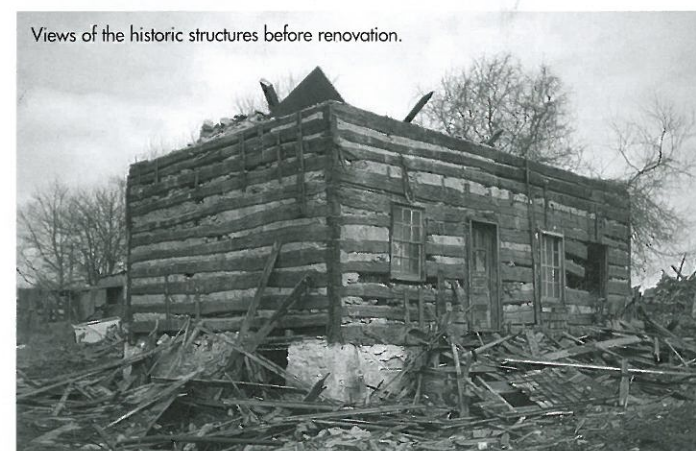
The Hazel River Cabin has received several awards from AIA | DC and was previously featured in the Winter 2011 issue of ARCHITECTURE DC.



Interior of the renovated Hazel River Cabin.

Photo © Anice Hoachlander/Hoachlander Davis Photography

Views of the historic structures before renovation.



Photos courtesy of the architects