

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

# The Un-Private House



64 Wakefield as it now appears is the most recent design by Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam for their own house on a plot in an Atlanta neighborhood of bungalow-type houses. In the 1970s, they had renovated and opened up their bungalow, before adding two small freestanding structures in the rear for Scogin's son and guests. While these smaller structures survive as a guest pavilion, the bungalow was nearly destroyed by a hurricane in 1995.

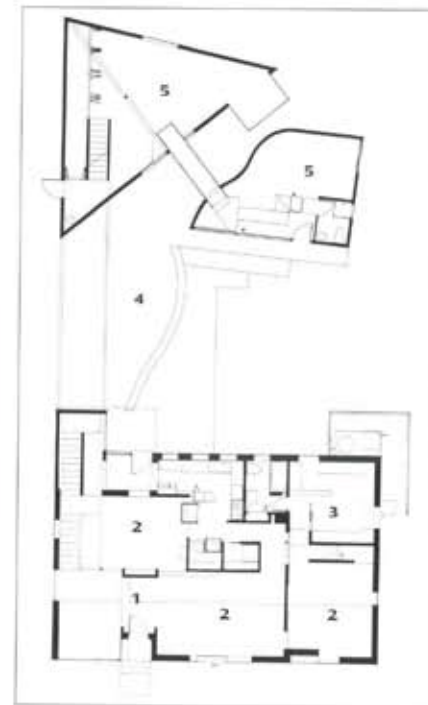
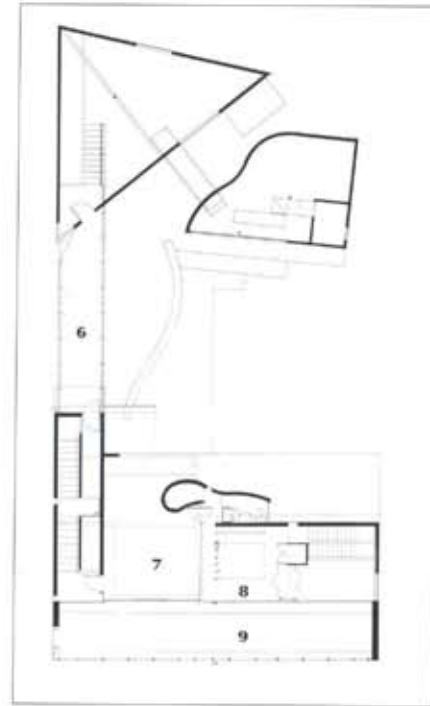
About planning the new house for the same site, the architects have said, "The idea of a lap pool drove the process: dreams of exercise and relaxation, recollections of the Josephine Baker House, visions of the Italian rationalists' health clinics." Only the compact site's seventy-foot width offered the requisite space for the pool. Their solution was to suspend it at the house's upper level, spanning the living spaces of the floor below and taking advantage of the southern exposure. "Shielded from the street by a translucent glass wall but open to the sky and air, the roof deck and pool challenge the very notion of public/private. Materials mutate from translucent to opaque, from trans-

parent to reflective, and the house flickers between exposure and introversion," Scogin and Elam have remarked.

Unlike most houses in the neighborhood, the ambiguity between public and private is evident in the building's main elevation as well. Large expanses of glass reveal the spaces within, unscreened by conventional transitional spaces such as vestibules and entrance halls. Unlike the bungalow that preceded it, the current house is characterized by open, flowing spaces without fixed functions. Furthermore, the spatial organization is not limited to the horizontal dimension. The master suite is arranged vertically, challenging the traditional domestic hierarchy of upstairs/downstairs and private/public.

Top: Upper-level plan  
Bottom: Ground-floor plan

- 1 Entry
- 2 Living area
- 3 Dressing room
- 4 Carport
- 5 Guest pavilion
- 6 Library
- 7 Terrace
- 8 Master bedroom
- 9 Lap pool



Principal facade



View into master bedroom from lap pool





View of stairs to master bedroom



Living areas