HOUSE IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

Location: New Castle County, DE
Completion: 1983

This house for a family of three has an unusual program. The wife is a musician -- a performer who required a music room containing an organ, two pianos, and a harpsichord. This room should also be appropriate for small gatherings. Another interest of the family is bird watching, so that big windows facing the woods are important. The husband also needs a study in a remote part of the house.

The house sits in rolling fields at the edge of a valley toward the west with woods toward the north. Traditional in northern Delaware where the site is located are 18th century Classical barns with generous scale and low horizontal proportions. The walls of these barns are field stone with areas of wood frame and siding in the upper sections. We based the form of the house and its symbolism on this kind of indigenous architecture to make it look at home in its rural setting and to conform to the easy, generous, yet unpretentious way of living that our clients envision. The landscaping is cultivated in the immediate vicinity of the house, but natural beyond.