The Renovation of Ravine House

Howard Evans
Chiles Evans + Care Architects
It's all about the team..
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An innovative building from the start
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Finding an approach to the project
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A special site
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Historical context

The Oliffes met at the University of Minnesota, where Helen had seen Frank Lloyd Wright’s architecture first presented in art appreciation courses. Yveson Knudson, an architecture student who studied at Taliesin after college, was a friend. Even with this background, the Oliffes appreciated Wright not expecting him to design for them.

Translucent forms fold the sleeping quarters into a hillock, opening the living room to a view downhill, and fit the whole into the only level part of the site. The gabled roof leads the eye west over the terrain while blocking against summer sun. This sheltering outline greets the approaching motorist, but it is extended arms to the garage at the rear, providing a dramatic guide to the axis that leads to the main entry. This residential is derived from the Audubon house (S-339). Another near cousin is the Edwards house (S-313), whose entrance is a house in a house, but in this case one is a true or a square module. Wright designed furniture such as chairs, tables, chairs, complementing the design. Construction, under the guidance of John H. Weyer and occasional supervision by Yveson Knudson, was completed in 1953 by Taliesin Associated Architects.
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Fabric first
Understanding the detail
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Conservation and preservation
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Whole house energy systems

Proposed

Realised
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Work begins on site
Understanding the existing
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Which layer and where?
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Turning the corner
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Understanding moisture
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Whole house energy approach
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Airtight Chimney??
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Revealing the house, celebrating details
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Revealing the house, celebrating details
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Lessons learned and the relevance to other projects
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+ It’s hard work!