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PHILIPSON



**BREUER HOUSE NEW
CANAAH I, 1948**

New Canaan, Connecticut, USA

MARCEL BREUER

The controlled simplicity of this Breuer house—essentially two rectangular forms, one of natural timber cantilevered over another of white-washed concrete—demonstrates his rational design method. Such a disarmingly simple organization, stemming from a very straightforward idea, is characteristic of both Breuer's architecture and his furniture designs, such as his tubular chrome and black leather Wassily armchair (1925). Built into a hillside, this house is relatively small but very open, with large banks of windows and an overhanging balcony suspended by thin steel cables; the concrete base, which was covered by fieldstone in the 1980s, contains a workshop. Breuer's attention to detail, seen in the diagonal boarding of the cantilevered portions of the house, help to define each element's importance.

VOLGA HOUSE, 2009

Tverskaya, Russia

PETER KOSTELOV

On the banks of the Volga, this dacha (country home) is clad in a patchwork of differently slatted wood panels. Their complementary rhythms soften the heavily massed superstructure. The weekend house is designed to accommodate two couples and their grown-up children, some of whom need work space, so it is a flexible and roomy dwelling. Constructed on an existing foundation, the architect built upward to get the maximum amount of space—and also to get the best views of the Volga from a higher vantage point. He also built outward, creating a now open wooden terrace and shed. Kostelov considers the design to be suggestive of Soviet-era dachas, which were built piecemeal and used whatever materials became available, thereby demonstrating the lives of the buildings and their changing owners.

