



Built on a Catskill mountainside for a book-maker, a poet and their son, this design provides many “far corners” in which family members can work or play, alone or together. Nestled into a south-facing slope, the house opens onto views of nearby meadows, old stone walls and distant mountains.

During the winter the house is protected from northerly winds by earth-sheltering and a highly insulated curving metal roof, and opens to passive solar heat through a tall south-facing wall of windows. Bluestone floors provide constant heat from embedded warm water tubing; a ducted ventilation system recycles heat energy. Great internal mass keeps the house warm on winter nights but cool on summer days when fabric awnings, roof overhangs and a “Trombe” wall block the summer sun. Thirty-three window sashes can be opened to the mountain breezes.

This design conserves resources in another important way: excluding site work, the house was contracted for \$68/ sq. ft.

Kiss+Cathcart, Architects  
 \$320,000  
 4,000 s.f.  
 Goldstein Associates, structural.  
 Drew Gillette, Mechanical.  
 Completed 1994

## Willow House

Woodstock, New York

