Stillwater | 3428 SF

The 3500 sf Stillwater residence is located on 35 remote acres in Montana. Attention to site is the driving force behind the design, especially capturing views to both the river and “Big Sky.” Both for these views and for optimal solar orientation, the main axis aligns with its namesake river; volumes of space are pushed and pulled across this axis to establish a rhythm of alternating gabled forms. Exterior courtyards defined by these shifting volumes provide protected open-air spaces that extend the house into its landscape and views beyond.

The experience of the house is a celebratory procession. Weathered wood-clad volumes ending in large expanses of glass offer alternating views of the water and mountains, and clerestory windows in the interrupted gables capture sunlight and break up the otherwise solid, quiet masses. This is balanced with passive-solar elements like the thermal mass of the concrete floor, deep roof overhangs, energy-efficient windows, and a super-insulated envelope. Combined with active elements and a sophisticated climate monitoring system, this house is sharply focused on its sustainability. Careful siting and restoration of the surrounding topography contribute to this awareness of place. Through intention, materials, light, and form, Stillwater is a veneration of the world around it.