





THE POND HOUSE IN THE NEW YORK STATE WOODS

It was a little cottage from the early thirties used as a hunting stop-over. In those days it was part of a large estate of about 300 acres which has since been divided up. When Perla and Robert Meyers bought it they wanted to transform it into a simple house that would feel more like an apartment that would not need much care. They asked their friend architect Charlie Gwathmey to help them to realize their dream escape from New York City.

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Left: the 'Pond House' 80 miles north of Manhattan in New York State, blends in perfectly with the overwhelming natural surroundings.



The owners of the house are Perla and Robert Meyers. Perla is a well know food writer. She has published 10 cookbooks that made her mark as a forerunner in the European influenced, farm-to-table, fresh seasonal ingredients way of cooking. She published her first cookbook, "The Seasonal Cook: A Return to Fresh Food", in 1973 and followed it with 9 other titles over the next 30 years, two of them gardening books. Her last book 'How to Eat a Peach' came out in 2003.

Because of the fact that she spent much of her time in Europe, her style on cooking is influenced by the 'old world'. She attended the Ecole Hotelière in Switzerland, studied baking and confection at the

Upon arrival, a visitor can hardly see the wooden house. It is more or less hidden on the edge of the woods at the other side of a big and quite deep pond. With clean and cool water it is perfect for summer swimming.

Entering through the kitchen, you reach the main living room with an entre sol and a corridor to the bed rooms and bath room. The ridge high living, has a big fireplace made out of natural stones. The interior is of a country house style: easy and comfortable.

The cottage, or the 'Pond House' as they like to call it, Perla and Robert bought here was not big. However it blended perfect into to the natural surroundings. They wanted to keep it simple and cozy. They asked architect Charlie Gwathmey who at the time worked with another architect



Hotel Sacher in Vienna, and received a degree from Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. She has taught cooking classes all over the world and has written for The New York Times, Fine Cooking, Eating Well, Bon Appetit and Food & Wine Magazine.

Her husband Robert was president of home furnishings for Bloomingdales and then President of direct mail at American Express.

They live in New York City and enjoy this house in the town of Washington in Dutchess County, New York State on weekends and in the summer. The house is nestled in the countryside with many beautiful farms, great views and 5000 acres of trails and woods that have been donated to the town and are used for hiking, horse back riding and picnics.

called Richard Henderson, to realize their ideas. "They really did it as a favor since this was hardly the kind of house they had in mind for us. Charlie then became founder of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects in New York who designed some of the most interesting buildings in New York" commented Perla.

"We love our little paradise. The town of Washington has everything a 'real' city has: a wonderful library, some good restaurants, some excellent private schools which provide us with concerts and poetry reading. People here are very friendly and considering that it is only 80 miles from New York, it is totally peaceful and safe. It is hard to believe that there is still so much space so close to New York City, which makes living in Manhattan very easy and fun.

Left: the main living area is the real center of the house. From here, you reach the kitchen and the corridor to the bedrooms and bath-rooms.

Next pages: The ridge high living space is designed for easy living and comfort. The big windows guarantee direct contact with nature.



