

# CHARLES ROSE ARCHITECTS INC

PROJECT<sup>data</sup>

## JIB HOUSE

Gloucester, Massachusetts USA

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**Commissioned by:** Couple in Cambridge, Ma., who wanted year-round ocean house.

**Scope:** One story landside, three stories waterside; open interior plan.

Only a short slope and a rocky shore separate JIB House from the Atlantic Ocean. Such a spectacular perch—and lack of serious height restrictions—should have made our job of creating an airy interior with sweeping views a straightforward one. Not so. Our clients were determined that their new contemporary house not obstruct their neighbors' views. Our solution was to survey neighbors, map their views and generate graphically a three-dimensional building envelope, which allowed us to determine the maximum height and mass of the house. While a concession to the neighborhood, it did not force us to compromise on our clients' wishes for high ceilings, expansive views and open spaces. Here, we're aided by the sloping angle of the site, which allowed us to stretch the height waterside to three stories without exceeding the building envelope.

Seen from the surrounding landscape, JIB House is a hybrid: Landside, the house is low and an understated presence among its more traditional neighbors; it buffers wind and salt spray, creating an intimate south-facing courtyard through which visitors approach. Opposite, the house opens dramatically as the slope drops and the roof rises like a sail; the north side is a three-story wall of windows. A large folding roof plane on the western side creates a bold form that offers shade when the sun is in the southwest. Below, we sited a pool close to the ocean to connect swimmers with the water beyond.

**Materials:** Cast-in-place concrete; exposed aggregate; granite; mahogany cladding and windows; copper; bamboo; stainless steel; acoustical plaster; glass pavers.

**Completed:** 2004

**Cost:** Withheld

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“...Charles Rose typically builds a topographic model of the site and, if possible, the area beyond. He and his clients then conduct what he calls an ‘imagery analysis,’ where they look

at the different views the site offers, comprehending them in a clearer way. The client begins to see how, if he moves up the hill, the view will change. In this way, Rose and the clients are able to put together a three-dimensional catalog of views for a site. After many conversations with the client, he says, ‘We arrive at parts of the site that need to be acknowledged or celebrated. You want to build in response to them. We work from there.’”

Liesl Geiger, [Essence of Home: Timeless Elements of Design](#),  
The Monacelli Press, Inc.

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**Awards:**

Boston Society of Architects Design Honor Award

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**Select Publications:**

“Shipshape,” *Trends: Outdoor Living and Holiday Home*, Volume 22, No. 3, 2006.

Charles Rose, *Architect*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 2006.

“At One with the Scenery,” *Trends: Home & Living*, Volume 21 No. 9, 2005.



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