



ACOUSTICAL RETREAT

The owner of this modern retreat in the Berkshires required an ideal acoustical environment for both indoor chamber performances and everyday living. The home consists of separate pavilions that contain a spacious combined living, dining, and kitchen area; a guest wing; a four-season porch; and a private main suite. The largest pavilion—the center focus of the home—is defined by a ceiling framed with exposed steel and rough-sawn Douglas fir and folded like origami into the form of a butterfly's wing, sloping up in two directions. On top of the beams is a second set of smaller purlins, giving greater depth to the assembly. The rough wood combined with the dimensionality of the assembly gives the room nearly ideal acoustics. Sitting above the exposed ceiling framing is a composite of finish-grade plywood, a thermal blanket of closed-cell insulation, another layer of plywood sheathing, and then felt-backed membrane roofing. In order for the rain to be collected in a cistern, the roof is sloped for high ceilings to the south and low ceilings to the north.

Architect Flavin Architects, flavinarchitects.com

Builder Chris May Builders, chrismaybuilders.com

Location Lenox, Mass.

Photos Nat Rea Photography



“The elegant footprint of this structure allowed us to shape the roof through a kind of structural origami. It slopes up to the south, catching the summer sun, and the east and west sides flare up as well, resembling a butterfly's wings.”

—Colin Flavin, principal, Flavin Architects

