

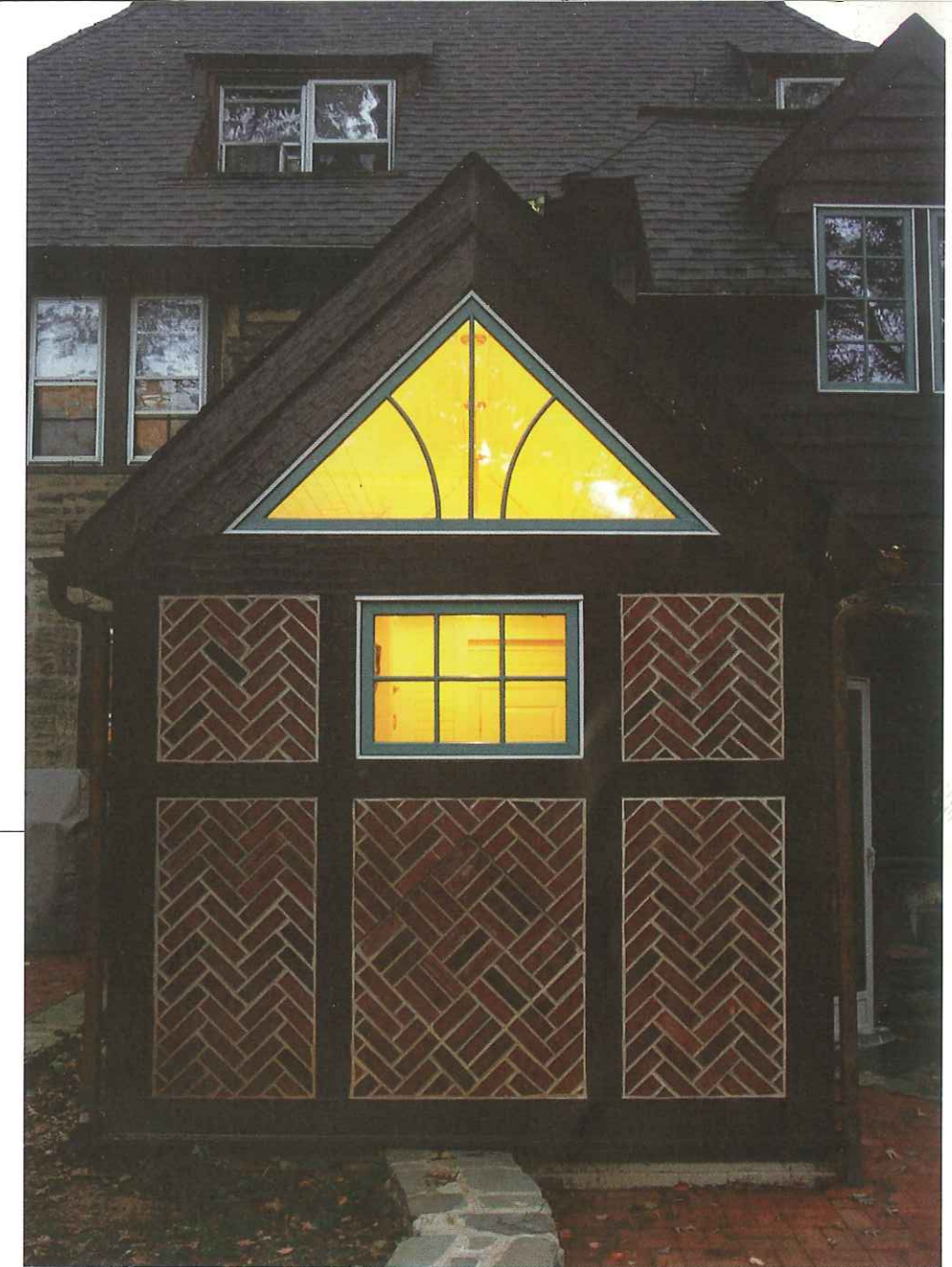


Paul Macht

Paul Macht Architects

There are few better examples of the motto "think globally; act locally" than the life and business of architect Paul Macht. An advocate of sustainable design and environmental sensitivity in both his work and community, Macht works hard to educate people about the benefits of living green. His firm, Paul Macht Architects of Rydal, Pennsylvania, specializes in energy efficient custom residences, additions, and renovations.

Paul Macht Architects has been practicing since 1989. The firm's objective is to create harmonious buildings that capture imaginations, fulfill client needs, and emphasize environmental sensitivity. The eight-person staff works closely with each client to ensure the client's aesthetic inclinations and budgetary concerns.



Above: Mudrooms seldom come with perfectly styled Tudor detail like this addition to a Jenkintown, Pennsylvania home. Owners—Terry and Phil Weinberg, Contractor—Calfayan Construction

Facing Page: Lakefront home goes from cottage to castle with a living room/master suite addition on one side and a new kitchen wing on the other. Featured on HGTV, "Dream Builders." Owners—Linda and Wayne Reichart. Photograph by Tom Bernard



Macht's interest in sustainable design began at Princeton University, where he earned a Masters degree in Architecture. While there, he worked for one of the country's leading designers of passive solar houses. Projects on which Macht was involved garnered the firm four solar design awards from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Following this experience, Macht spent a decade working for other firms on a variety of large-scale institutional and commercial projects ranging from pharmaceutical facilities to prisons. When he founded his own firm, it was with the detailed knowledge of complex projects and the specialized interest in energy efficient, sustainable design.

Wanting to make a difference in the environment is one of the reasons residential design accounts for about 90 percent of the firm's work. This is an area in which Paul Macht Architects can both design smart and teach its clients the reasons why. Many clients seek out the environmental interests of the firm, but others are encouraged through the design process. "Initial resistance often comes because people think green design costs more," explains Macht. "We show that there's only a small increase in building costs—and a much bigger savings in energy expenses over time." Macht says his firm investigates all options so that design choices result in faster payback for clients.

A Paul Macht-designed new home is carefully sited to permit passive solar efficiency, and might include strategically placed trees for shading. Wide expanses of glass help connect the indoors with the outdoors and also permit natural daylighting. Renewable building and finish materials are specified for durability and environmental sensibility. Vegetable-based paints and stains, radiant heating systems, and even scrap cuts of wood for closet flooring are often used.

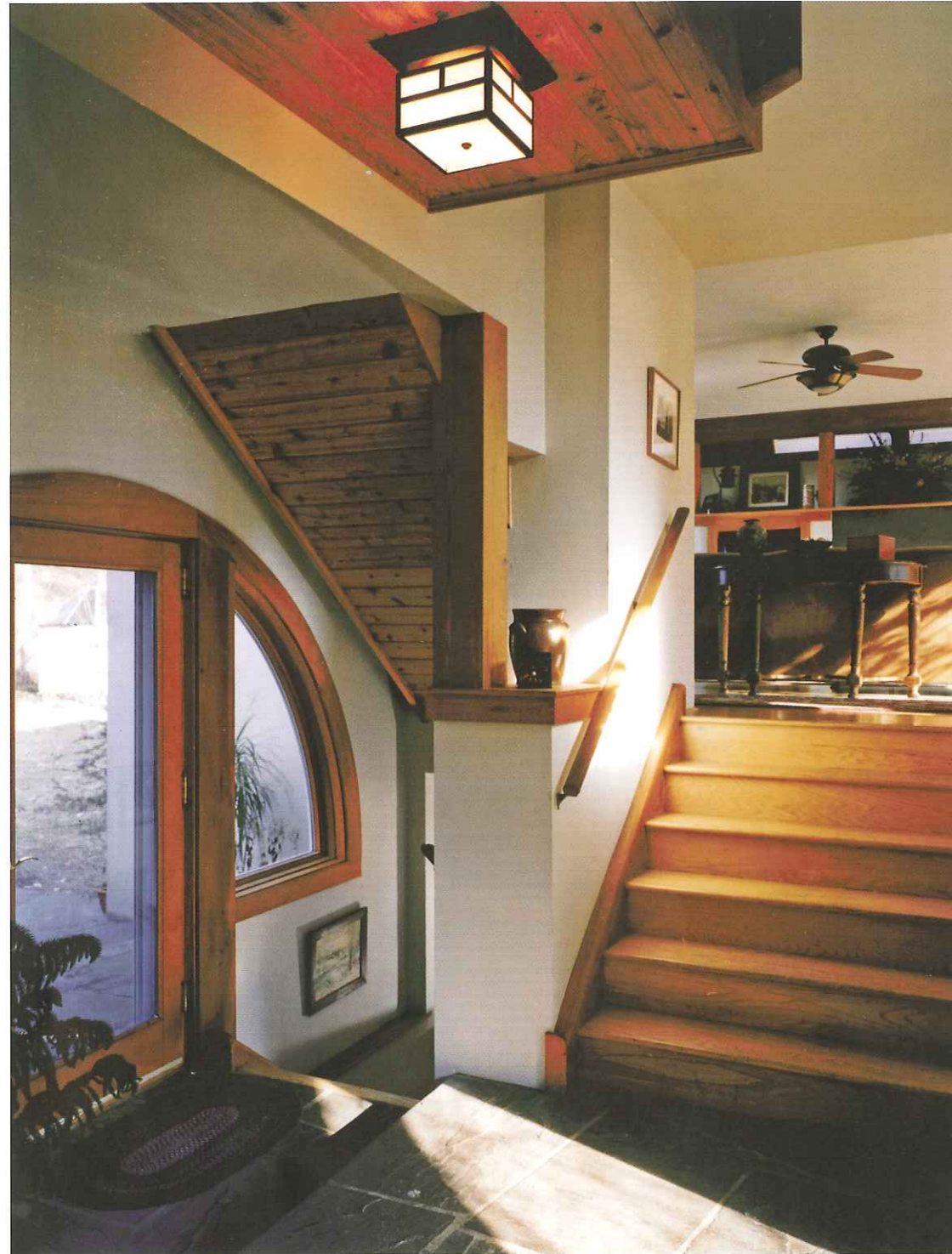


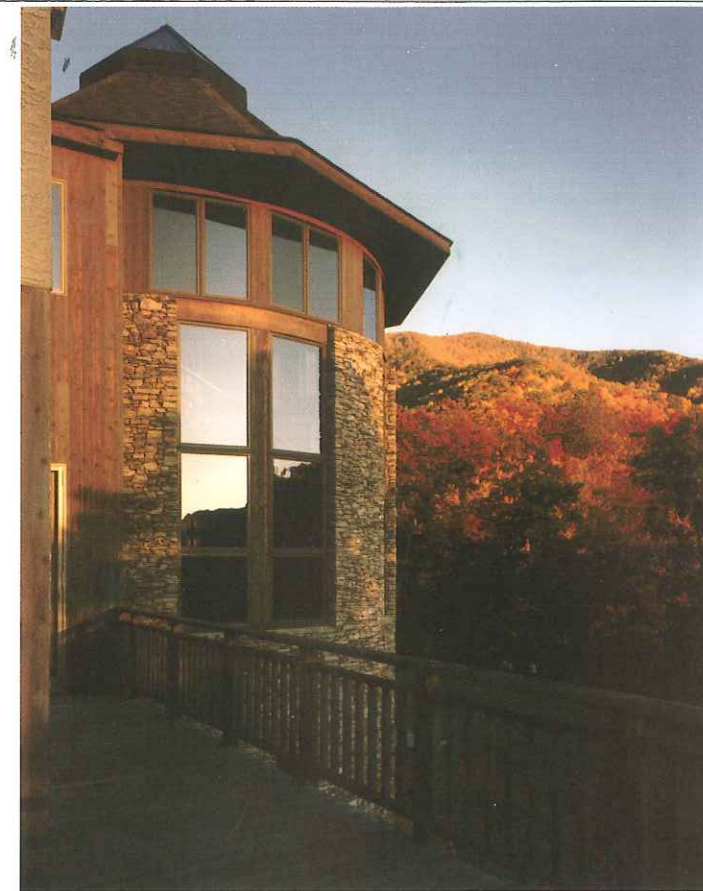
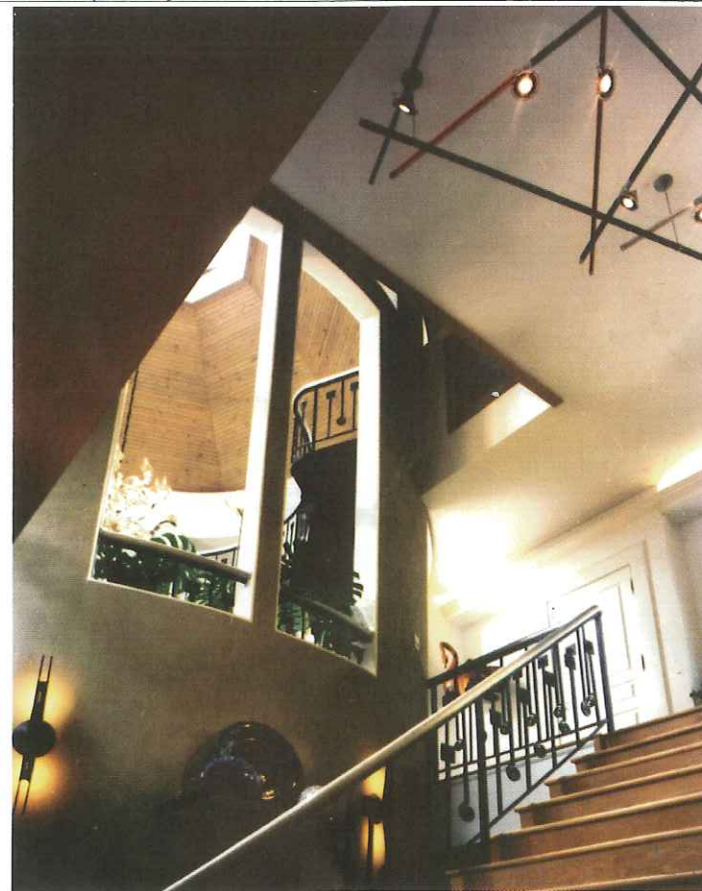
Top Left: Original caretaker's cottage with a tower and storybook additions work seamlessly into a whole—a hallmark of Macht's work.
Photograph by Tom Bernard

Bottom Left: South facing rear view with passive solar protective overhangs. Dusk shot allows views through the home.
Photograph by Tom Bernard

Facing Page Left: Tower houses stairs and provides central access to both public and private spaces as well as front courtyard. From the natural stone floor one can see to the tower peak.
Photograph by Tom Bernard

Facing Page Right: Master bedroom, like a giant cedar tent nestles in the treetops.
Photograph by Tom Bernard





One of the ways Macht's firm can improve the energy efficiency of an existing home is by recladding the exterior. Re-siding a house with material that doesn't require repainting or regular maintenance not only improves the appearance, but also offers an opportunity to improve insulation. "Even a thin layer of rigid insulation inserted beneath the exterior cladding will save on energy costs and make a house tighter," explains Macht.

Building a "tight" house is one of the things Macht's firm always advocates. The designers ensure every nook and cranny are filled with insulation—even including special electrical outlets to prevent heat loss on exterior walls. Fresh air is then introduced through a heat-exchange system, which can further reduce energy costs while promoting extremely good indoor air quality. Clients receive the benefits of low energy bills, healthy living conditions, and elegant design all while helping to conserve environmental resources.



This environmental commitment extends to Macht's community involvement. He is a member of the Philadelphia Solar Energy Association, and is president of Earthright—a Montgomery County nonprofit dedicated to education and support of conservation. As a firm, Paul Macht Architects participates in the annual Green Building Open House and National Solar Tour. "For me, designing green is an ethical issue," says Macht. "We all need to do our part to reduce use of fossil fuels and reduce global warming. Good design is one way to do that."



Above: The ultimate "green" home, this is a new 3,000-square-foot super insulated, penalized constructed residence. Use of natural materials throughout emphasizes the relationship to its wooded landscape. Good air quality is insured by introducing fresh air via a heat recovery system. Owners—Regina and Shawn Carey
 Photograph by Tom Bernard

Facing Page Top Left: A grand stairway from ground level entry leads to the tower dining room of this dramatic 8,000-square-foot mountain home.
 Photograph by Paul Jeremias

Facing Page Top Right: This tower shot reveals the stone structure as if rising organically from the mountain itself.
 Photograph by Paul Jeremias

Facing Page Bottom: Stone pillars, custom mahogany doors, simulating agate, and scuppers connected to rain chains taking water down to stone overflow basins create a unique entry collage of objects and materials.
 Photograph by Paul Jeremias

more about Paul...

Name one thing most people don't know about you.

I played water polo for 23 years.

What color best describes you and why?

I bleed Eagles green!

What book has had the greatest impact on you?

Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture by Robert Venturi.

What is the most unusual/expensive/difficult design or technique you've used in one of your projects?

We designed a house bridging a geopathic zone. Geopathy studies hidden underground streams and their potential link to certain organic diseases. In this case, we designed a J-shaped house to avoid the sensitive areas and promote our client's ideas of a healthy lifestyle.

What is one simple way to make a home more energy efficient?

Design or build the house to be "tight" without opportunities for air and energy to escape.

What is the highest compliment you've received professionally?

When clients say their home is more beautiful than they imagined.

Paul Macht Architects

Paul Macht, AIA

1231 School Lane

Rydal, PA 19046

215.572.7511

www.machtarchitects.com