

# Langford Creek Fish Camp

Chestertown, Maryland  
Residential Architecture



The client, a retired writer, envisioned this unique, waterfront retreat to be a “catawampus” collection of buildings reflecting a “turn of the century Chesapeake wharf community thrown together with flotsam and jetsam and things found in the woods... sheds, shanties and arks to shield sawyers, fishermen, gunners, shuckers and pickers from the elements.”

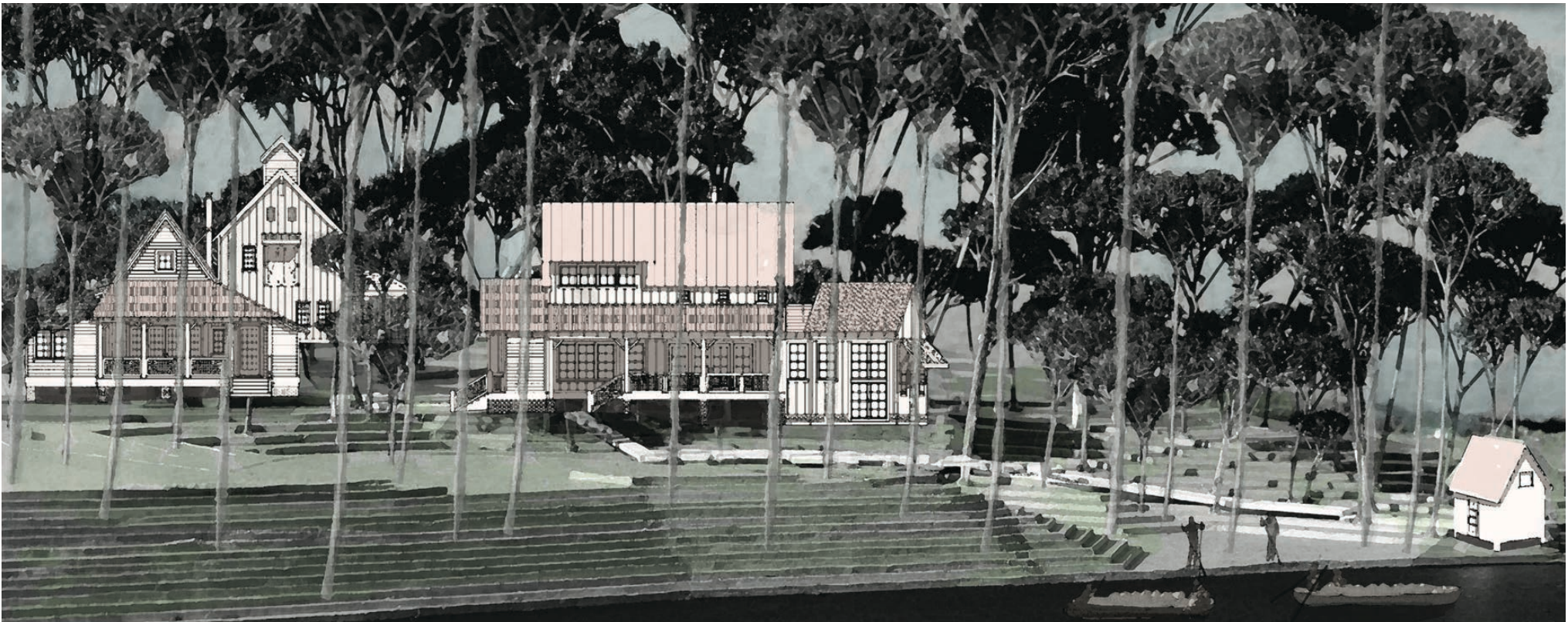
A group of three buildings was developed, each with its own programmatic function. “The Depot” houses the main living area, “The Bunk House” houses sleeping and office areas, and “The Basket Factory” contains a woodworking shop, storage, and garage. Each building uses simple gable, shed and lean-to forms combined as needed to enclose the desired space. These simple buildings with their loose arrangement on the site create a complexity similar to the jumble of buildings found along a working waterfront. A framework within which components could be incorporated as construction progressed allowed these buildings to evolve as they were built.



## Design Process

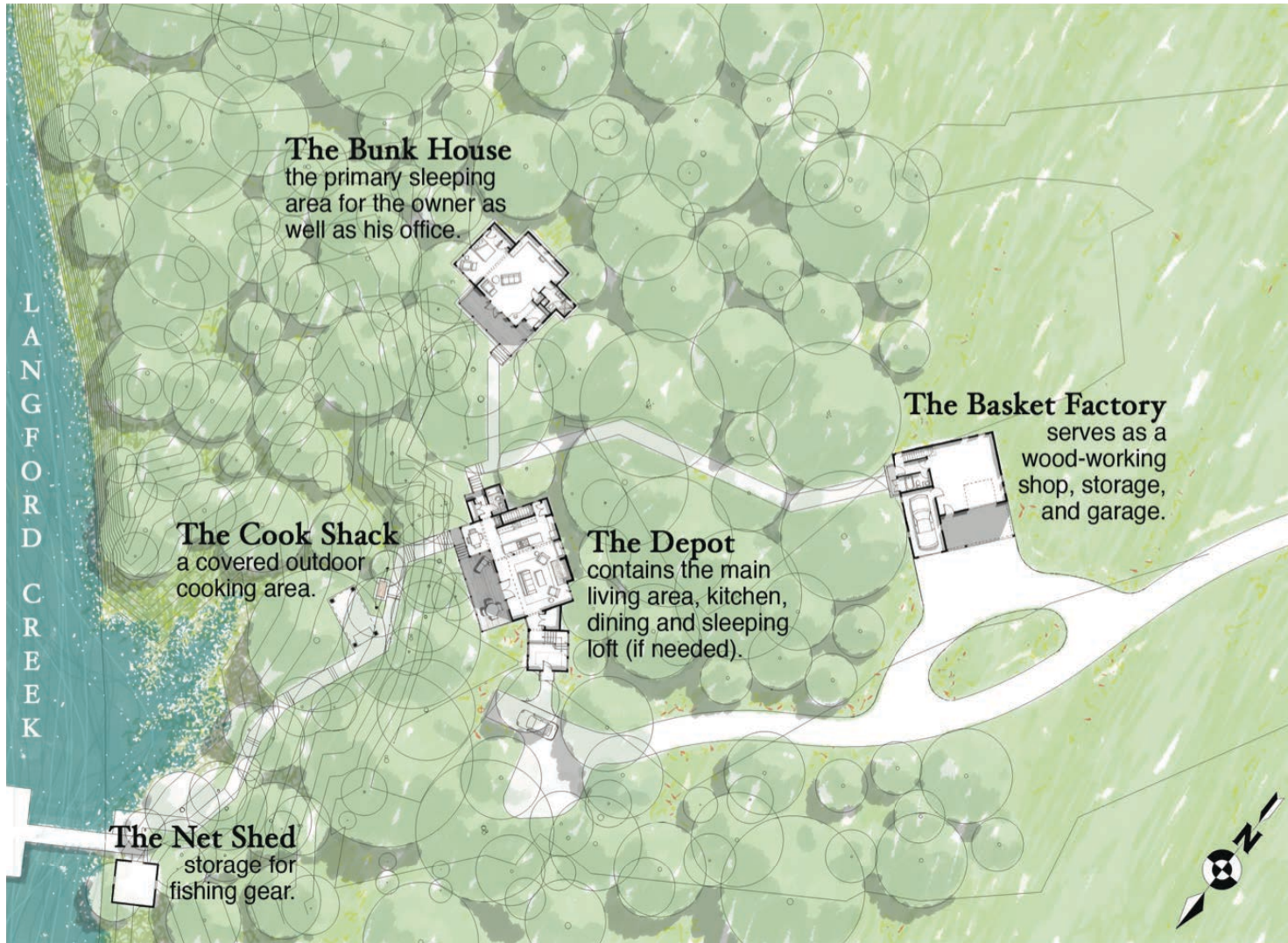


To allow the group of buildings to “evolve” as construction progressed, the design was developed by working in model form and documenting only the basic structural components for construction. As ideas, materials and details emerged during construction, they were incorporated – much in the manner of vernacular construction of a bygone era.

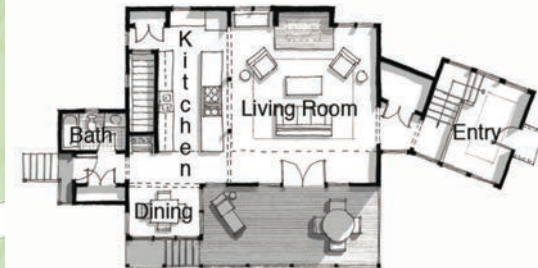




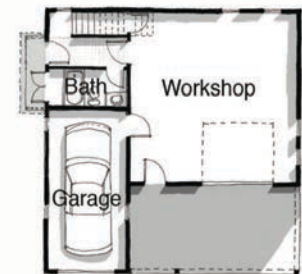
# Site Plan



**The Bunk House**



**The Depot**



**The Basket Factory**



## Sustainability Using Found and Available Materials



**The Basket Factory**

Throughout the compound, exterior materials are an assemblage of salvaged horizontal siding, wood shingles, corrugated metal, brick and wood logs.



## Sustainability Using the Latest Technologies

### The Bunk House

A nitrogen-reducing septic system and geothermal heating/cooling system serve all buildings. Open-cell foam insulation has been used throughout to obtain maximum R-values for floor, wall and roof assemblies.





The Depot





## Making a Light Footprint



Prior to design, the location and health of every tree in the project area was surveyed. The master plan was developed to save trees and have as little impact on the site as possible.

Vegetation on the forest floor was preserved and excavation minimized by elevating the buildings on piers. The buildings are connected by a slightly raised wood boardwalk.





Some hand-hewn beams once held up a local tavern. Charred corrugated metal used on the exterior was all that remained of an old farmhouse.





Much of the lumber, siding and porch flooring was milled from trees felled on-site. Plumbing fixtures were obtained from a non-profit building deconstruction enterprise.





The client's vision for a Thoreau-type fish camp retreat was achieved with whimsy, sensitivity and unexpected sophistication.