

# OLD HOPKINS ROAD HOUSE

Clarksville, Maryland

Residential Architecture

The Old Hopkins Road House is a prototype of exceptional environmental and universal design in a suburban setting, bucking current suburban housing trends of large square footage homes and turf lawns. At 1800 ft<sup>2</sup> the house is one of the smallest dwellings in the community, but an efficient plan, dramatic contrasts in ceiling height, and large windows and overhangs, make this small dwelling feel large. Outside, the orchard, rain garden, vegetable garden and solar array sculpture provide a range of humanly scaled exterior spaces that transition from private to public. A metal, masonry, and glass exterior requires nearly no maintenance.

The end goal was to prove that extraordinary environmental and universal design could be attractive, feasible, and appropriate for any neighborhood with the hope that it would be replicated.

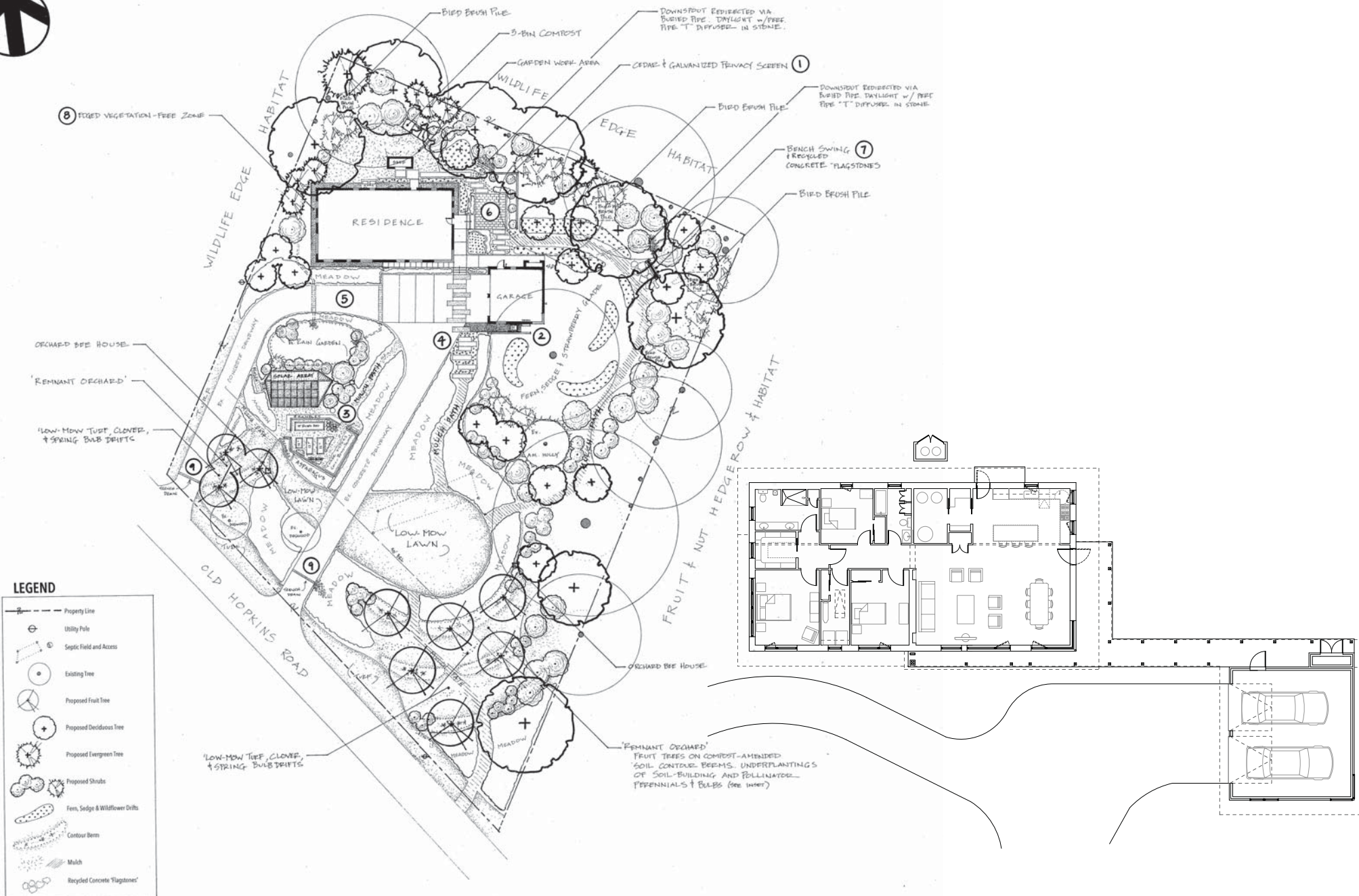






Beyond conventional shelter, the design of the Old Hopkins Road House seeks to nurture the human spirit and to heal the Earth. Beauty, access to views, sunlight, connection to nature and to community are all incorporated into the design. The Owner's strong commitment to environmental concerns led him to seek a design that, achieved certification of LEED Platinum and Living Building Challenge Net-Zero and Petals for Energy, Health, Place, Water, Equity, Beauty. Passive House certification is forthcoming.





An efficient plan for the house allows for greater energy efficiency and more room on the site for animal and plant habitat and suburban agriculture. A 1500 gallon cistern collects water off the solar array for use in the garden. Rainwater from the house feeds into rain gardens.





A suburban agricultural setting provides beauty, delight and sustenance for humans and habitat for animals. Existing mature trees, including a cherry tree, were incorporated into the design of the building and landscape. The Owner begins his walk to work each day through the front garden, providing daily encounters with the ever-changing natural world. In the photo above volunteers cultivate the organic vegetable garden.









High ceilings and large windows in the living space connect the occupant to the outdoors while shielding him from the harshest elements. Lower ceilings in the kitchen and bedrooms provide a more sheltered and intimate experience.





Highly efficient appliances, such as an induction cooktop and heat recovery ventilator (HRV) hood, are found in the kitchen and throughout the house. The house produces more energy than it uses -- more than 2800kWh net energy was produced in 2016.





Beautiful, durable, sustainable materials such as stainless steel counters, bamboo cabinetry, glass and porcelain tile are used throughout the house. Energy-efficient appliances are used throughout the kitchen and utility spaces and highly efficient fixtures such as water-less urinals are present in the bathrooms.





The primary pitched roof, tall clerestory windows, and breezeway roof are coordinated to allow maximum solar gain in the fall and winter months. As leaves fall from the trees broad windows reveal the surrounding landscape and sky which are otherwise obscured by the verdant greenery.





The plantings on the site continue to mature and enhance the experience of the house and garden. The interplay between the metal, masonry and glass of the building and the softness of the landscaping will intensify over time.