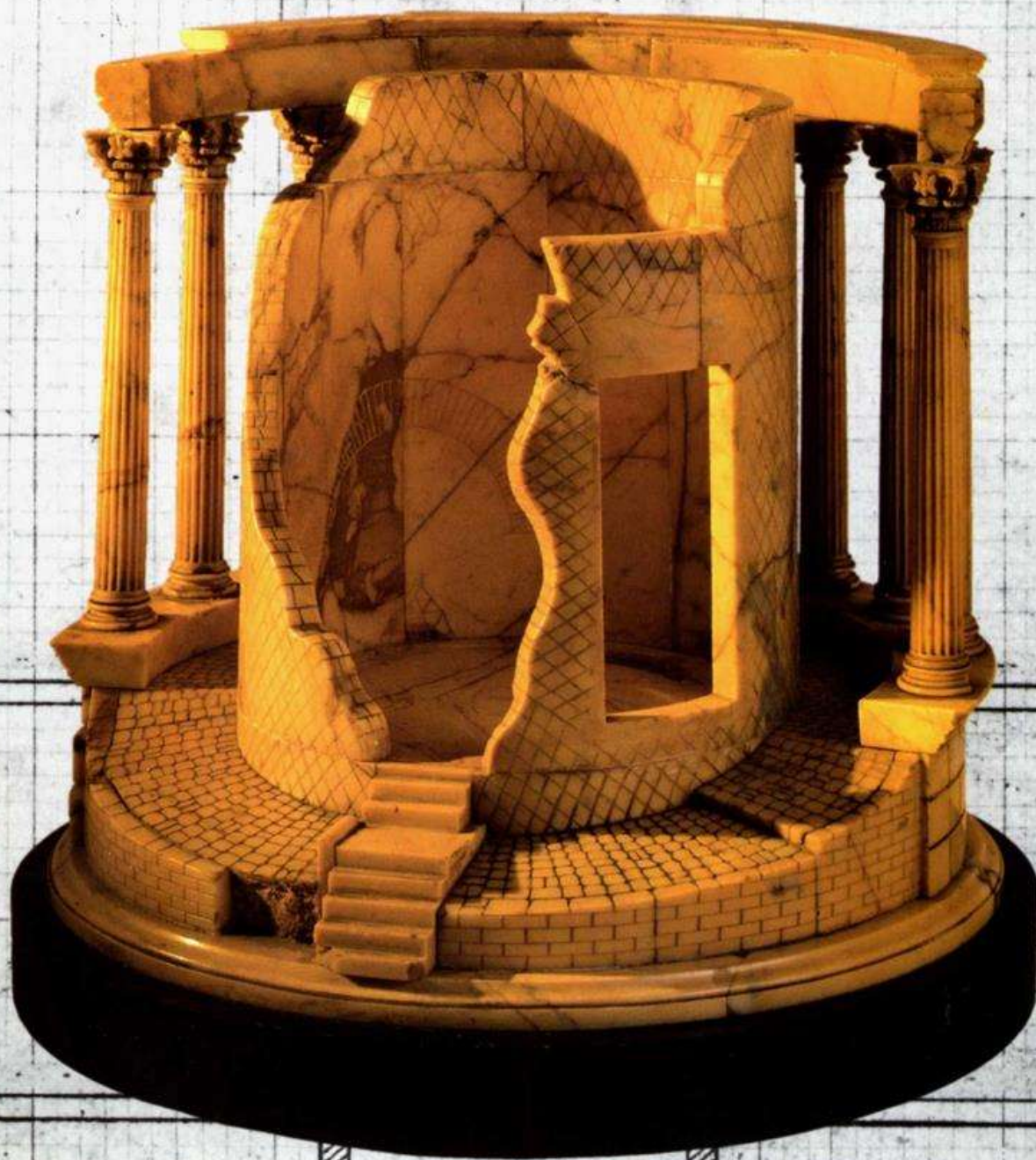


ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

AUGUST 15, 1991

THE AD 100 ARCHITECTS



AN EXCLUSIVE GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S
FOREMOST ARCHITECTS



NORMAN MACGRATH

NORMAN J. ABBOTT

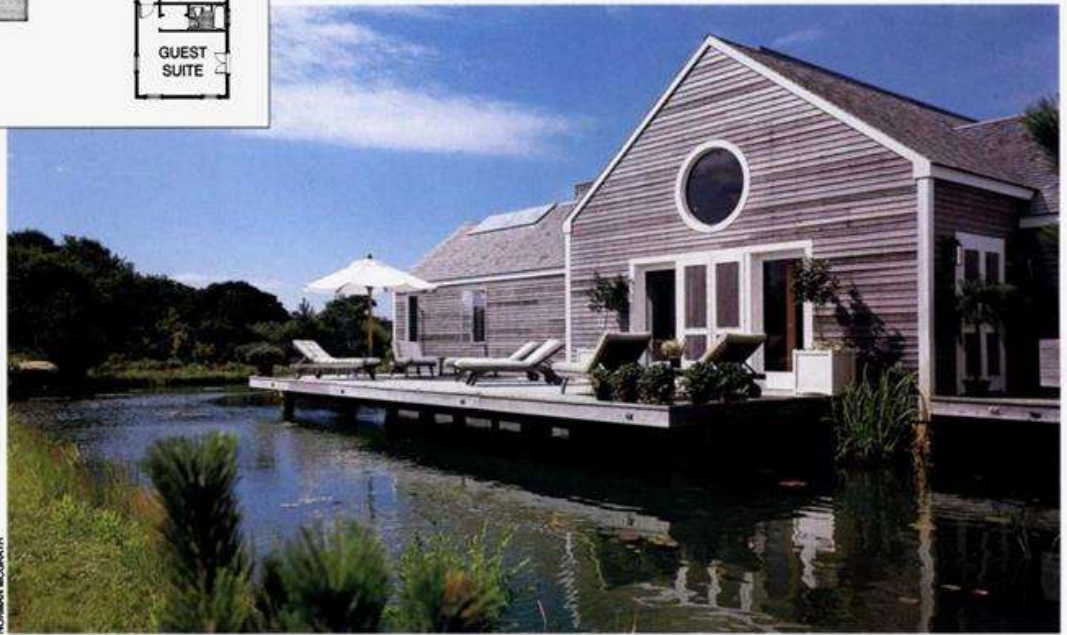
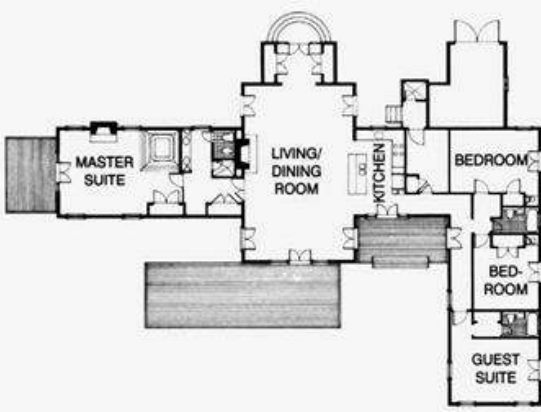
EDWARD F. KNOWLES

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New York, NY 10019
(212) 247-4459

DESIGN APPROACH

My houses vary in design, as I interpret stylistic factors that exist in the location. Imagery, proportions, materials and details that are appropriate to the region are reinterpreted. The final structure is an original design that relates to the archetypal local architecture. It is recognizably in the local tradition without being a historical copy. Working with the client, I establish a program of factors, such as functions, sites, materials and color preferences, and then a budget is set. Ideas are developed inductively, and I am keenly aware that the house is the client's; to impose an unwanted idea is irresponsible. My concerns are for the exterior shapes and their interrelationship with the site and landscaping; the flow of the internal space and room relationships; and the manipulation of daylight and nighttime lighting. I've been inspired by Mies van der Rohe for his structural logic and by Frank Lloyd Wright for his spaces, siting and use of light. I admire Philip Johnson for his flexibility in design approaches and his sense of materials and elegance.

In designing a white-trimmed clapboard vacation house on Nantucket, Edward F. Knowles wanted to create the feeling of "friendly local architecture." "The guest suite wing looks onto a flower garden with a croquet lawn enclosed by a Gertrude Jekyll-like trellis," says Knowles.



NORMAN MCGRATH

OFFICE INFORMATION

My office is usually made up of six people, two of whom are architects. I will accept from four to eight houses a year, depending on the size and complexity of the project. I develop the initial designs in collaboration with the client. The staff assists in the preparation of drawings and specifications, and then executes final working drawings and construction documents. Fees are usually a percentage of the construction cost, and I sometimes bill on an hourly basis or work on a lump-sum, fixed-fee contract.

INTERIORS

The interiors are established early in the preliminary design stage. Occasionally the client brings in an interior designer, who is then integrated into the design process. However, I mostly do the interiors with the assistance of a designer whom I hire. Interior design is billed separately from architecture fees.

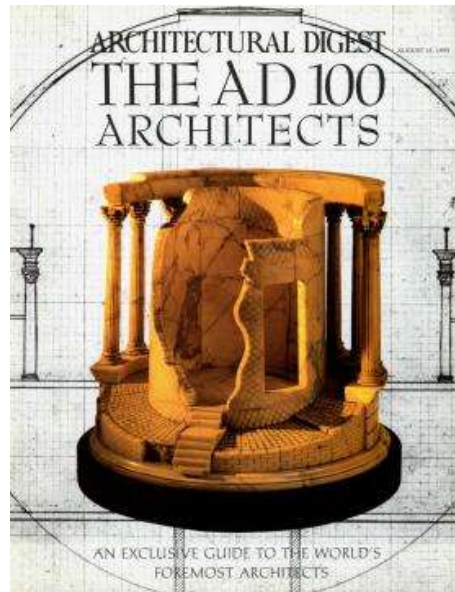
BACKGROUND

After receiving a bachelor of design degree from Pratt Institute, Edward F. Knowles worked successively for Abraham Geller, Mies van der Rohe, Philip Johnson and Edward Larrabee Barnes before beginning his own firm in 1961. In addition to building numerous private residences—primarily in the New York area—he designed Wolf Trap Farm Park with John MacFadyen and the new Boston City Hall with Gerhard Kallmann and Noel McKinnell.

TOP LEFT: Visible in the plan, the house is made up of separate wings for the living/dining room and the master suite—both with separate “floating” decks set on a pond—and the guest suite. ABOVE: Without any roof overhangs, the living/dining room deck “is a fine place to feed the fish and take in the sun,” says the architect.

Architectural Digest

AUGUST 1991



Reprinted from the Architectural Digest Archive

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