

restoration/preservation

grand

the spreter studio, gladwyne, pa.

martin jay rosenblum, aia & associates

philadelphia

designed in 1934 by architect William Lescaze, who is known for his work on the International Style Philadelphia Saving Fund Society Building in Philadelphia, this fragile studio was slated for demolition until a sympathetic patron came to its rescue. Martin Jay Rosenblum, AIA, painstakingly stabilized and restored the structure—over the years it had suffered ungainly additions and substantial water damage—

and designed an adjoining house that keeps the iconic building front and center. “Our concept was to expose the entire studio 360 degrees, as it was meant to be seen,” Rosenblum says. “The house would be the bleachers from which to view the studio.”

The new house hugs the side of a hill, skinny side to the road in deference to the studio. A slender bridge connects the two, tucked behind the studio’s reconstructed fieldstone parapet.

Our judges appreciated the meticulous work on both buildings, calling the studio “a great artifact, skillfully done.”—*c.w.*



A bridge links the original building and a new house (above, left and right), whose industrial motif and simple massing highlight the unique geometries of the studio.





Guests often are treated to cocktails and music at the studio, now used as a private art gallery. Restoration involved welding new columns around the originals, repairing the concrete spiral stair, and reinforcing the water-damaged chicken-wire floor deck with steel.



principal in charge / project architect: Martin J. Rosenblum, AIA, Martin Jay Rosenblum, AIA & Associates; **contractor:** Robert Vermillion, Robert Vermillion Builders, Downingtown, Pa.; **structural engineer:** Leonid Chachkes Associates, Ambler, Pa.; **landscape architect:** Peter R. Fernandez, RLA, ASLA, Carter van Dyke Assocation, Pa.; **pool designer:** Branch McQueen, Pebble Pools, Royersford, Pa.; **project size:** 6,500 square feet; **site acres;** **construction cost:** \$577 per square foot; **photography:** Jeffrey Totaro. Visit www.residentialarchitect.com and additional images.