



# MODERN MARVEL

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I WALKED THERE, SLEPT THERE, AND WATCHED THE



YEARS AGO DURING MY FIRST VISIT to film producer Stuart Parr's Clearhouse, my GPS seemed confused by the starry darkness of Shelter Island. But then a modest structure rose up out of the chaos of budding greenery and scooped-out earth on a cliff above Sunset Beach.

As Parr's young daughter Harper slept in a bedroom behind a wall of book-matched Brazilian rosewood, he and I spoke about the eccentric 18 pages of notes he'd given his architect, Michael P. Johnson, detailing exactly what he wanted. "I owned the property for eight years," Parr said in hushed tones. "I walked there, slept there, and watched the sun there, formulating the vision."

His concept was a tree fort overlooking the pines, balanced on a central pillar with a staircase inside. While the glassed-in rectangular "box on a stick" was under construction, locals referred to the project as "the fish tank." Heavy steel support beams had to be ferried to Shelter Island at high tide. But the finished product boasts shimmering vistas of the Peconic Bay, the North Fork, and Connecticut beyond.

Clearhouse features some aluminum and lacquer pieces by 1930s design savant Warren McArthur, whose work he first encountered at New York's 26th Street Flea Market. Now Parr has the McArthur market cornered, having snapped up the designer's interiors for Hershey's headquarters in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and the Canfield Casino in Saratoga Springs, New York. Parr also traveled to Bariloche, Argentina, where he found a cache of furniture by Jean-Michel Frank (one of Anne Frank's distant cousins, who escaped Paris just before the Nazi occupation).

Parr—who in his spare time developed and coproduced the Oscar-winning film *8 Mile* and still comanages Eminem's film career—is, like his home, sturdily built. He grew up on the American River in Sacramento, California, where he practiced an illegal method of water-skiing: He'd tie a board to a tree with a long, tough rope, then ease into the water holding onto it. He'd let the strong current stretch the rope out to its max, then get up on the board and "surf" upriver. (Don't try this at home—a tangled rope could easily decapitate or drown you. Parr carried a knife in case he got caught and had to free himself.) "He can water-ski with one hand," said design guru Campion Platt. "And, when we were younger, he could do it barefoot."

STUART PARR'S SHELTER ISLAND HOME,  
**CLEARHOUSE**, IS A MINIMALIST  
MASTERPIECE WITH SWEEPING VIEWS.

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