

# Courtyards and Corners: A New Rural Residential Dwelling

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - PROJECT TEAM

## New House.

"Greizes" Tukums Region  
Latvia

Project start date:

June 2001

Completion: June 2003

Architects

**Dickson Francis Architects** sia  
64-8 Brivibas iela, Riga LV1011

Project Architects:

Michael Dickson  
Mara Francis

Structural Engineers

**E. Vorms**

Main Contractor

**Client Owner / Builder**

## Project Description

The project was situated in a rural locations in a western region of Latvia, approximately 90 minutes from the capital, Riga.

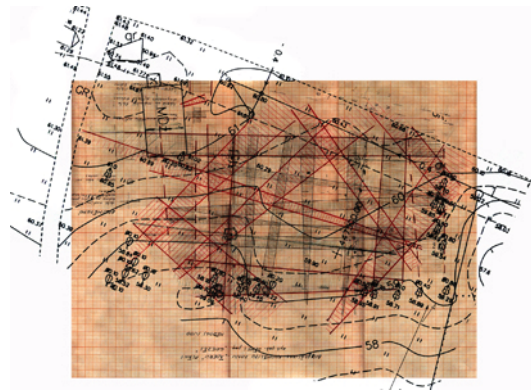
The project is a typical second country dwelling that faces the Semes lake. The house was intended to be used throughout the year so the technology and configuration of the house needed to be able to cope with extreme winter conditions. The ensemble of dwellings around a courtyard formed the model for the project as a response to the potential wintry conditions and to address an existing small outhouse on the site and the close proximity to the main road.

The project was to be constructed by the client as an owner builder. Our role during

INITIAL SITE INSPECTION



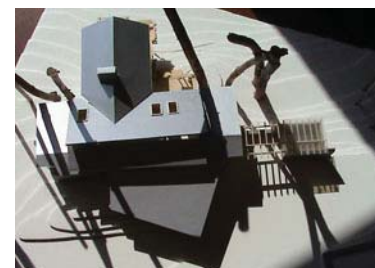
LOCAL USE OF MATERIALS AND "ADAR" PLAN



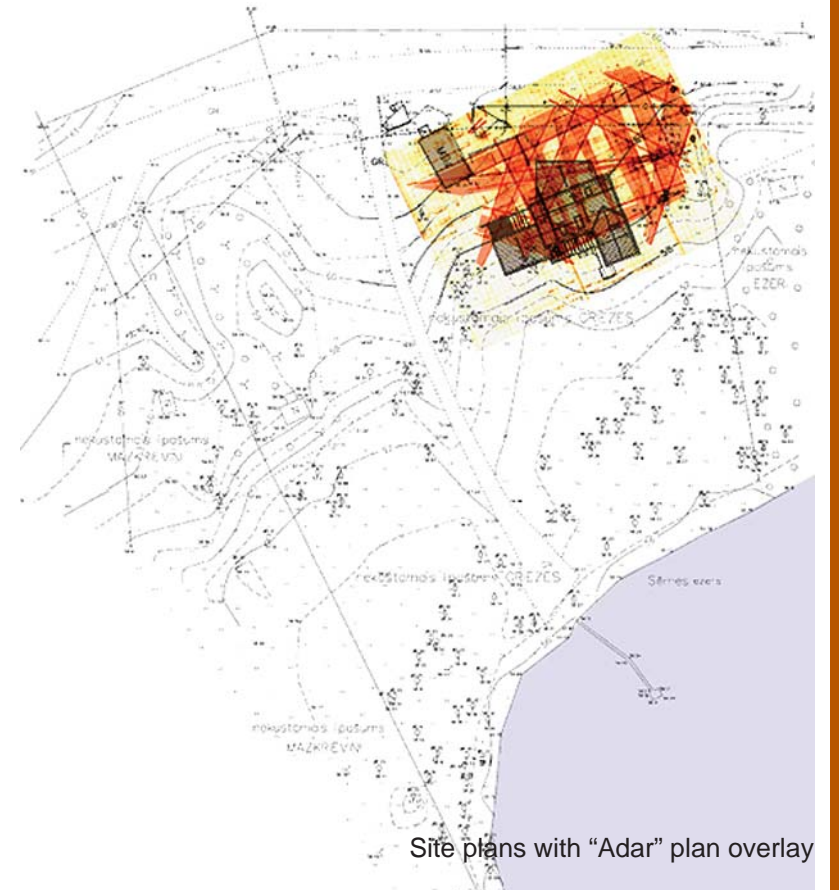
construction and to develop the scheme was limited. Therefore the diagram of the project needed to be quite robust. In addition to the ensemble addressing a tightly enclosed entry courtyard, the other side of the house was intended to create a corner to the site and address the lake. The position on the site was strongly dictated by the client's wish to have the house orientated according to the local "adar" plan which is a Latvian tradition of positioning certain parts of the house away from underground "streams" and "lines of energy".

The house was intended to be a timber construction though was changed during building to masonry with timber cladding. The stone plinth was in response to the local use of field stone which is distinct to this region. Though the initial design addressed a number of existing trees, these were unfortunately removed and we now need to wait for the landscape to regenerate to fully realise the intentions.

FINAL DEVELOPED MODELS OF THE PROPOSITION



FINAL BUILDING

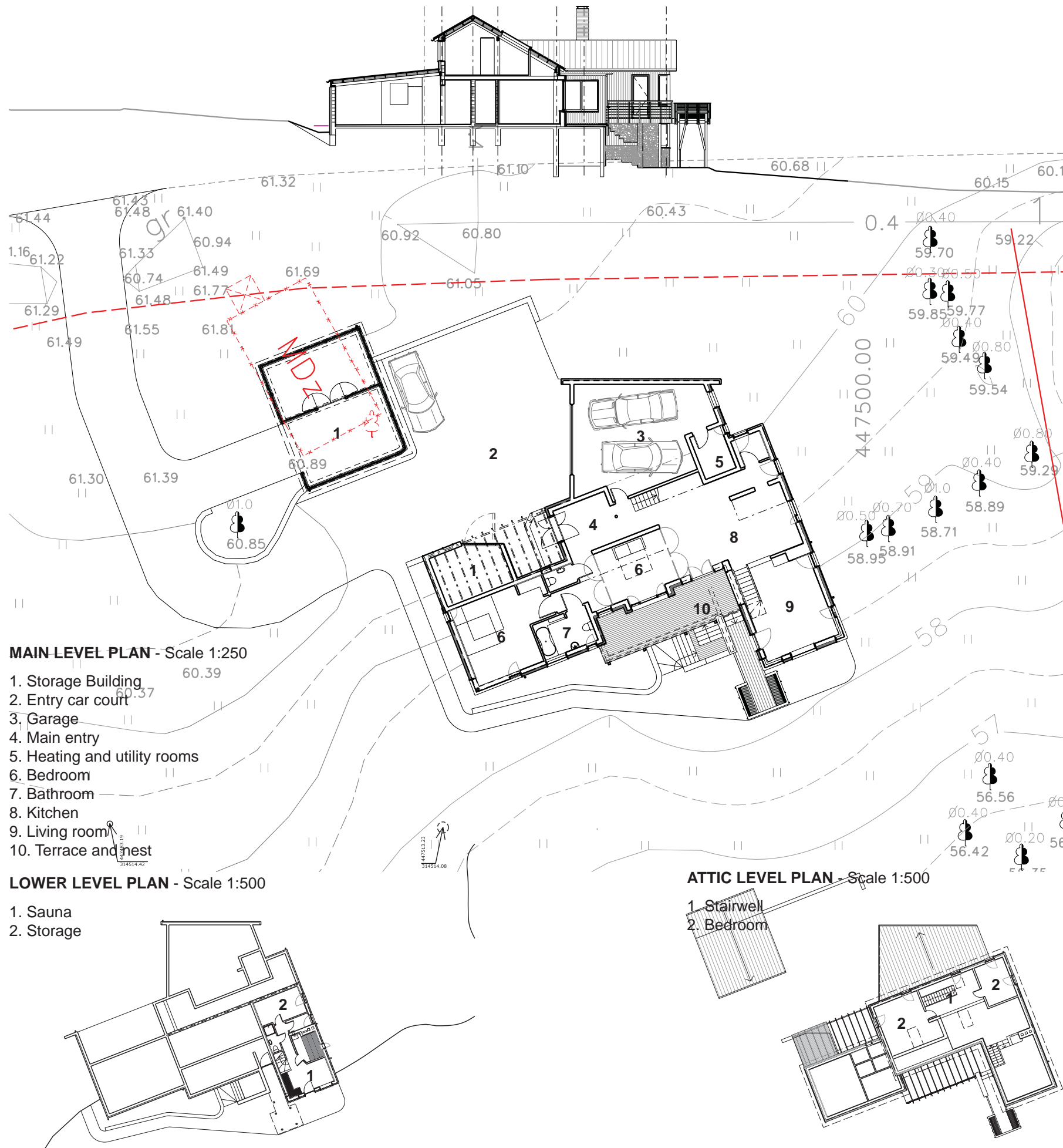


Site plans with "Adar" plan overlay



# Courtyards and Corners: A New Rural Residential Dwelling

AS BUILT DOCUMENTATION



**MAIN LEVEL PLAN - Scale 1:250**

1. Storage Building
2. Entry car court
3. Garage
4. Main entry
5. Heating and utility rooms
6. Bedroom
7. Bathroom
8. Kitchen
9. Living room
10. Terrace and nest

**LOWER LEVEL PLAN - Scale 1:500**

1. Sauna
2. Storage

**ATTIC LEVEL PLAN - Scale 1:500**

1. Stairwell
2. Bedroom

The property's name and address is known as "Griezes" which is a type of bird similar to a corncrake. The name inspired the peninsula lookout and the nest element situated looking over the lake and the garden.

