

HORIZON NEIGHBORHOOD  
Powder Mountain, Utah

MACKAY-LYONS  
SWEETAPPLE  
ARCHITECTS LIMITED



## HORIZON NEIGHBORHOOD

Powder Mountain, Utah



**Horizon** is the first pre-designed neighborhood to be built at 9,000 feet elevation on Powder Mountain, Utah. It consists of 30 cabins ranging in size from 1,000-3,000 square feet, along with a series of strategically placed garages, and a communal lodge called the 'Pioneer Cabin' for the use of the homeowners. Buyers choose from four typologies, which either follow the contours like mountain goats, or are cross-grain, projecting off the mountainside like extreme skiers. The cabins are then customized for each owner. The theme and variation strategy, in combination with the dramatic topography, results in a neighborhood that has a powerful sense of both unity and variety. The first eight cabins are now complete, with subsequent units under construction.

Commissioned as a home base for Summit Series, an ambitious speaker program that attracts a community of innovators and social impact investors from a broad range of fields, this new village is an architectural expression of Summit's values: community building, climate responsiveness and land stewardship. This isn't another ski resort, but rather a planned community for entrepreneurs and creatives working together to address global challenges.

The cabins are aggregated around courtyards in a way that maximizes both community and privacy to foster chance meetings and social interactions. The experience of passing from garages, between units and under bridges is like a game of 'Snakes and Ladders'. The siting of the buildings and bridges was also carefully organized to minimize views into neighboring units, while framing unobstructed, southwest sunset views.

Climate responsiveness begins with passive solar orientation, combined with thermal mass concrete floors and hydronic-in-floor heating. The steel stilts make the buildings light on the fragile high desert landscape. A series of protected courtyards create micro-climates in an otherwise open, windswept landscape. The dense neighborhood will allow the majority of Powder Mountain's 11,500 acres to remain undeveloped, and conserved for future generations.

MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple's modest cabins stand in contrast to the excessive architecture that is now typical of resorts in the Mountain West. Each cabin consists of a cedar-shingled roof and vertical shiplap cedar walls inspired by the cedar clad barns of the Eden valley below. Aluminum-clad wood windows, and cedar interiors complete the monolithic sculptural effect called 'Heritage Modern' by the clients. The cabins are accessed on the second floor via steel bridges due to the extremely high annual snowfall that gives Powder Mountain its name.

This is MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple's first completed project of many currently in construction in the United States since opening a satellite studio in Denver last year. The practice is well known for drawing on regional building practices and material culture, and looking to local climate and landscape, to create responsive contemporary architecture that expresses archetypal qualities and universal resonance. Similar village making projects include a recent collection of cabins on Bigwin Island in Muskoka, Ontario, Golden Groves at Margaree in Cape Breton, and Shobac Farm in Nova Scotia, on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

above: First sketch with client

## HORIZON NEIGHBORHOOD

Powder Mountain, Utah

**MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple** Architects is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and Denver, Colorado. The practice works locally and internationally on cultural, academic and residential projects, providing full architectural, urban design, and interior design services. There are four Principals: Brian MacKay-Lyons, Talbot Sweetapple, Melanie Hayne and Shane Andrews.

In over 30 years of work, the practice has built an international reputation for design excellence confirmed by over 130 awards, including the prestigious 2017 Global Award for Sustainable Architecture. Brian was awarded the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) Gold Medal in 2015 and MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects received the RAIC Firm Award in 2014.

The firm has also won seven Governor General's Medals in Architecture, three American Institute of Architects National and International Honor Awards of Architecture, thirteen Lieutenant Governor's Medals of Excellence, eight Canadian Architect Awards, four Architectural Record Houses Awards, and ten North American Wood Design Awards.

Both Brian MacKay-Lyons and Talbot Sweetapple are Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (FRAIC). Brian MacKay-Lyons is also a Member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA). He was named Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (Hon. FAIA) in 2001 and was made an International Fellow by the Royal Institute of British

Architects (Int FRIBA) in 2016. In addition, the firm's work has been featured internationally in over 500 publications and 100 exhibitions.

Both Brian MacKay-Lyons and Talbot Sweetapple are active in architectural education, Brian as a full professor and faculty member at Dalhousie University for 30 years, and Talbot, as an Adjunct Professor since 1997, and now a Professor of Practice as of 2013. Together, they have held 18 endowed academic chairs and visiting professorships at leading universities worldwide, such as: The Peter Behrens School of Architecture, Washington University in St. Louis, and Harvard University. They have also given more than 220 public lectures on their work worldwide.

HORIZON NEIGHBORHOOD  
Powder Mountain, Utah

**LOCATION**

Powder Mountain, Utah

**COMPLETION DATE**

Phase I complete (8/30 cabins) - February, 2019

**CLIENT**

Powder Mountain

**PROJECT SIZE**

'Cross Grain' Units:

Capella Cabin 1,291 SF

Indus Cabin 1,919 SF

'Parallel Grain' Units:

Vega Cabin 1,956 SF

Lyra Cabin 3,009 SF

**PROJECT TEAM**

Architecture:

MacKay-Lyons-Sweetapple Architects

Design Lead: Brian MacKay-Lyons

Project Architects: Duncan Patterson, Jennifer Esposito

Project Team: Reid Joslin, Matt Jones, Ben Fuglevand, Farhan Durrani,

Paulette Cameron, and interior design by Diana Carl, Sawa Rostkowska

Civil Consultants:

Talisman Civil Consultants

Structural Consultants:

Dynamic Structures

Electrical Consultants:

BNA Engineers

Construction:

Mountain Resort Builders

Custom Interior Design:

Haley Duffin & Megan Rider for Powder Mountain

**PROJECT BUDGET**

*withheld by client request*

**PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS:**

photos 01- 09, 11: Doublespace Photography

photos 10, 12-15: Paul Bundy

**SKETCH CREDITS:** Brian MacKay-Lyons

**DRAWING CREDITS:** MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects

For further information, interviews or high-res images please contact:

Shannan Wood at Kriss Communications

shannan@krisscommunications.com

(416) 532-5454















06











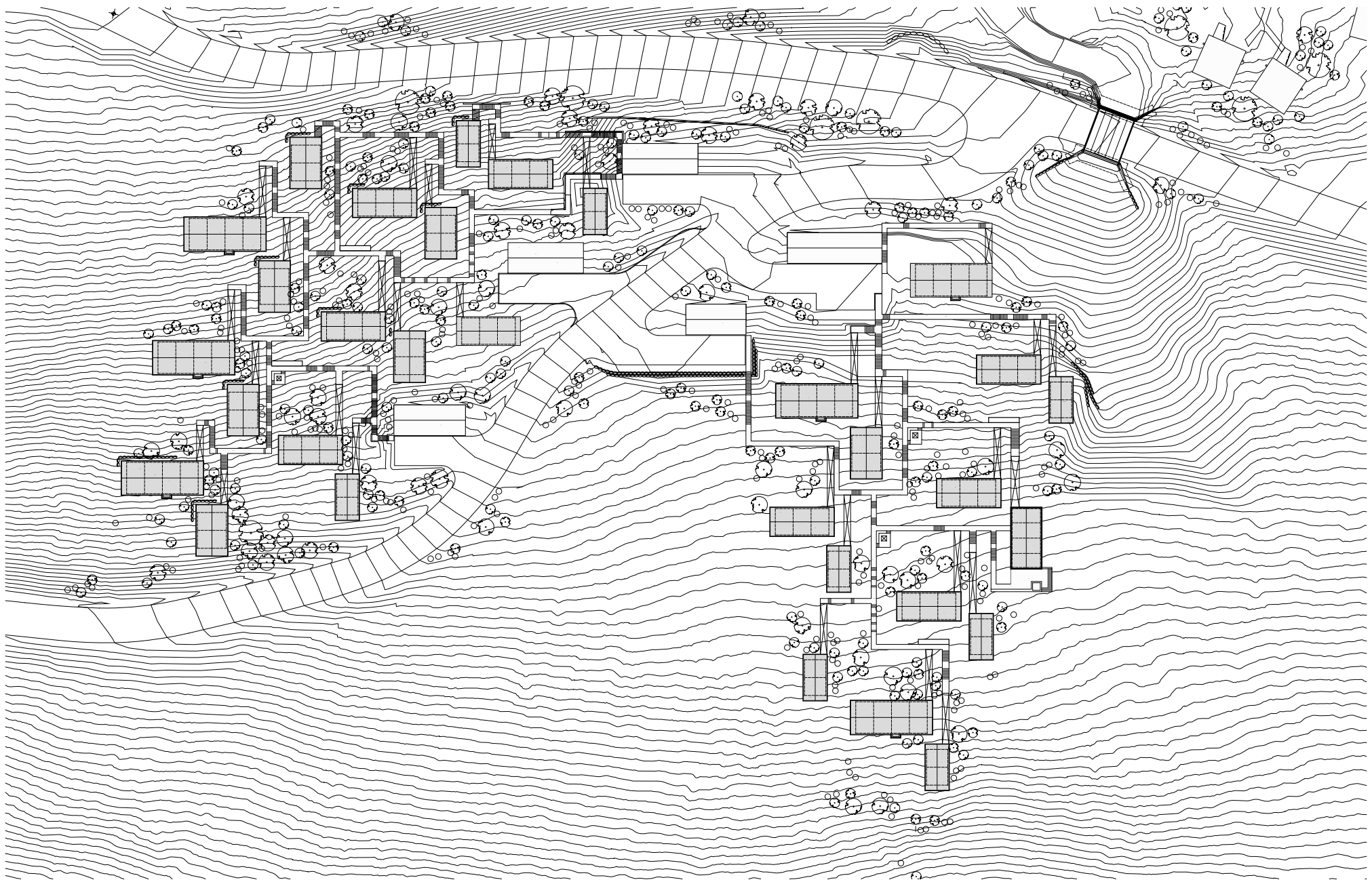




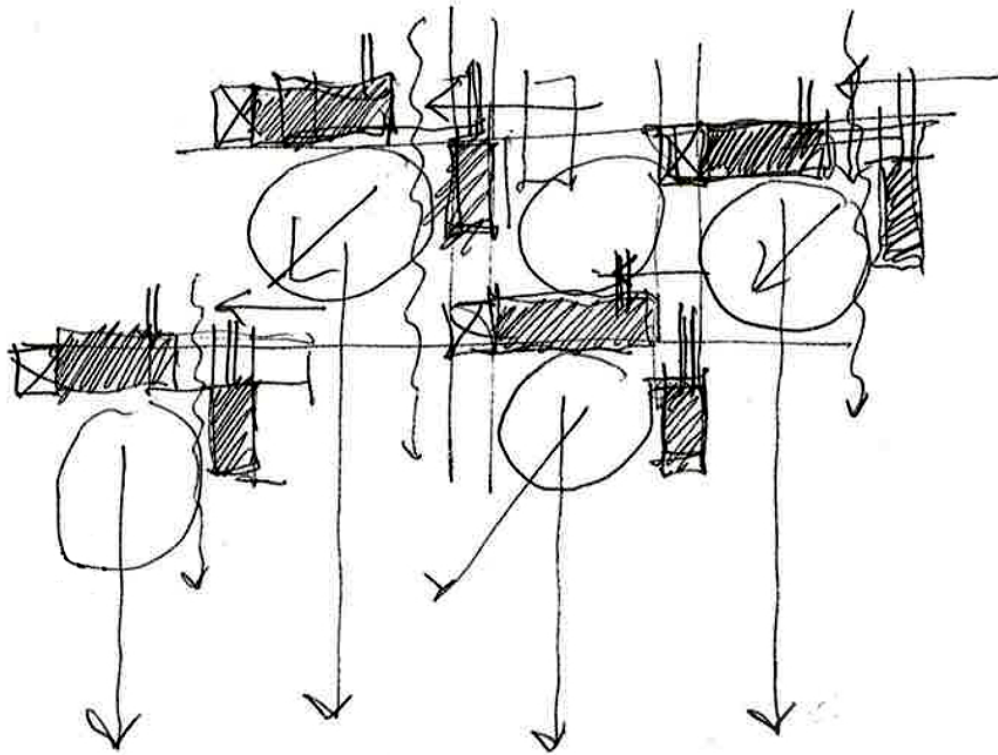




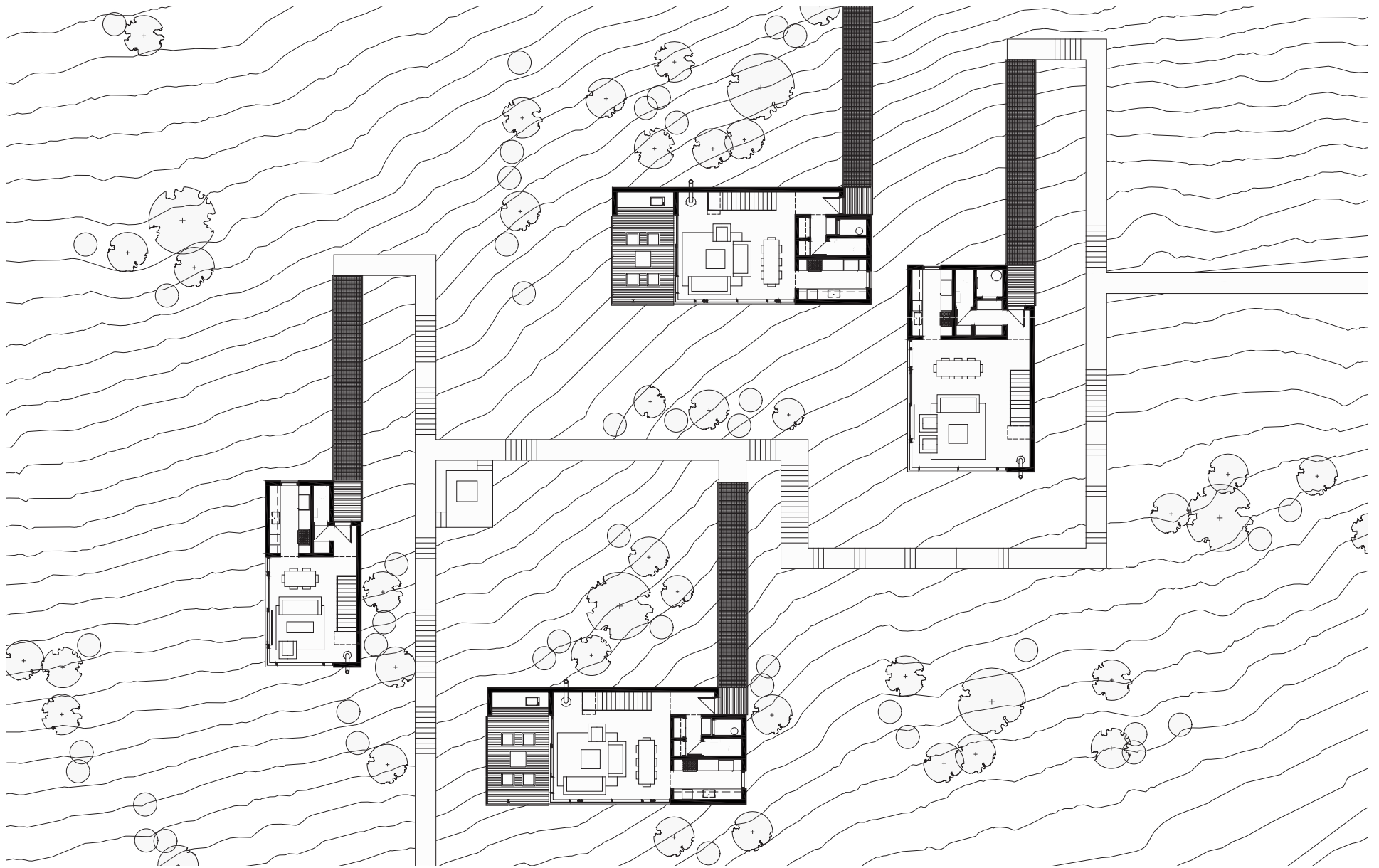




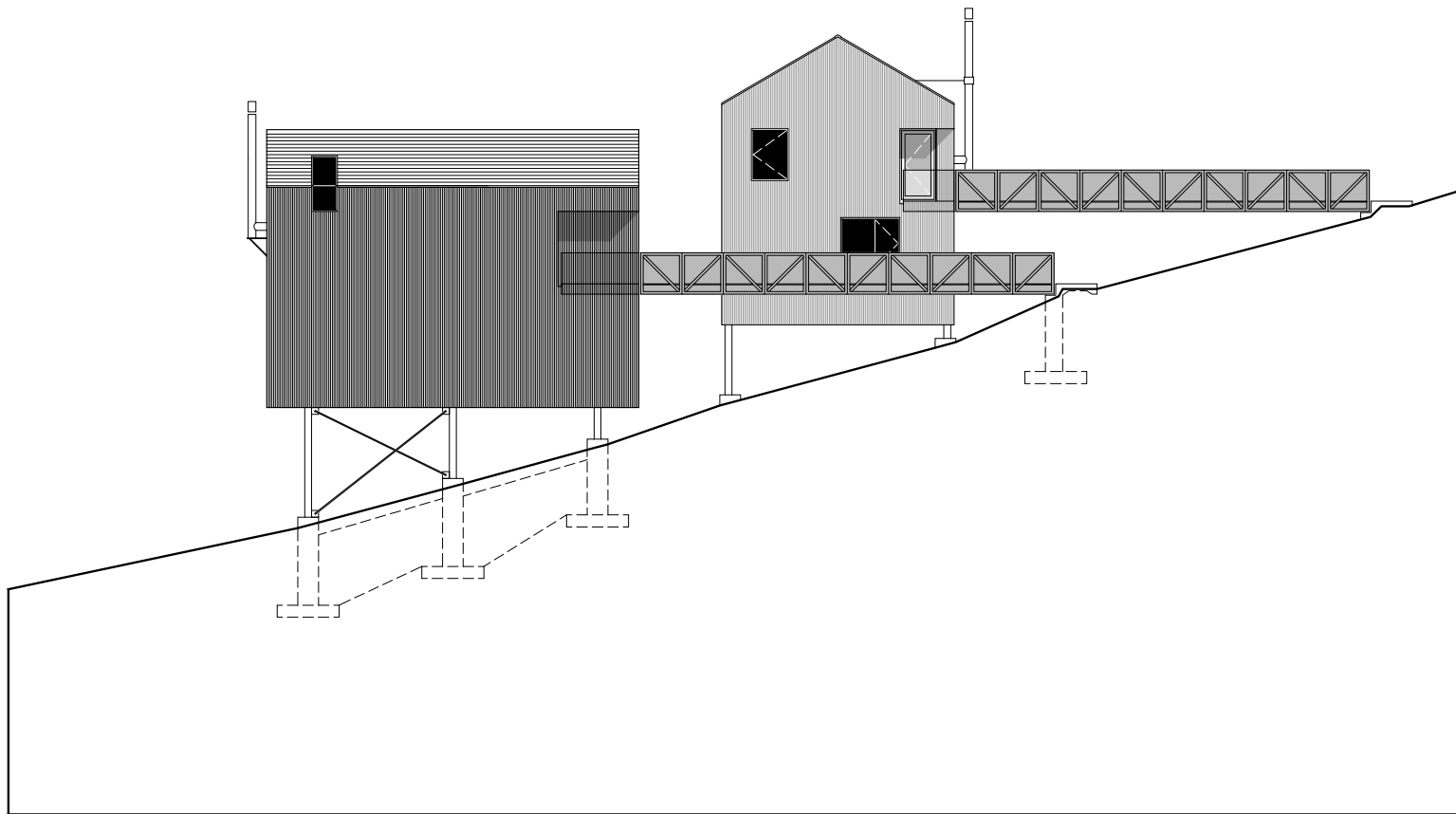
Site Plan



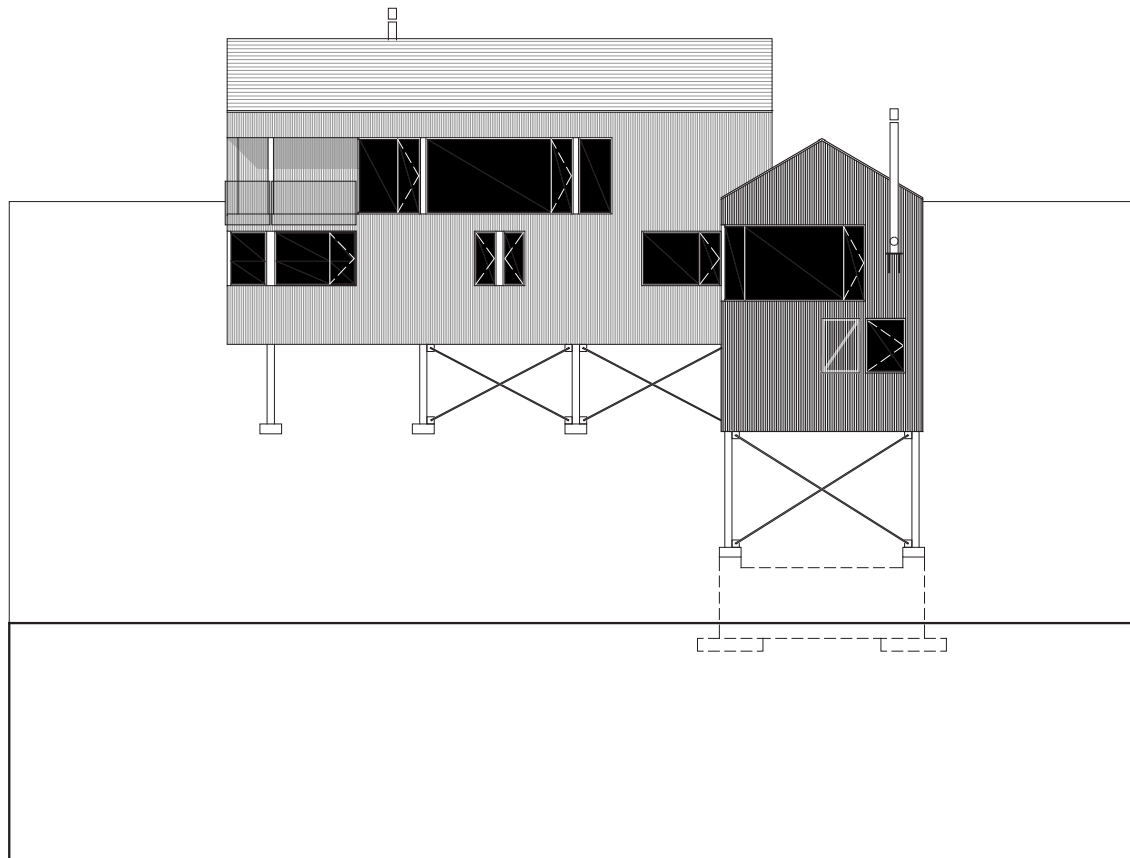
Site sketch



Cluster Plan

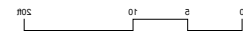
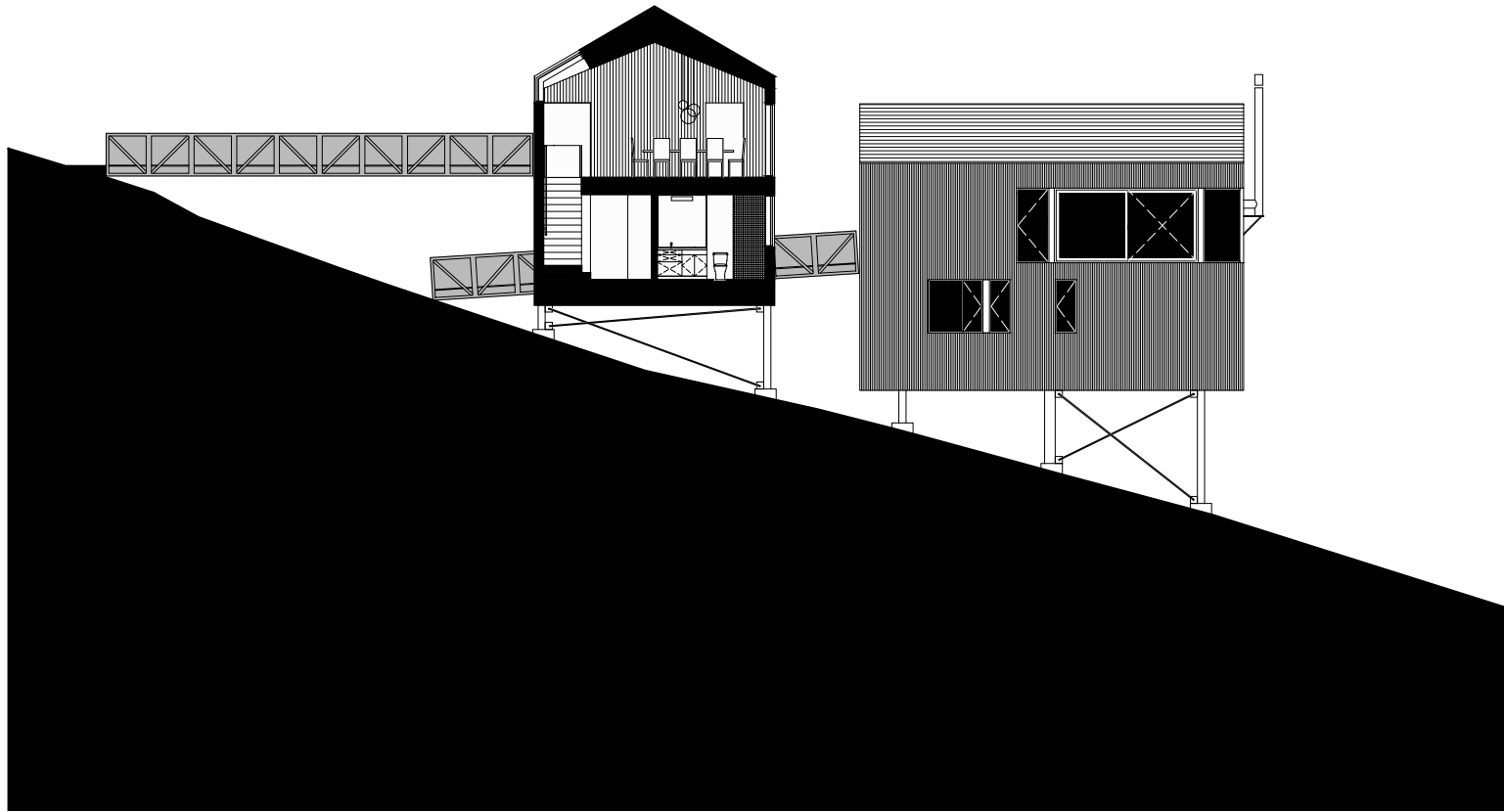


East elevation



South elevation





Cross section, from west