

# The rock in the surf, New York

2023

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A wooden building in a class of its own: Christian Wassmann skillfully integrated a rock into the new home for his family. We were allowed to accompany the project in New York as structural engineers.

## The project

Seven years ago, Wassmann and his wife began looking for land in upstate New York on which to build a home for themselves and their two children, Kiki and Lorenzo. When they were alerted to a lot for sale in a former quarry, the story began with the new wood-frame building in a class of its own. An impressive rock is the central element of the new family home. For Wassmann, the connection between people and nature is central, so the rock is not a nuisance. On the contrary: it is to become part of the new building.

## The construction

After in-depth study of the surrounding area followed the first sketches, in which the house integrated the boulder. This elegant solution hides complex geometries with many construction challenges.

## The challenge

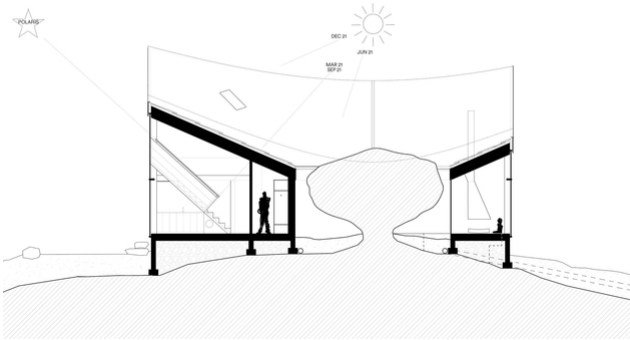
The widely cantilevered and curved roof is supported by only four columns. Using 3-D modeling in RFEM, the resulting forces are calculated.



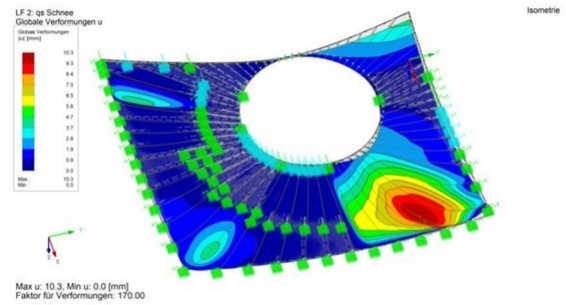
The stone is the center of the building



Interior view of the building



First sketches of the architect



Static calculations by Timbatec

### Services of Timbatec

- SIA Phase 31 Preliminary design
- SIA Phase 21 Structural review

### Client

Christian Wassmann  
New York

### Architect

Christian Wassmann  
New York

### Timber construction engineer

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