

Honor Award

Frederick & Frederick

Private Residence Brays Island Plantation



The clients desired a weekend getaway that was modern

yet acknowledged the rich architectural and cultural heritage of South Carolina's coast. To the west of this low-lying site is a restored rice pond. The architecture of the historical rice plantations was the inspiration for the design of this house. The house radiates from a central chimney that acknowledges the obelisk form of the historical rice mill chimneys.

The retreat atmosphere of the project is encouraged by the outside version of all interior spaces. The exterior kitchen incorporated a Tuscan wood oven in the fireplace. The outdoor kitchen and dining areas are screened on two sides allowing the prevailing southwest sea breezes to cool. An existing arched live oak, the chimney, benches and masonry floor define the exterior living room. The second floor contains the master bedroom and an



exterior sleeping porch with a fireplace and Murphy bed.

In her book *Historical Atlas of the Rice Plantations of the Ace River Basin* Suzanne Cameron Linder writes: "They harnessed the moon and turned the marshes into fields of gold. The rice planter of the South Carolina lowcountry who cultivated land along the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto rivers in 1860 used the power of the moon through the action of the tide to irrigate fields where they grew Carolina Gold, a variety of rice named for the color of its outer hull. The planters considered it the best quality rice in the world, and for more than a century it brought them wealth and power."

Removing the grains of rice from the straw, threshing, was originally done with a flail by manually beating the grains off. Later the ebb and flow of the tide was harnessed to power wooden wheels and finally at the heights of the rice culture steam power was incorporated.

Several of the masonry steam threshing mill chimneys still remain. This house sited on an old rice pond utilizes this historic architectural form to connect the owners with the rich cultural history of this region. In addition, the extensive use of glass and outside space encourages an involvement with the land. Awareness of tides, breezes, sun and moon phases is important in the twenty-first century to a people who are so often separated from the rhythms of nature by technology. 🌿

