The house is located on a marvellous site, Bassin d'Arcachon, close to the Atlantic Ocean, west from Bordeaux. The area has a magnificent view on the Bassin d'Arcachon. It had never been built.

Fifty pine trees (30 meters high) had grown on the ground, a sand dune whose crest is 15 m higher than the water. According to the wish of the clients, the problem was to build a house on this place without damaging the site and its qualities. The project kept the density of the forest — no tree was cut — and didn't change the undulating shape of the ground.

The house is a 210 m² platform on a single level, built on piles between 2 meters and 4 meters high — depending on the slope of the ground — which make it possible to pass under the house and to have the best view of the landscape from inside the house.

The frame is in steel. Facades are in corrugated aluminium with some opening panels in transparent corrugated plastic sheets.

The underface of the floor is in the same corrugated aluminium. It reflects the light coming from the reflection on the water down the dune.

The front facade towards the Bassin d'Arcachon is completely transparent, in glass sliding doors.

Six trees go through the house. On the roof, transparent plain plastic sheets are tightened to the trunks with flexible rubber. They can glide on the edges of holes in the roof when the trees move with the wind.

Credits and Data
Architects: Anne Lacaton & Jean Philippe Vassal
Collaborators: Sylvain Menaul, Laurie Baggett, Pierre Yves Portier, Emmanuelle Delage
Engineers:
CESMA (steel structure)
Inergro Sud Ouest (foundations)
Consultants: INIA, Laboratoire de Rhéologie du Bois à Castas
Case 33, Mr. Moussion, consultant phyto-sanitaire
Location: Lège Cap-Ferret, Bassin d'Arcachon, near Bordeaux, France
Surface: 180 m² + terrace 30 m²
Cost: 607,000 FF HT, except outside works and fees

Left: Site plan (scale: 1/600).
Opposite: View of the Bassin d'Arcachon from the roof top.
Photos on pp. 75-79 by Philippe Barudi.

この住宅は、ボルドーの南に続く大西洋に面したアルカション湾という最も美しい砂丘地にあり、海の壮大な眺望を楽しむことが出来る、自然のままの土地である。住宅のフロアは、木の上（高さ30m）が乾燥し、砂丘の頂点は下方にある水面から15mの高さに達している。

展示の要望によりこのプロジェクトは、敷地の特性を維持し、動くことができるだけの動く家の構想を進めた。この住宅は、2〜4mの杭で支えられた（土地の傾斜に応じて）、210m²のシングル・レヴァルのプラットフォームの形態で、屋根の下を通り抜けることができる。また、住宅内部からの眺望は最高である。構造は鉄骨。ファサードにはアルミニウム板と、開口部に透明なプラスチック板を用い、屋根のアルミニウム板を一部、黒い下に上に反射光を出す。アルカション湾に面するファサードは、ガラスの引柄によって完全に透明な面をつくるている。

6本の木が家の中を貫いて、屋根では透明なプラスチックの床が枝幹に柔軟性のあるゴムによってしっかりとつなげられている。木が風に揺れるとき、屋根に設けられた開口部の隣接でそのプラスチックの床がより動くシステムとなっている。
Opposite, top to bottom: 2nd floor plan, ground floor plan, north-south section (scale: 1/400). Above: View from the north.
Legend: 1) Terrace, 2) Living, 3) Kitchen, 4) Bedroom.
Opposite: Trees rising through the house. Right top: Open south facade. Right middle: Closed north facade. The corrugated aluminium underside of the floor reflects light reflected from the water. Right bottom, clockwise from left top: North elevation, west elevation, east elevation, south elevation scale: 1/300.

左頁：住宅を木々が見ている。右上：開放的な南側フサード。右中：閉じた北側フサード。床面のアルミニウムの波板が水面からの反射光を映す。右下、左上から時計周りに：北立面図、西立面図、南立面図、東立面図。縮尺：1/300.
pp. 78–79: View toward the kitchen and bedrooms from the living. Trees rising through the house. Left top: Section. Left bottom: Sectional detail drawing. Opposite top: View of the living toward the west side. Opposite bottom: View toward the Bassin d'Arcachon from the inner space.

78～79頁：居間から台所、寝室方向をみる。家のなかを木が貫いている。左上：断面図。左下：断面詳細図。右上：居間西侧をみる。右下：室内からアーチション湾をみる。
Anne Lacaton & Jean Philippe Vassal
Latatice House
Bordeaux, France 1993

This house is the result of a commission to build, on a low budget, a house for a couple with two children. It is situated in a discontinuous residential area of Bordeaux’s inner suburbs. The house fits into the street profile and presents itself as a simple volume on a square base. It comprises a metal frame, on the street side, by opaque cement-fiber cladding. The other half, with the conservatory on the garden side, is clad with transparent PVC.

A wood volume, wedged into the frame behind the opaque cladding, defines an insulated and heated winter space. Opening onto the conservatory and onto the street side exterior, the volume provides two open floor spaces suitable for the family’s way of life; with a living-room and kitchen on the ground level, and the bedrooms upstairs.

The technical rooms—kitchen, bathroom, wc and storage—are concentrated into a central volume. The conservatory faces east and gets the early sunlight. It forms a habitable part of the house, equipped with wide ventilation panels, a shady corner under the roof and a heating system to maintain the necessary temperature or to allow longer occupation in winter. The east and west fronts are very mobile, thanks to their sliding and folding doors. In this way the house can be converted from its most closed to its most open state according to the necessity and desire for light, transparency, intimacy, protection or ventilation.

The habitable part of the house can be varied according to the season, from the smallest (living room and bedrooms) to the largest, by enclosing the whole garden in high summer. This house was rapidly built, and offers the possibility of interior changes and easy adaptation. Its price was 430,000 FF for a surface of 185 sqm.

Credits and Data
Architects: Anne Lacaton & Jean Philippe Vassal, Sylvain Menuaud (assistant)
Area: 185 m²
Ground floor: 126 m² including conservatory 63 m²
2nd floor: 59 m²
Cost: 430,000 F TTC
Completion: 1993
Engineer: CESMA—Bordeaux, metal structure
SEAMP—Bordeaux, concrete foundations

Opposite: View toward the living from the conservatory.
Left, top to bottom: West elevation with fiber cement walls closed; east elevation; north elevation; east-west section. Right, top to bottom: West elevation with all doors and fiber cement walls opened; west elevation with all doors closed and fiber cement walls opened; east elevation with all doors opened; east elevation with all doors closed (scale: 1/200). Opposite top: West facade with fiber cement walls closed. Opposite bottom: West facade with doors opened.

左、上から：西立面図（すべてセメント・ファイバーの壁を閉じた状態）、東立面図、北立面図、東西断面図。右、上から：西立面図、セメント・ファイバーの壁、扉をすべて閉じた状態。西立面図、セメント・ファイバーの壁を開き、扉を閉じた状態。東立面図、扉を開いた状態。縦尺：1/200。右頁、上：西側ファサード、セメント・ファイバーの壁を閉じた状態。右頁、下：西側ファサード、扉を開いた状態。
Above and opposite: Conservatory on the garden clad with transparent PVC.

上および右頁：透明なポリ塩化ビニールの皮膜で覆われたコンサヴァトリー。

Legend: 1) Bedroom, 2) Void above the conservatory, 3) Garage, 4) Kitchen, 5) Living, 6) Conservatory.
Opposite: View of the living from the kitchen. Above: View of the conservatory from the 2nd floor bedroom. Below: 2nd floor bedroom.
Anne Lacaton & Jean Philippe Vassal
House in Morsiglia (Project)
Morsiglia, Corsica, France 2000

The construction site is 4,362 sq m in size. It is accessible via a driveway from the village of Mucchieta, further on via a footpath through the bushes. Formerly cultivated as vineyards, today the terraced ground is completely covered by a forest of “chêne vert” that has grown wildly reaching up to 9–13 meters high. The dense mass of leaves creates a shady underwood and obstructs the view onto the sea.

Because of the rather isolated position of the site, far below the neighboring village, we decided not to refer to the village’s architecture but to refer to the surrounding landscape itself, particularly drawing attention to the course of the Cape of Corse’s roads. They draw thin lines, following the island profile ascending the mountains above the seashore.

Inspired by this perception landscape, the building becomes a platform that serves to enjoy the surrounding landscape contemplatively.

The existing vegetation is used as an instrument of camouflage, hiding its construction so that the building stays invisible from any point of the nearby village of Morsiglia. Using the descending shape of the former vineyard it disappears among the leaves.

The level created by the dense cover of leaves, above the ground level, forms the basic level of the project, which is located precisely at the peak of the territory near a path called highline.

Initially it was necessary to clear the underwood (in order to minimise the risk of fire) and to strengthen some trees, as well as to trim those obstructing the view so that these can at least stay as they are below the main level.

The platform based on stilts is extended along the site as long as possible, thus producing a grand vista to the Northwest. The platform is divided into two terraces and two indoor parts at the extremities of the platform framing an outdoor space in-between serving as a garden. Each part has its individual access via two separate metal stairways similar to the fire escape stairways in New York.

According to the grand vista, the principal facade facing the seaside is a completely transparent glass facade composed of several sliding doors covering the interior parts as well as the garden and thus protecting from the wind.

The facade at the backside is opaque and opens up only partly onto the trees beyond. Like the lateral facades it allows a different view onto the landscape and provides for ventilation.

Credits and Data
Architects: Anne Lacaton & Jean Philippe Vassal
Collaborators: Mathieu Laporte
Project currently in progress
Images and photographs made by the office Lacaton & Vassal
Top: Site plan. 1) View toward the house and Mucchieta from Paragoga.
2) View of the house from the sea.

上：配置図。1) パラゴーニャ村から住宅およびムキャエッタ村に向かってみる。2) 地中海から住宅を見る。
1) View from Monte Rossu. 2) View from Baragogna. 3) View from Monte Ruzzazu. 4) View from Macchetta.
Top to bottom: Southeast elevation.
Southeast elevation without trees.
Northwest elevation without trees.
Situation of sliding doors closed.
Situation of sliding doors opened.

Opposite bottom: Site section indicating levels of trees surrounding the house. Light gray: Existing trees. Gray: After cutting trees.