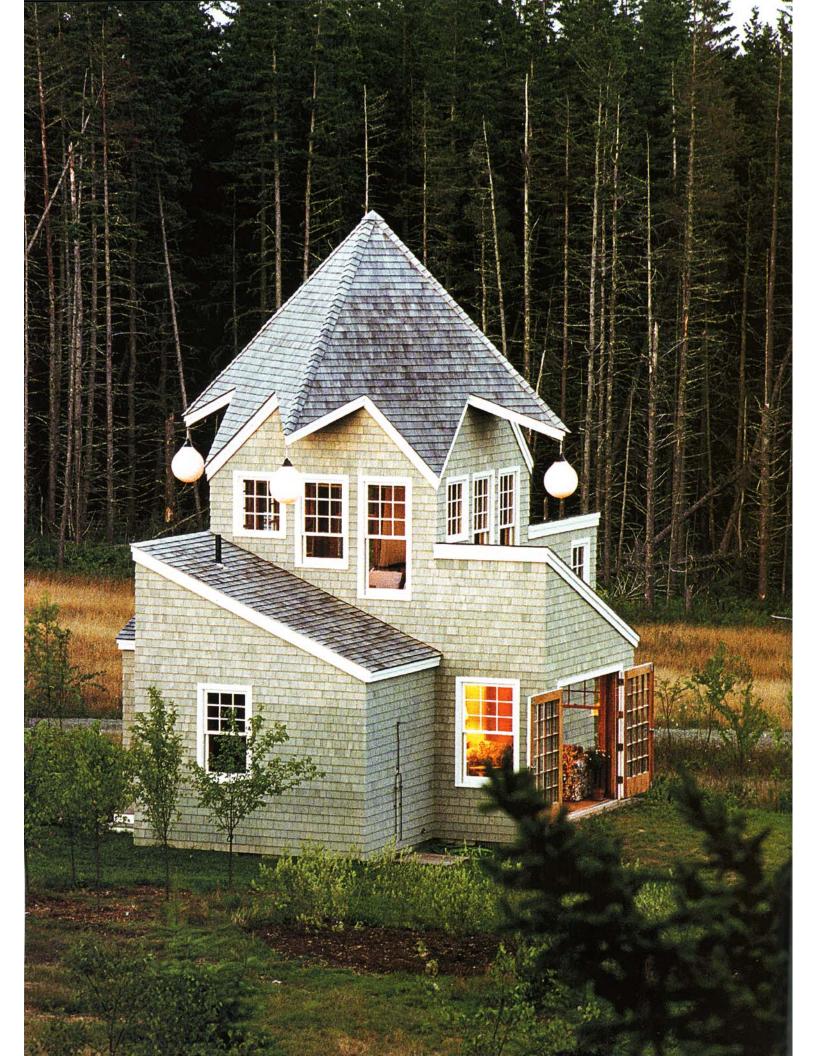
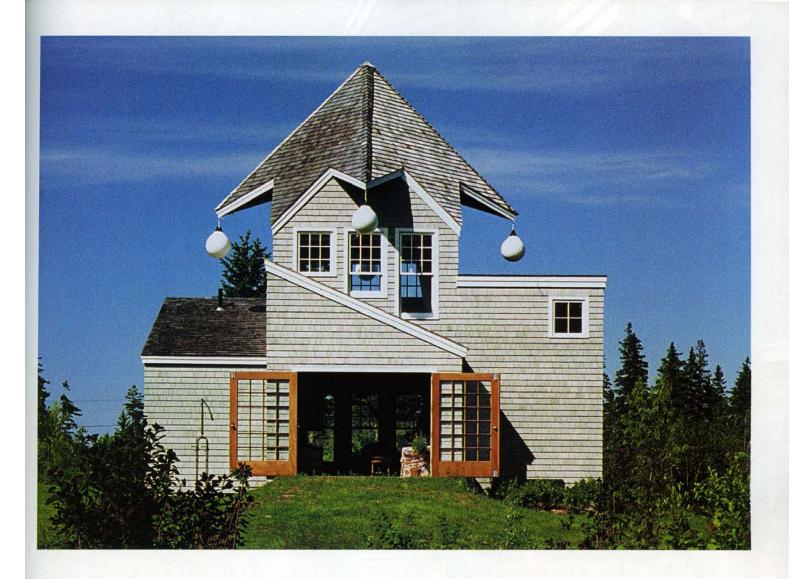






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Jester's hat

This whimsical structure combines an appealing symmetry with nods to the local architectural vernacular

Sometimes the most modest of structures can generate enormous interest. Whatever a building lacks in size can be more than made up for in sheer design imagination.

This small guest house was designed by architect James Righter. With the exception of its French doors, the structure is appealingly symmetrical, with wings, principal windows and roof all in perfect balance.

"The client had requested something spirited and light-hearted, that would also be in keeping with other architecture in the area," says Righter. "At the same time, the building had to take in surrounding coastal views and complement the style of the main house. This is a tower-shaped building which also features an unusual centric layout."

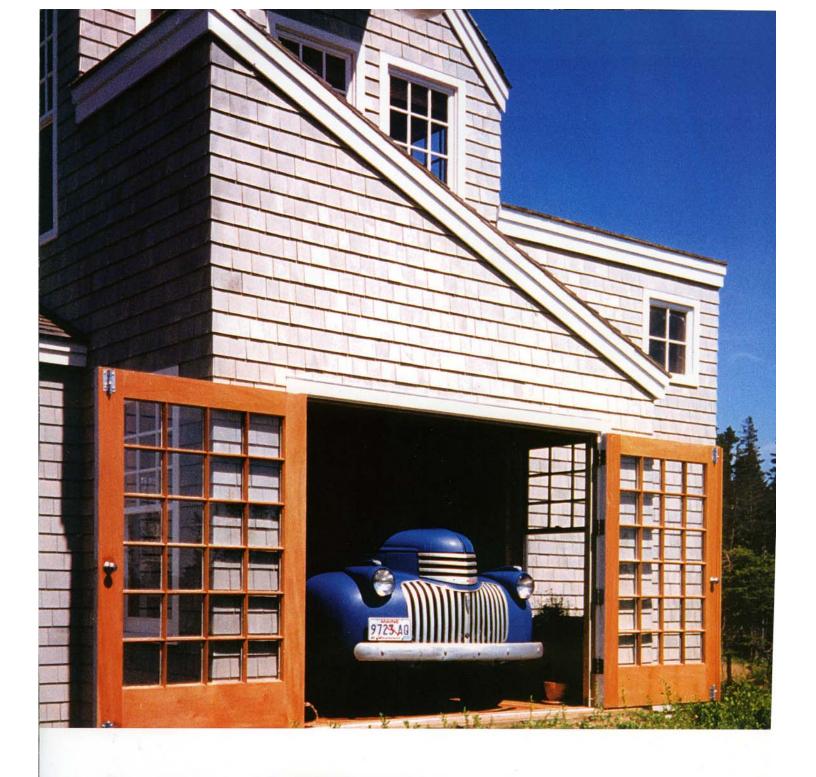
Righter says the house is

deceptively simple in terms of design. Viewed from above, the base structure resembles a plus sign – a square with wings butting out equally on all sides.

Seen from the driveway, the rotational symmetry of the sloping roof lines and stepped windows help create a turning, pinwheel effect. But it is really the introduction of an unusual, geometric roof that sets the building in motion visually.

Facing page: Small and sculptural, this attractive folly forms part of a coastal island environment. The design means views are enjoyed from all sides of the upstairs room. Lanterns hanging from the roof corners are former ship buoys.

Above: Siding and white window frames echo local traditional fishermen's cottages, as does the unusual window placement, close to the corner of the building.



Above: The wooden French doors provide a contrasting touch to the generally homogenous exterior finishes. In winter, with the living room furniture pulled back and the doors flung open, the house reveals its second role as a garage – the building is off a drive leading up to the main house. This side of the home is oriented to the expansive coastal scenery.



"On a traditional structure the roof hips meet the corners of the building," says Righter. "On this structure, the roof is swiveled 45°, bringing the hips to the center of the walls.

"The crenelated roof line accentuates the light-hearted, jaunty effect."

Despite its undoubted individuality, the guest house works well with other coastal architecture in the vicinity,

where shingled roofs and wal generally hold sway.

"The walls are in whi cedar shingles traditional the area. On the roof, the shi gles are red cedar – a mc robust species," Righter says

In terms of function, t structure fulfills two rol-Over the winter it serves as garage for a large, classic true

The interior is simple: the ground floor, two wir



are incorporated into the main open room, with the other two wings holding a bathroom and storeroom. A simple stair leads up to the bedroom.

Righter's architectural firm also created the changing-shed pavilions featured here.

"These were inspired by the owner's love of similar structures in Biarritz, France," says Righter. "They are in a classic weatherboard, utilized in an unexpected way – with the boards running vertically rather than horizontally. These have a broad face and an edge that casts a shadow. This adds a third shadow tone to the two principal colors."

A zigzag finish at the base of the structures adds to the tent-like whimsy.



More images online at Trendsideas.com/30959 Architect: Jim Righter, project leader, Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects (Boston, MA), design team Nick Iselin Roof: Red cedar shingles Siding: White cedar shingles Cabana roof: Red cedar shingles Cabana siding: Weatherboards

Story by Charles Moxham Photography courtesy of Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects Far left: The interiors are kept simple, with exposed studs and beams.

Simple rustic furniture was chosen to complement the interiors.

Above: These individualistic changing sheds feature traditional materials used in an unusual way. The weatherboards are vertical and intended to resemble the striped awnings of a tent. Red cedar shingle roofs complete the cabanas.