

## Garden Room Concept – Inspiration: Norm architects / Archipelago House



I'm looking at a contemporary architecture firm, Norm Architects, specifically one of their residential projects; Archipelago House.

I'm really attracted to the powerful simplicity of the building and how it sits within the rural landscape. I like the way the building is on different levels that follow how a rocky hillside appears. I like how they have taken inspiration from nature and specifically the surrounding area and found a way to implement that in the design.



The wooden structure of Archipelago House is harmoniously merged with the surrounding nature and draws inspiration from the local building traditions found in boathouses on the rocky shores. Set into the cliff, the house consists of four wooden volumes interlocked and connected by a terraced wooden deck that follows the sloping plot.

Furthermore, the interior follows the sloping terrain and the different spaces in the house are connected by internal steps and stairs that connect the 5 different levels of the house. The color and material-scheme is kept in natural, muted high-end materials that reflect the nature outside.

There is not only a direct connection and transparency between inside and outside in this house, but also a more symbolic connection in terms of material and color use.



With inspiration found in both Nordic building traditions and a Japanese sensibility in aesthetics and craftsmanship, this project has aimed to achieve the best of both worlds; a combination of Scandinavian coziness with warm textures and soft furniture, while maintaining the elegance of Japanese decor.

While both styles have a focus on the utilitarian, it has been important to maintain a zen-like sense of calm in this house where the emphasis is on the life being led and the nature surrounding it.

The house is a plethora of natural materials, muted colors, clean lines, and minimal, yet well-curated, furnishings – all made from beautiful craftsmanship with a focus on quality and handmade pieces.



I really like the high quality of materials they have chosen to work with, contrasting a variety of natural materials, such as timber walls and furniture, textile rugs, and concrete floors. It was important to the project that the choice of materials were authentic to the location. The smooth finish created on the flooring looks like the surface of the water. I like the use of natural lighting from the carefully positioned windows and doors which capture the landscape and views perfectly as well as maximizing soft light into the spaces. I like the clean lines, the polished finishes look sleek, simple, paired back. The lights and upholstery are simple, high quality minimal design, adding texture to contrast and add warmth to the harder surfaces of the polished rock and wood.

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I would like to use simple design like this in my own work. Using natural, authentic materials which reflect the surrounding area. I want my work to be subtle yet feel impressive through the high quality of design and craftsmanship. I want to maximize the use of natural light to connect with nature and express a sense of peace in my interiors.

Here I really like the use of Scandinavian/Japanese style design. The warm natural materials paired with the simplistic approach has been captured beautifully here. A real display of true ‘Scandanese’ design combing two design cultures.

I love the way the colour, form and texture of the outdoors spills into the interior, I feel the connection to the landscape is represented perfectly through the neutral colures and choice of materials.

The space is subtle and simplistic, it feels very calm and relaxing, when I look at it, I feel fully submerged, and part of the landscape.



# Garden Room Concept – Research: The Bauhaus Movement – Design Philosophy

## Overview of the Bauhaus Movement

Bauhaus is known as an art movement, it began in Germany as an art school and lasted from 1919 to 1933. It was founded by architect Walter Gropius. Its **aim was to unify art, craft, and technology**, it emphasized functionality and mass production, which was a new way of designing at the time. The Bauhaus school drew many well-known artists and designers, including Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Marcel Breuer, and Paul Klee. It influenced architecture, graphic design, furniture design, textiles and typography. Its modern design principles are still relevant today and can be seen in much contemporary design. It was only in practice for fourteen years, as it was closed by the Nazi regime in 1933, but the core principles lived on. This was helped by many Bauhaus members emigrating and spreading its ideas around the world, where it developed into another movement called the International Style.

## Bauhaus Artists

The Bauhaus school attracted many well-known artists and designers

- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe - architect
- Marcel Breuer - architect
- Paul Klee – artist
- Wassily Kandinsky - artist painter.
- Peter Keler - furniture design.



## To Use in my Designs

- I really like the philosophy of Bauhaus, of simplicity, function before form.
- I can see its influence in contemporary design and will research International next.
- The elements I'd like to use in my own work are: simplicity, straight lines, efficient, streamlined design, open floor plans, minimal aesthetic.

## Key Characteristics of Bauhaus Architecture

The term "Bauhaus" translates to "building house," reflecting its focus on architecture and design

Simplicity and Functionality  
**minimalist** aesthetic,  
prioritizing **function over form**  
**clean lines, geometric shapes, and open floor plans.**

Use of Modern Materials  
steel, glass, and concrete,  
This led to brand new thinking and design and manufacturing that were previously not possible.  
This was **innovative**

Integration of Art and Technology:  
The aim was to merge artistic vision with industrial production  
creating designs that **both looked good and could be mass produced.**

Rejection of Ornamentation:  
avoiding excessive decoration  
Focus on the **beauty of the materials** and the **purity of form.**

## Garden Room Concept – Research: The Bauhaus Movement - Furniture



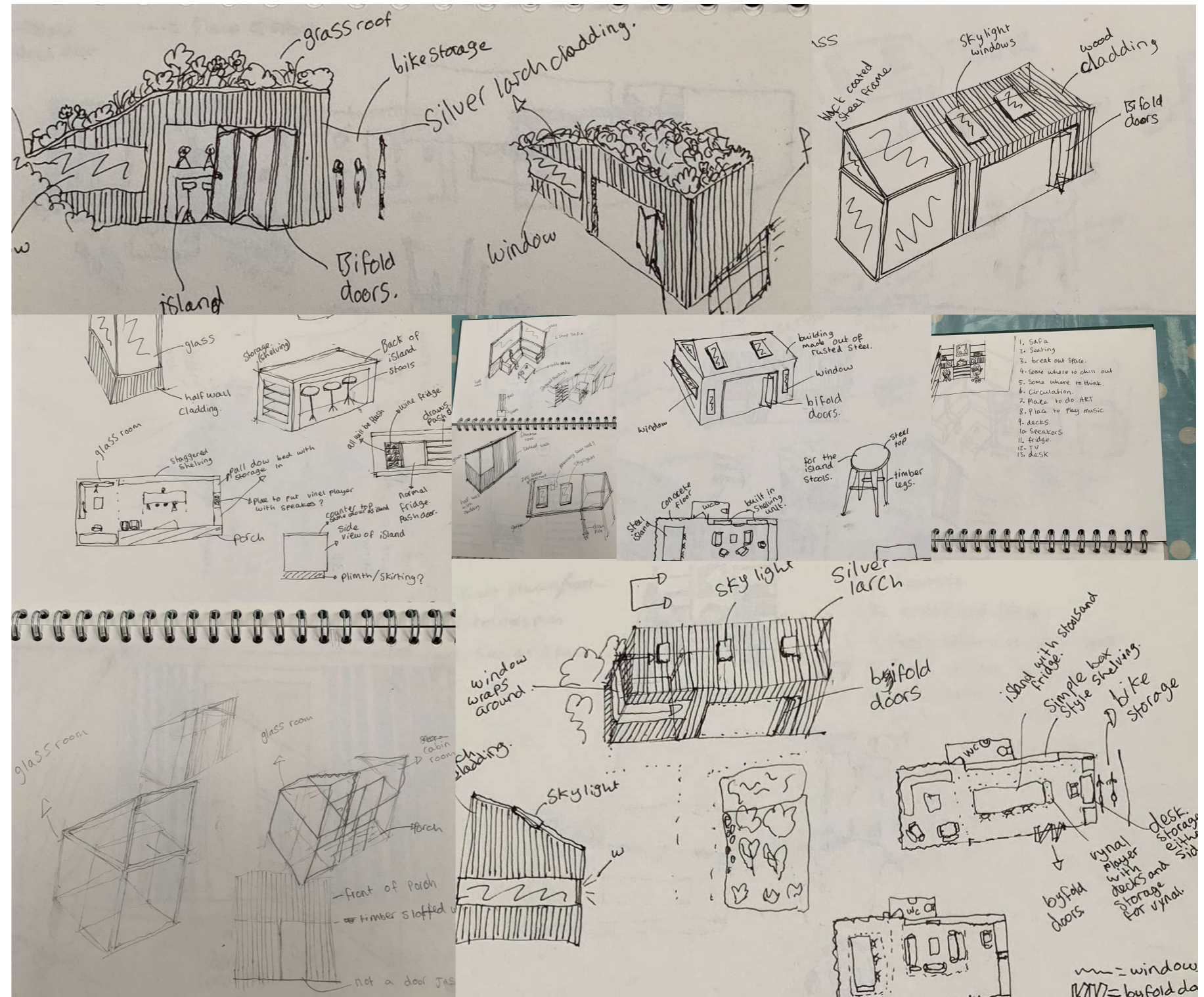
This chair was designed by Marcel Breuer. He designed this piece using the Bauhaus philosophy. The chair is made from modernist materials such as steel and cane. The basis of the chair was influenced by a bent-tubular steel bike frame, which Marcel used to ride. Once designed this chair was a worldwide sensation and continues to be a pillar of modernist design.

### To Use in my Designs

In my own work I am going to implement the Bauhaus principles as I love the simplicity and functionality behind a great design. I can see its influence in contemporary design and aim to use these principles in my project. Specifically; form before function, clean lines and minimalist approach however I would like to pair modernist materials and natural materials within my design with the Bauhaus foundations function before form.

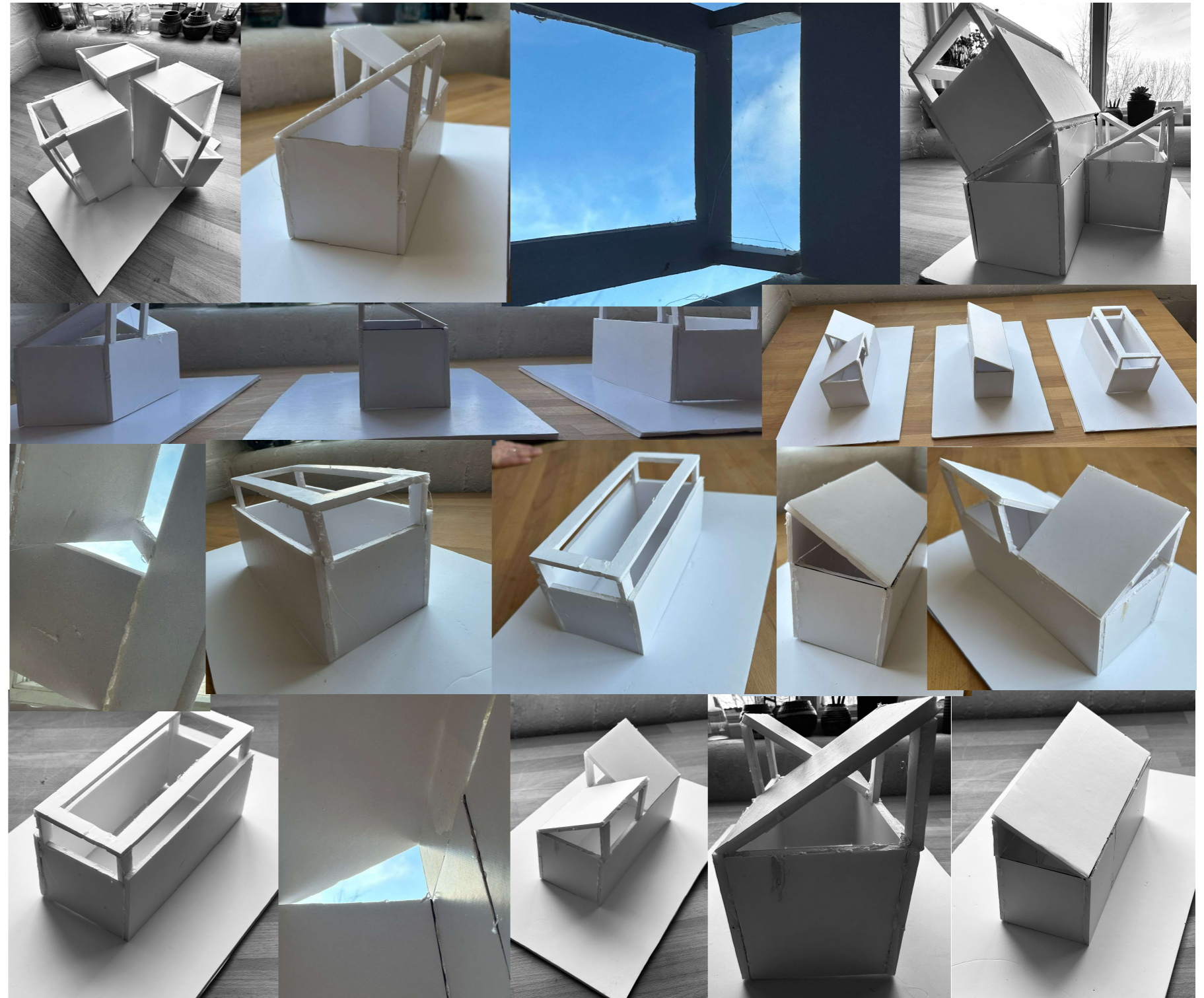
# Garden Room Concept: Ideas and Sketches

Shown opposite are some sketches and ideas of potential designs. I wanted to try and use a combination of Nordic design and architecture and Bauhaus design and ideology. I am very fond of the Bauhaus principles “function before form” and would like to pair these principles and modern materials with natural materials, a connection with nature and the surrounding landscape.



## Garden Room Concept: Sketch Models

The photographs opposite are models of potential roof designs. I used these small models to experiment with different forms to help decide which roof structure I think would work best for the interior space and overall design. I am keen that the roof design will allow the maximum daylight as well as looking cool.



## Garden Room Concept: 3d Sketchup Models

Shown opposite is a 3D sketch up model of the space. Interior and exterior.

This space has three main functions. It is a social space where you can have friends' around for parties. It is a space to relax and watch tv, read, or talk with people. It is also a space where one can work. When I created this space, I wanted the design and look to be simple and raw yet have a connection with nature. The materials used are a mix of hard , cold and intense modern materials such as concrete and steel accompanied by soft warm and natural materials such as timber.

When designing the shelving I tried my best to transition from the natural to more modern materials. Hoping to create a peaceful yet bold contrast. Although this space is very simple, I hope I have managed to showcase my thoughts and ideas behind the functionalities of the space and the flow of how it will be used, as well as the consideration of the detailed finishes and choice of materials.

