

STUNNING HOUSES

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**Architect:** William P. Bruder  
**Location:** North Sottsdale, Arizona, U.S.A.  
**Construction:** 1997  
**Photographs:** Bill Timmerman

## Byrne House

William P. Bruder has once again managed to overcome the difficulties involved in harmonizing a new building with its surrounding landscape. The impressive desert that stretches before the Byrne House is one of the great assets of this project, which manages to combine large open spaces with a rich tapestry of secluded interiors.

Here, Bruder explores even further the relationship between building and landscape, establishing a parallel between the sloping concrete walls and the rocky faces of the canyons, common geological features in this area.

The house stands in the highest, northeastern sector of the site. The building's situation, together with the layout of the structural walls that are parallel to the contour lines, means that most of the rooms look toward the fine southwestern views.

The Byrne House is a split-level construction on top of the natural slope of the terrain. The entry for both people and cars is on the upper floor. The succession of walls creates lengthwise itineraries: first from the exterior to the interior and then to another open space at the far end of the house.

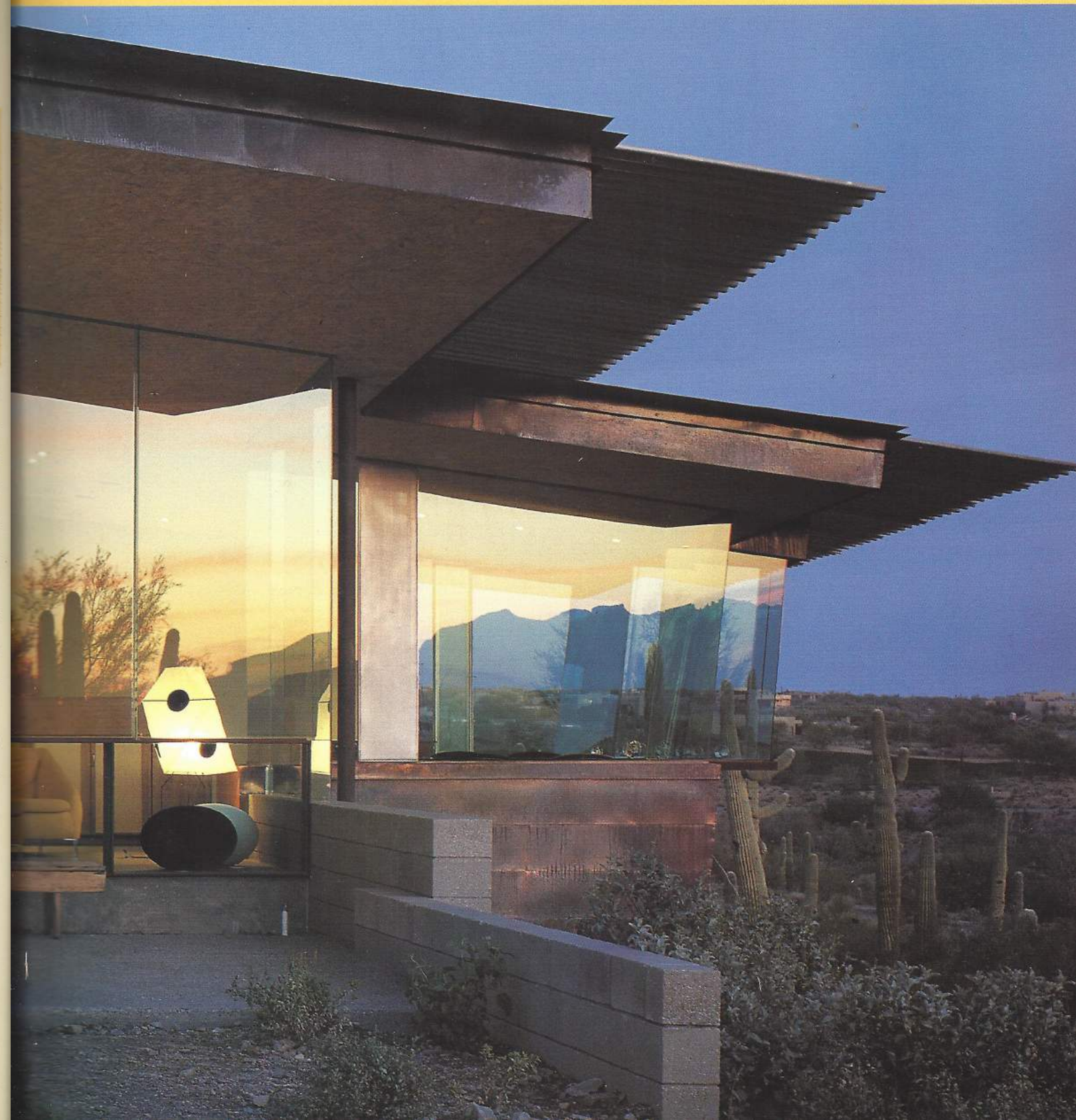
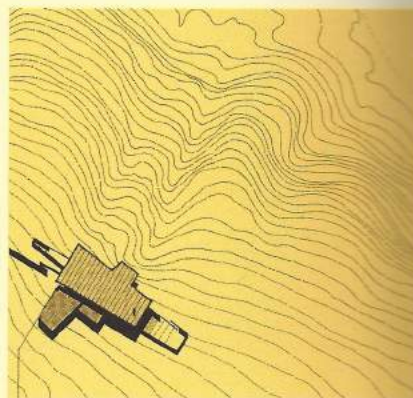
The hallways and corridors are adjacent to the walls, and most of the rooms overlook the desert. Such is the case on the second floor, with the kitchen, dining room, living room, large patio and a double bedroom with its own bathroom, dressing room and terrace. The floor below is also oriented southwest, although unlike

the second floor, its northeastern face is underground. The main feature of the ground floor is a second living room with generous dimensions and direct access to the exterior.

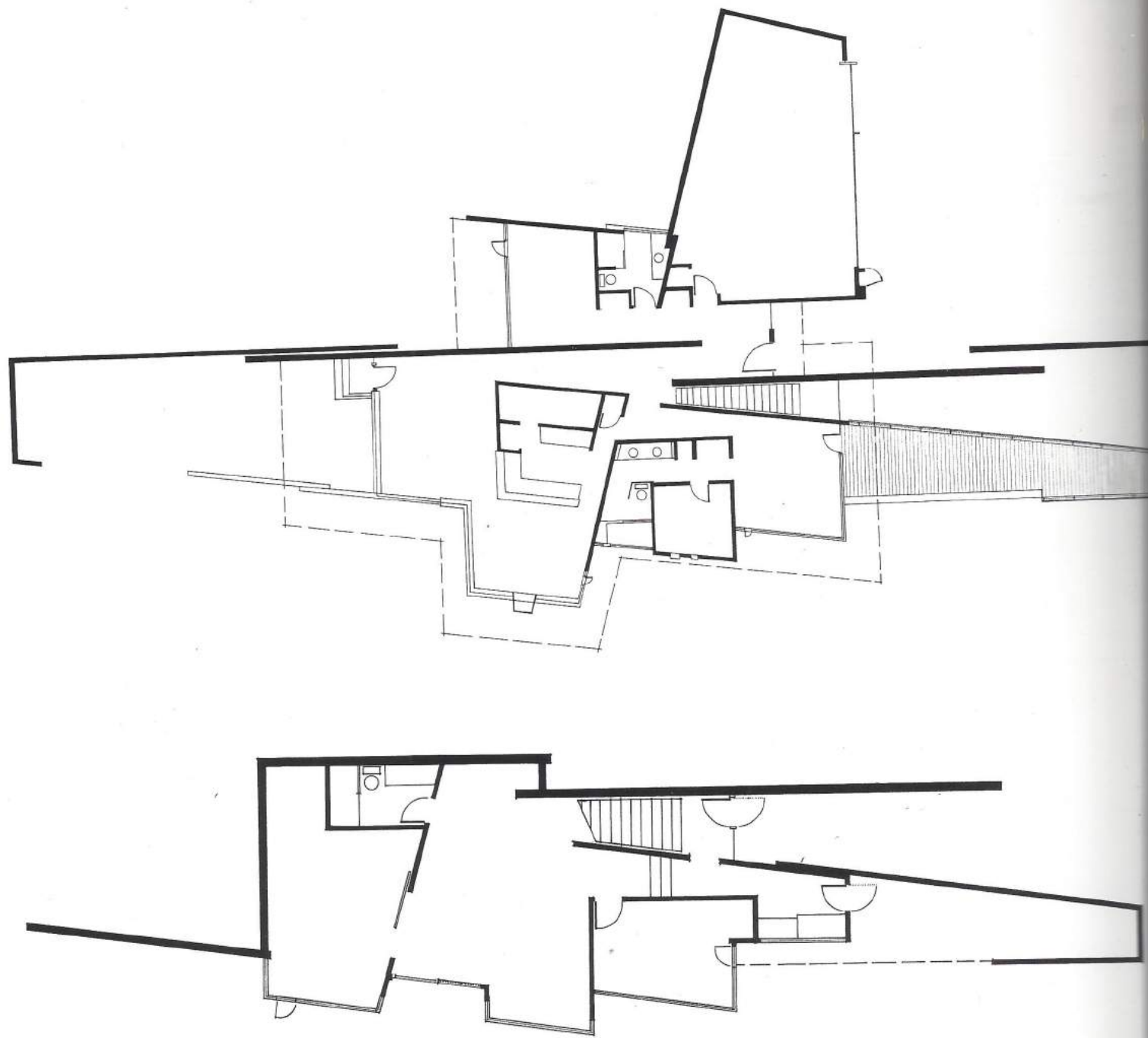
The longitudinal walls played a fundamental role in the development of the project and were carefully treated. Before the front door, they create a welcoming entrance space, while elsewhere they surround a patio. These walls establish a relationship of visual continuity between interior and exterior, and their slope frames the distant desert views as one moves through the house. Furthermore, the play of natural, horizontal light on the wall surfaces constantly changes their appearance.

In contrast to the dominant presence of the walls, the materials used for the exterior — such as copper or galvanized metal cladding — mimic the surrounding landscape. Inside the house, we find well-lit rooms with openings to suit all situations.

In short, William P. Bruder has achieved a residence in which a personal idiom of a clearly sculptural vocation adapts to and harmonizes with privileged natural surroundings.



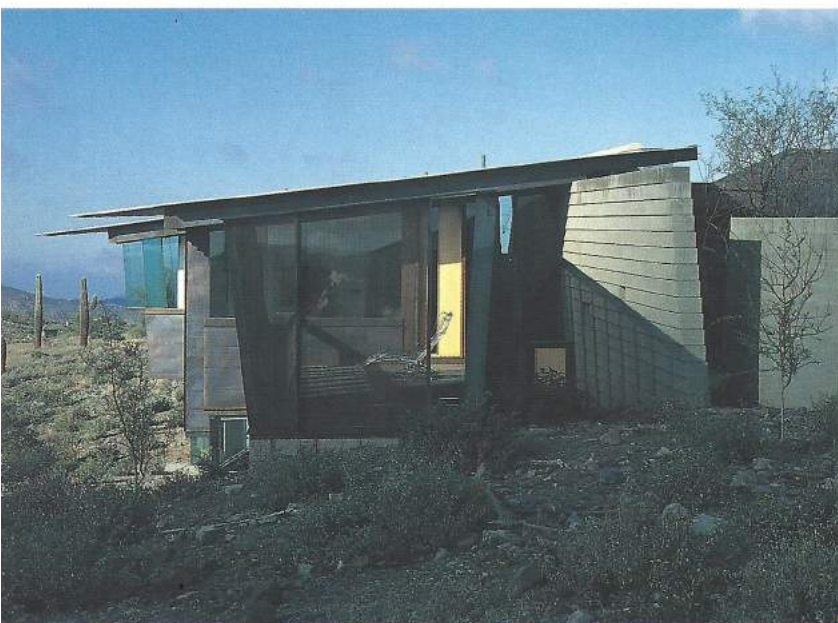




The house is inserted into the sloping terrain, and its functional program is split into two levels. Both pedestrian and vehicle access is on the upper floor, which also includes the main rooms: dining room, kitchen, living room and master bedroom.







One of the main difficulties facing the architect was to adapt his building to its surroundings, the Arizona Desert. To this end, Bruder established parallels between the construction and the rock faces of the canyons.

The house is situated at the top end of the site. Thanks to the layout of the structural walls with respect to the contours, every room enjoys splendid panoramic views.







The materials used on the exterior mimic the surrounding landscape. The copper or galvanized metal cladding harmonizes chromatically with the land.



A variety of spaces have been created inside: some extroverted, luminous and related to the exterior; others darker and more secluded, providing a greater degree of privacy.