



**Fishing Lodge** by **Simon Gill Architects** eschews minimalism, celebrating the 'stuff' of buildings: gargoyles, solar panels, eaves, light switches – in particular, components related to the weather that add poetic resonance to the inhabitation of the house. From the outset the design was influenced by Bulgarian vernacular architecture, and its relation to the Bulgarian way of life. The aim was to create a building that does not stand mute, abstract and 'other' in the landscape, but connects to it thematically – something resonant, yet belonging to its site through metaphor and narrative.









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This four-bedroom house was designed as a base for fishing trips on and around Lake Batak in the Rhodope Mountains of Bulgaria. Being at an altitude of 1400 metres, the temperature can fall to minus 20°C on winter nights – with a metre of snow quite typical – while in summer it can reach up to 40°C. **Simon Gill Architects** address the challenging physical and climatic geography of the site in a variety of ways. The bedrooms are built into the hill to stabilise the internal thermal environment whilst living areas sit above, in a tall, insulated volume; solar panels on the roof are positioned beyond the shadows of tree canopies.

**Simon Gill Architects** made sure that **Fishing Lodge** had a reduced visual impact on the landscape: charred spruce cladding allows the house to blend seamlessly into the forest behind it, while the white render used is a well-known traditional material in Bulgaria.















