

House on Willow Hill is a family farm and residence in Vienna, Virginia. When the clients bought this 5-acre property, they intended to preserve the 1800s log cabin adjacent to a 1980s single family home. Upon commencement of design, their program was limited to a residence, pool, and sport court. Over the years, their passion for the land and its agrarian ancestry deepened.

The landscape architect worked with the client and associated design team on siting a greenhouse, vegetable garden, garden pavilion, chicken coop, small barn and paddocks for their alpaca, miniature cows and horses, goats, and sheep. Diagrammatic relationships among the structures create a timeline for the property – the historic log cabin is connected, axially, to the barn made of reclaimed wood. The main residence is on axis with the greenhouse garden, which includes a contemporary pavilion made with finishes that match the residence. The original farm millstones were repurposed into water elements and paving details.

Careful management of stormwater on the site, adjacent to an RPA, incorporated rain gardens, infiltration trenches and soil remediation/decompaction. The plant palette includes a mix of natives and heirloom species, providing pollinator habitat year-round, while also speaking to the site history.



Aerial view of the 5-acre property and its elements: new house, preserved cabin, barn, greenhouse, garden pavilion, vegetable garden, chicken coop, pool terrace, outdoor dining terrace, and paddocks for a variety of farm animals. Photo by VSI Aerial.



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The location of the pool captures afternoon light and has a visual dialogue with terraces off the cabin and main residence. Photo by VSI Aerial.



A view of the main residence, looking past the barn and chicken coop. The barn is built into the grade to allow for additional pens. Photo by VSI Aerial.



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View of pool with native, meadow and ornamental plantings. Landscape walls envelope heirloom plants while native wildflowers surround the perimeter. Photo by VSI Aerial.



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Barn faces the cabin from across a central lawn and shares its aesthetic. Photo by Allen Russ.

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Antique millstone repurposed as water bubbler in remnant garden. Photo by VSI Aerial.



The garden pavilion and greenhouse face each other in the potager. The greenhouse paving matches the rustic style of the cabin terrace. Photo by VSI Aerial.

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Contributing firms

Architect: BVA/Barnes Vanze Associates

Interiors: Lauren Liess

General Contractor: Carrmichael Construction

Landscape Contractor: Planted Earth Landscaping

Greenhouse: Alitex

Pool: Canadian Waters