



earlier this year I was asked to organise a 4 day workshop for architecture students at the liverpool school of architecture.

my proposal was '**could this be a house**' - a short design exercise based on a hypothetical client's wishes to be completed quickly and presented using powerpoint with no more than 12 images taking no more than 5 minutes. I also suggested a piece of creative writing - no more than one paragraph in length describing the ethos of the design with poetry or poetic prose. - there were to be three types of site - on a mountainside, on a beach or on an existing building

seemingly easy, but quite a tall order for students used to much more proscriptive programmes. bearing this in mind I decided to join in myself - perhaps to prove that the idea was not too far fetched, perhaps to get some design enjoyment too.

problem was that I had no subject in mind and only a couple of pentels and a few A4 sheets - no computer...

nevertheless I found a subject in a broadsheet whilst I was at lunch on day 1. it was a portrait of **sir paul smith** and I was immediately enthused. paul smith's face is strongly geometric and expresses what I perceive (I've never met him) to be indicative of his character.

so I started freehand and all went well until I got into detail planning when the curvilinear geometry of the human face transposed into a houseplan got a bit difficult to draw accurately in sketch form.

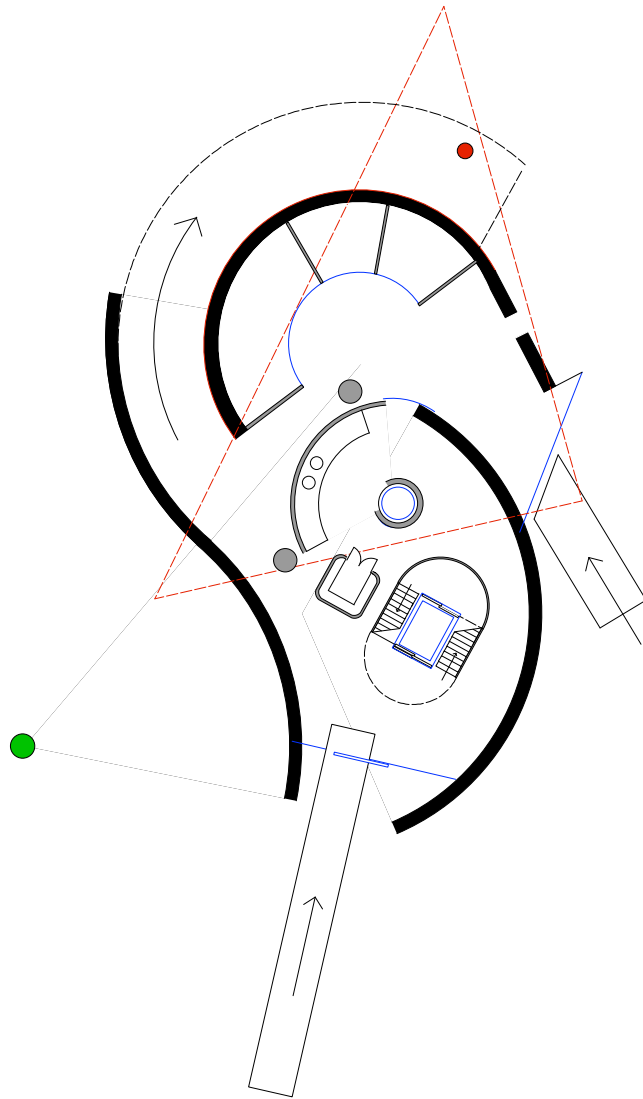
the site was easy - I guessed that sir paul might like the mountains and possibly ski-ing too (he had designed some skis) so I went for a rather luxurious ski lodge.

in terms of how the lodge would be used, I drew on my experience of **maison bulle** - an amazing bubble house near nice designed by antii lovag who was a - some might say eccentric - hungarian/french architect who spent his working life creating such places with the help of students (one in fact for pierre cardin).

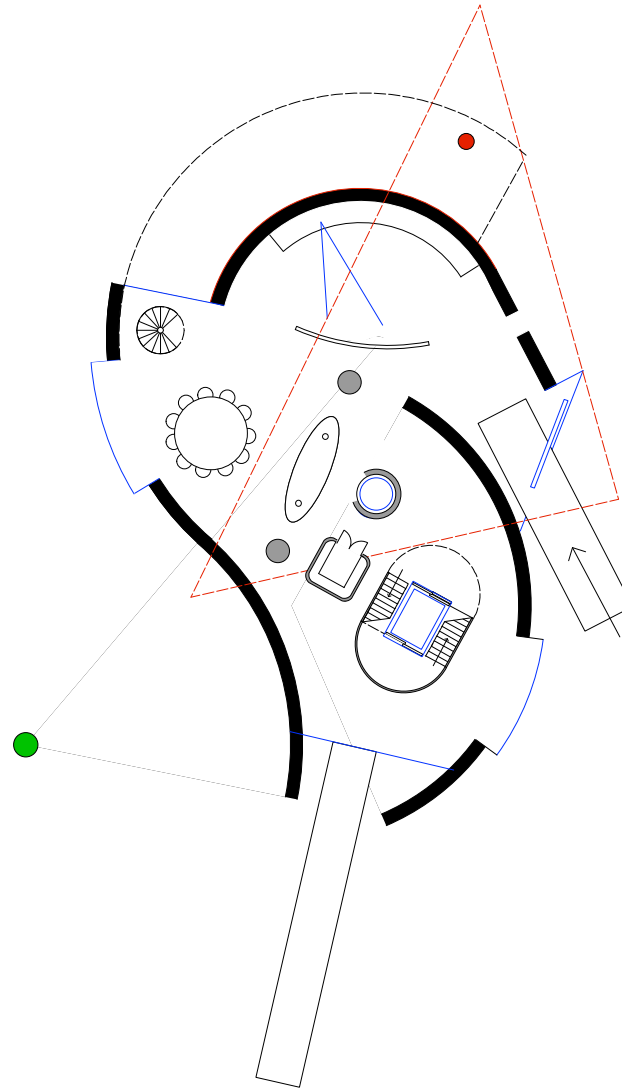
sir paul's house had therefore to be very private - almost inaccessible - but suitable for brief personal holidays as well as entertaining business clients and friends. of course I know nothing of his personal preferences, but imagined that high style would top the chart.

these drawings are geometric 'sketches' put together in a couple of days and show a 4 storey house on a steep slope accessed by helicopter, snow-mobile and (of course) skis. it's a typical alpine refuge in this respect, but kitted out for short stay, entertaining both informal & business, and obviously ski in ski out sport. it would be serviced from the village below.

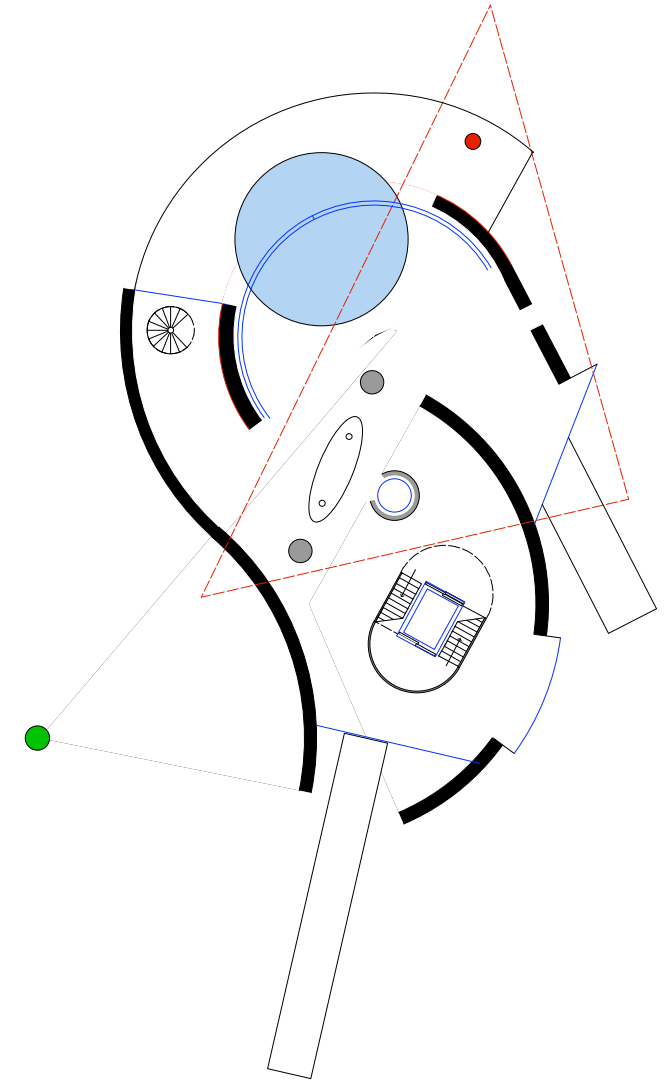
I show a hypothetical personalised custom designed house with a plan based on the lines of a famous face...! (just what the 'could this be a house' student workshop was meant to be about).



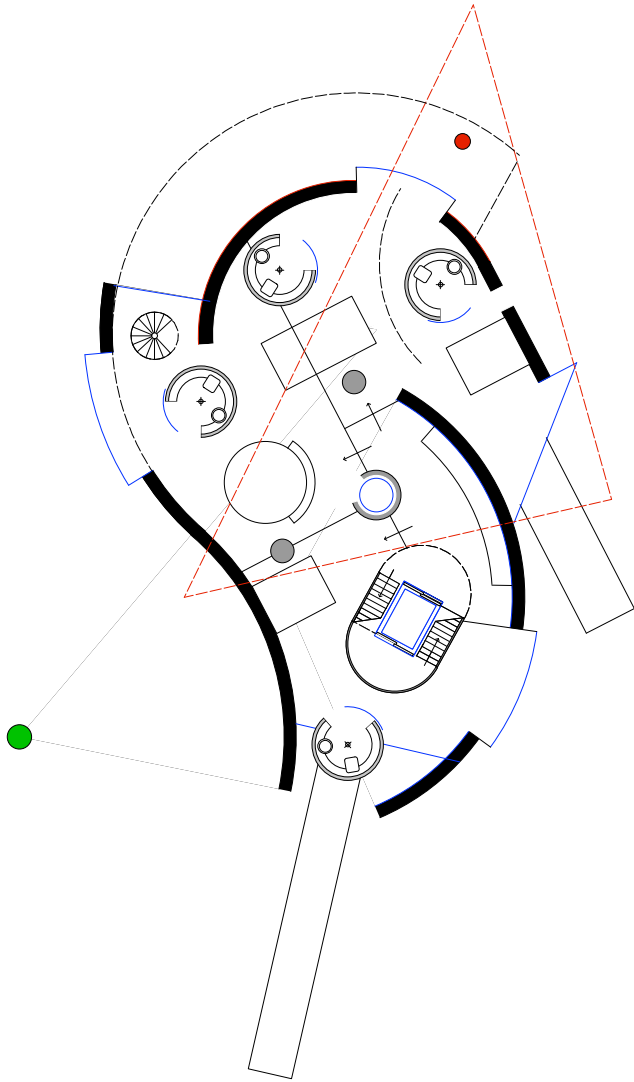
G ski - showers - kitchen



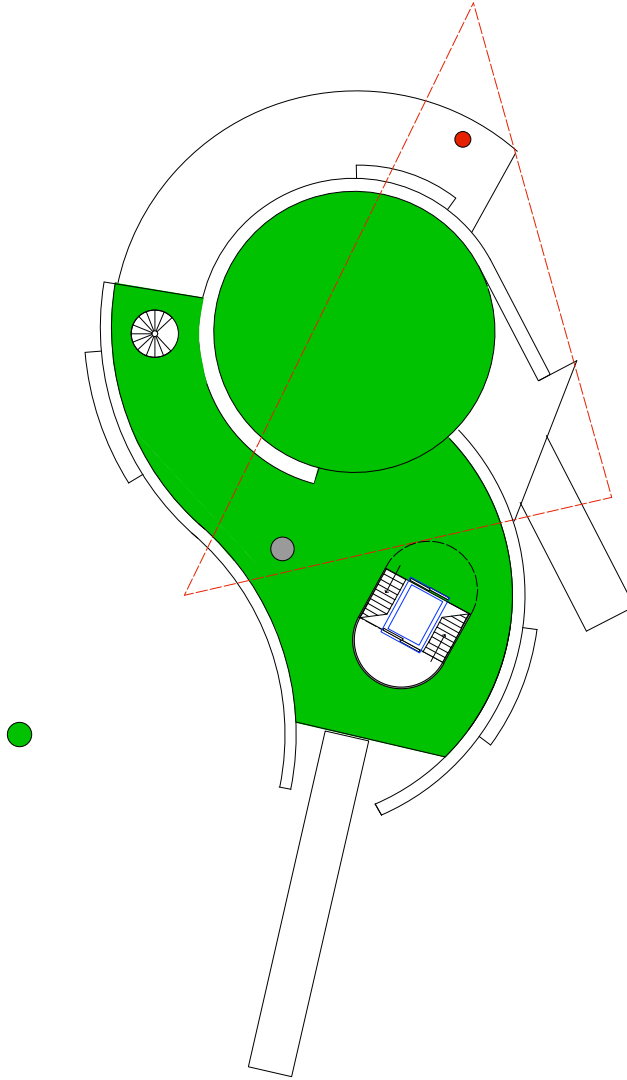
1 eating - entertaining



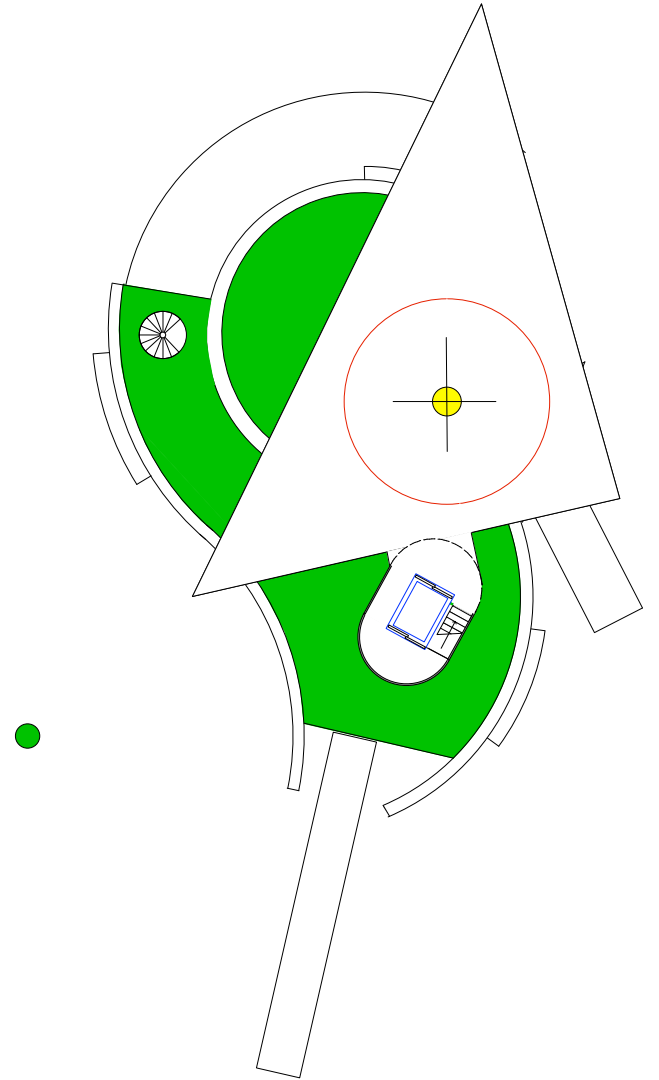
2 leisure - pool & terrace



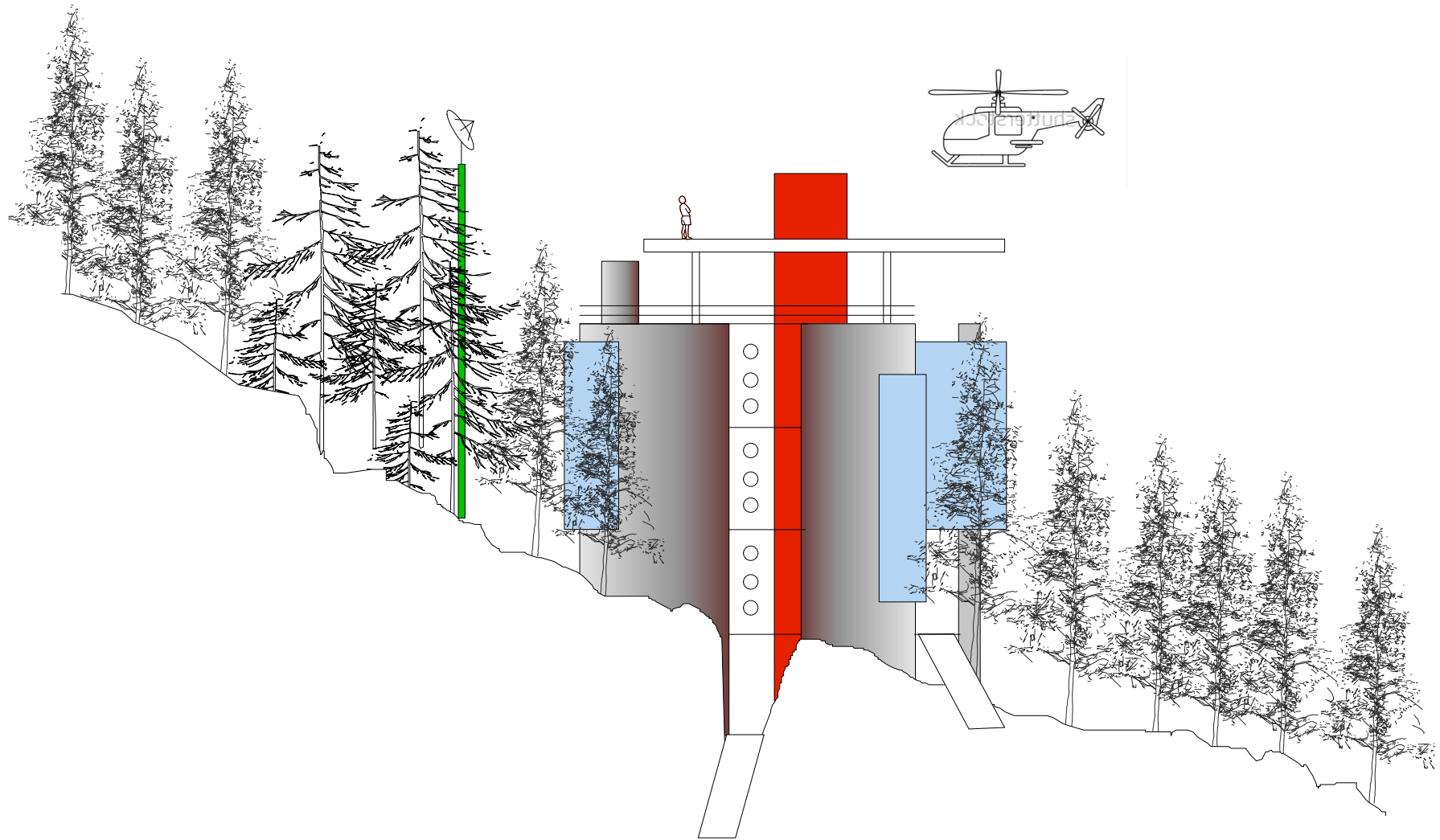
3 sleeping/relaxing



R green roof



H landing pad



the north 'face' - a house on a mountain for a design & fashion guru