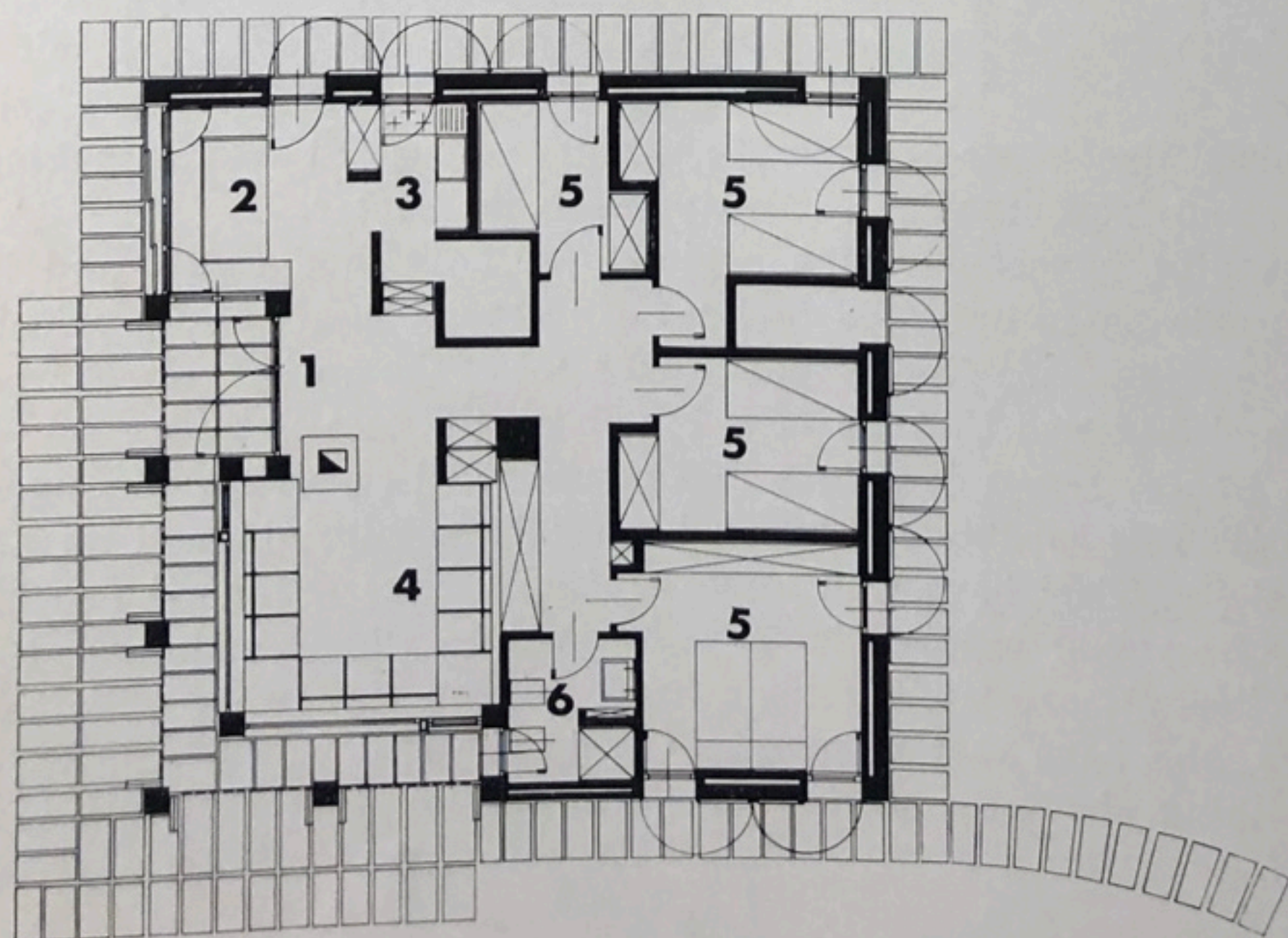


# THE SIMPLE LIFE

## On Lake Caldonazzo

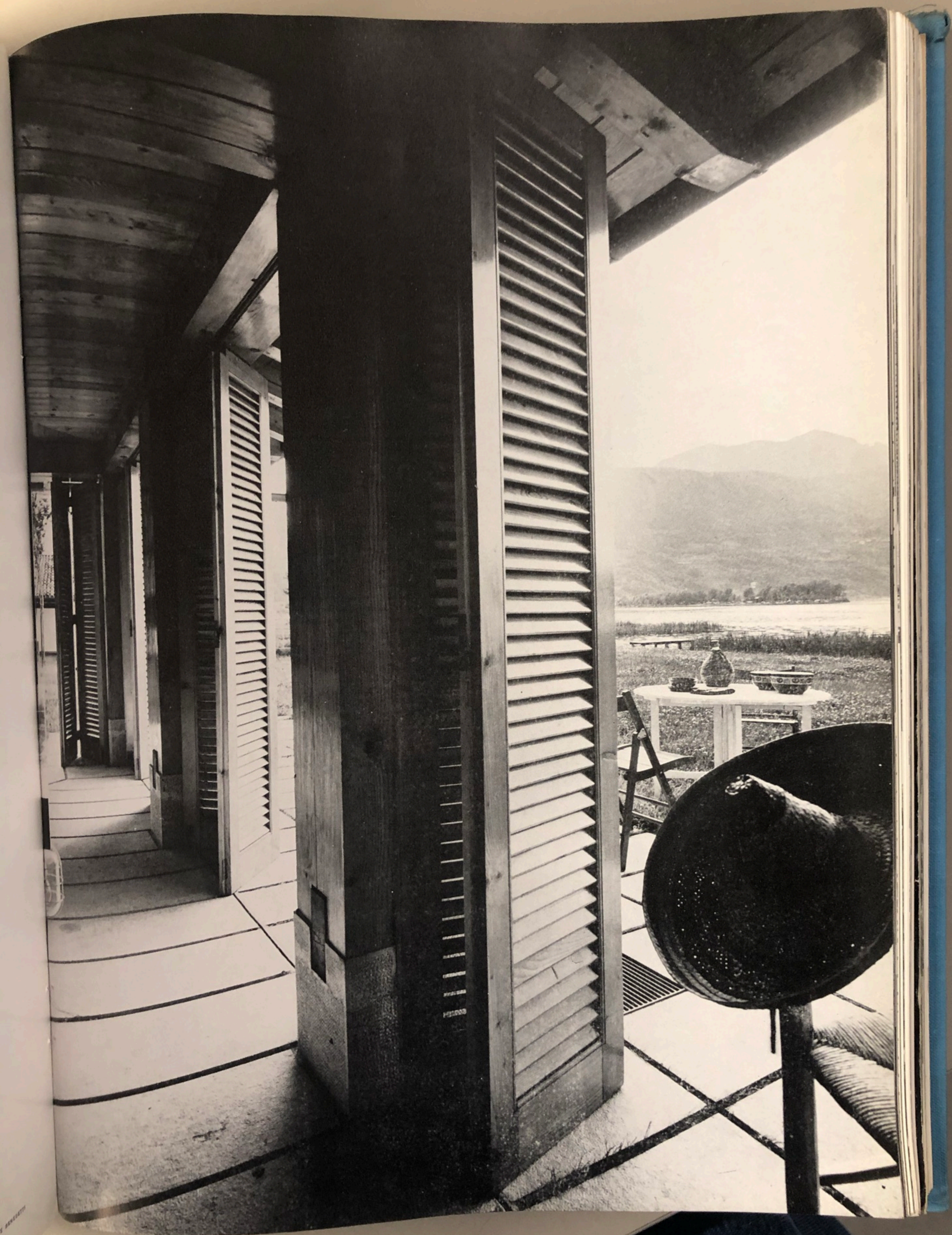
Italian architects Ernesto Griffini and Dario Montagni make a fine art of rusticity for a week-end house near Trento

The site for this delightful weekend house was blessed with a superb view of Lake Caldonazzo, sparkling in the foothills of the Italian Tyrol. The site, however, was small and flat, and the clients—a young couple with three small children—had an unusually restricted budget. No matter. Architects Ernesto Griffini and Dario Montagni of Milan managed to create maximum space at minimum cost, and the rural charm of the house is as uncontrived as it is appropriate simply because the design evolved from necessity. To cut costs, the architects used plentiful local materials and local carpenters. The entire structure is of firwood—abundant and inexpensive in the area. Entire sections of the house were prefabricated in advance and assembled on the site in a few days; workers added the finishing touches “under cover.” Roofing was made of second hand tiles found in the region; flooring materials—ceramic tile and stone slabs—were also made locally. The house is a square (see plan below) given an added sense of space and height by the steeply pitched roof, which forms a sort of portico over the entire house. The living and dining area (see overleaf) are open; partitions throughout extend only partway to the high ceiling to further open spaces. A series of folding louvered doors placed at the eaves of the house extends living spaces to include the stone-slabbed terrace, accessible from every room, even the smallest bedrooms, by glass French doors. To further unify spaces, the architects kept colors and materials to a minimum. The firwood is used for partition facings, built-in furniture and storage units. And the golden tone of the firwood is echoed in natural materials: tan leather upholstery, handwoven sisal carpets, neutralized by whitewashed walls, floors of white ceramic tile.—*B.W.N.*



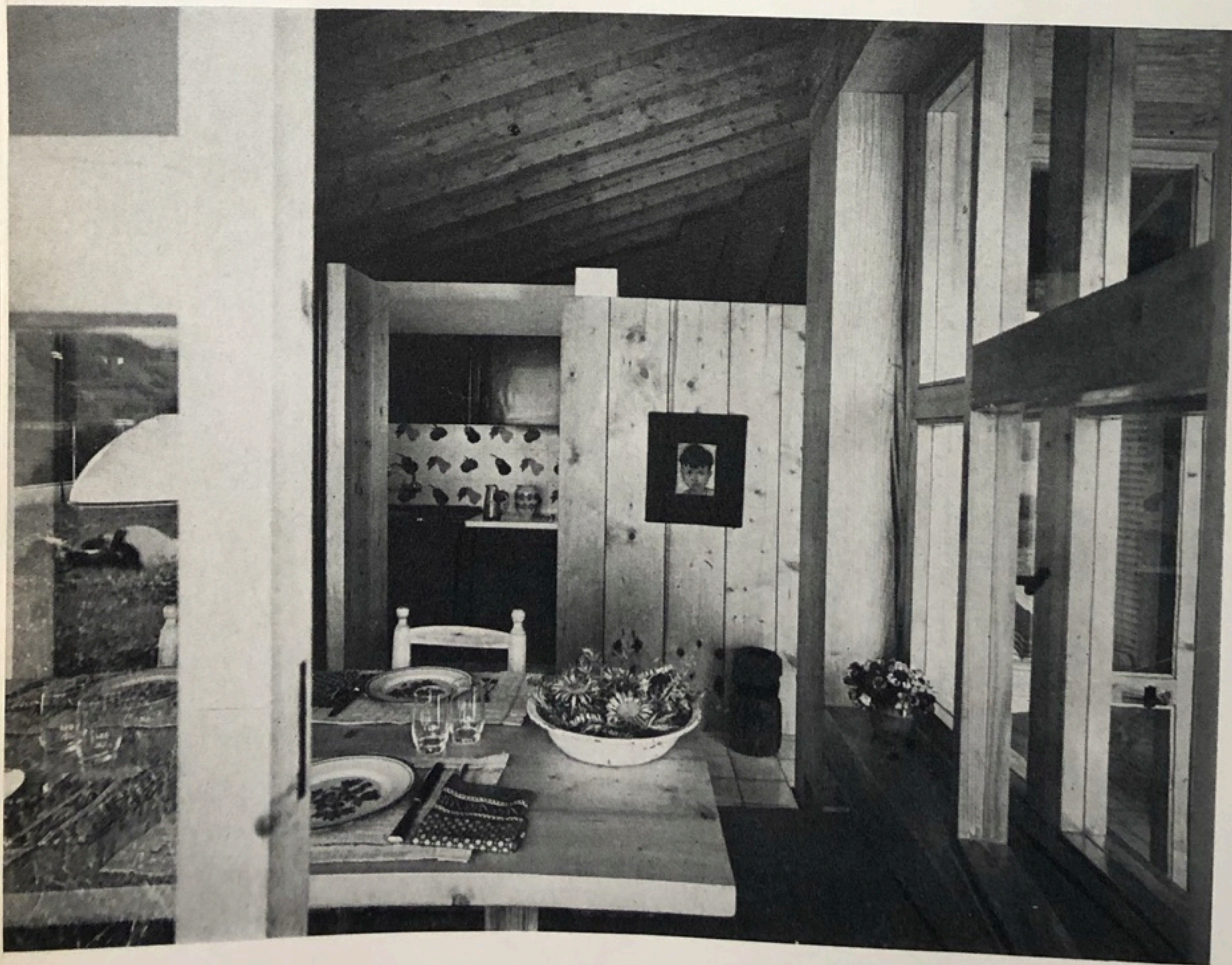
#### KEY TO PLAN

1. Entrance hall
2. Dining area
3. Kitchen and pantry
4. Living area
5. Bedrooms
6. Bathroom

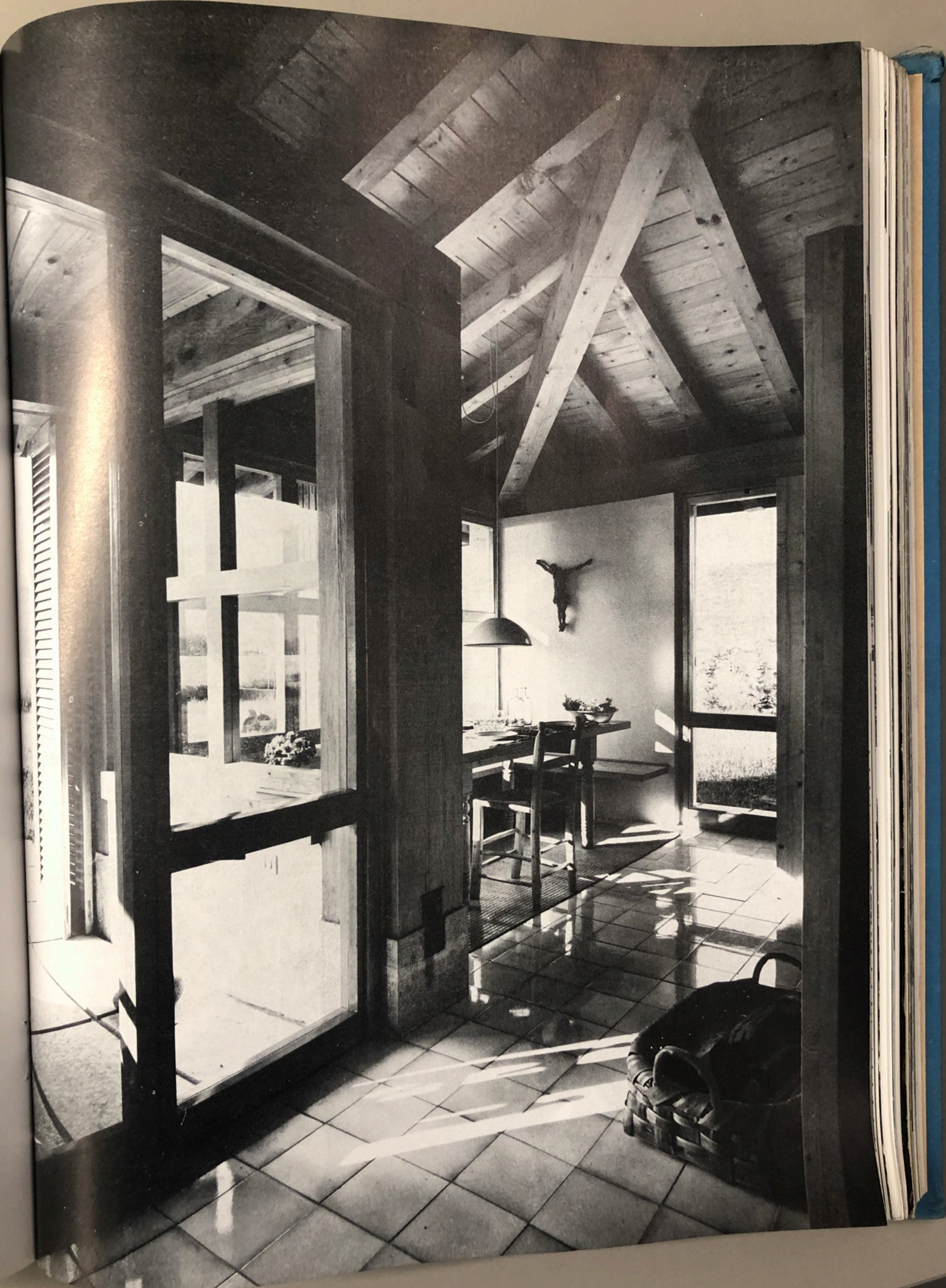




LEFT: The dining area is separated from the living area by a recessed entrance way, but both focus on the central fireplace, which has a rough stone hearth and stainless steel hood. The dining area has a long bench set under the row of windows overlooking the lawn. Bench and table are of the same indigenous fir wood used in the construction of the house. View into the kitchen (below) is partially screened by wood partitions.

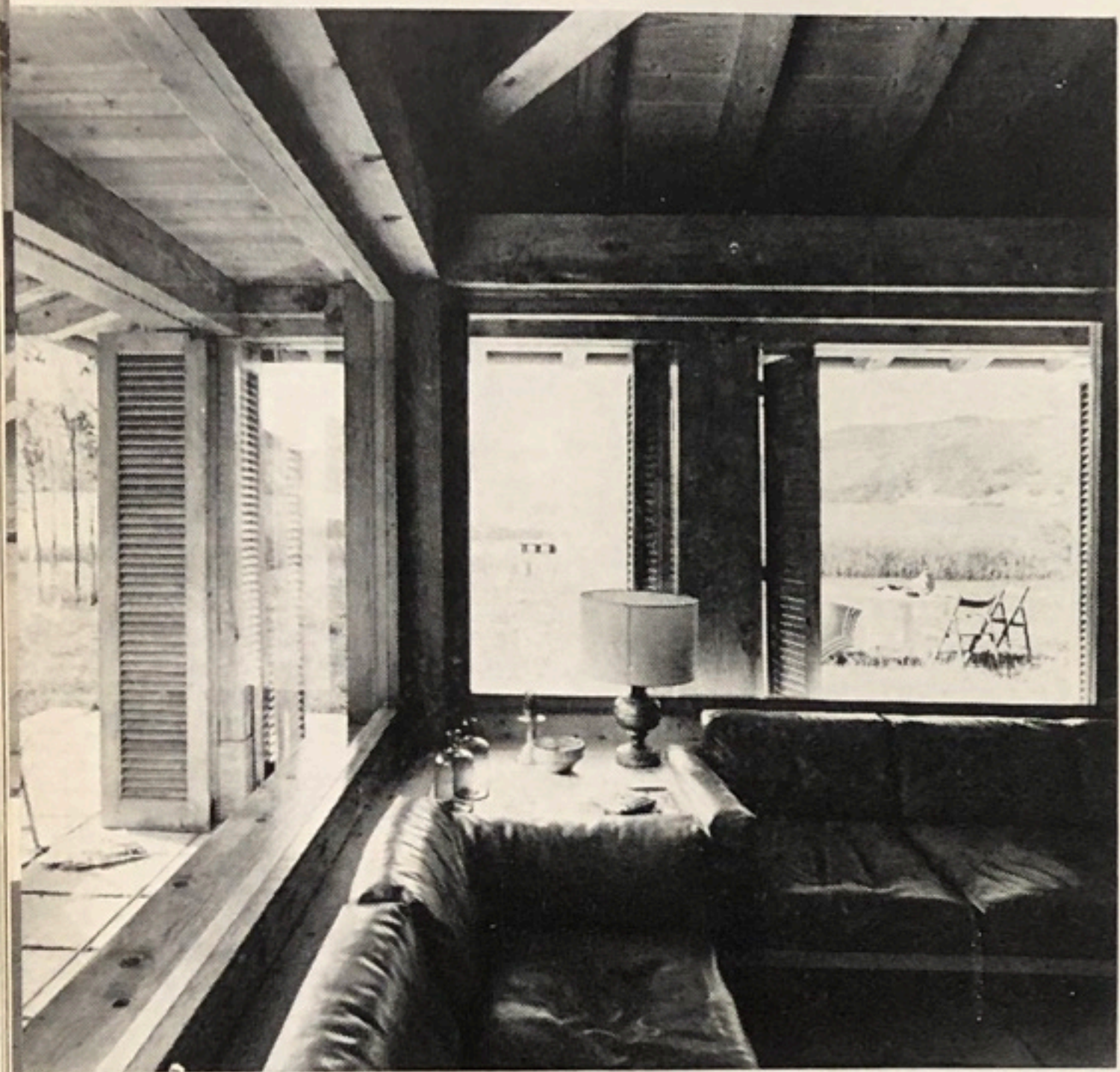


OPPOSITE: The entrance hall, directly adjoining the dining area, is recessed from a portico (which can be enclosed by folding louver doors.) Flooring throughout is white semi-transparent ceramic tiles from San Marino. Portico is floored in white stone slabs.



ITALIAN WEEK-END HOUSE

RIGHT: View from the center of the house into peripheral bedrooms shows how living spaces are enlarged by steeply pitched roof, and the use of only partial partitions around rooms. Built-in bedsteads, trim around doors and windows are made of the same indigenous fir of which the house is built.



LEFT: Two views of the living area which faces the open fireplace shown on preceding pages. The space is simply furnished with three identical sofas built-in under windows and separated by low square end tables. Sofas have bases of the natural fir used throughout; cushions are upholstered in natural leather. Handwoven straw rug echoes golden color scheme.

OPPOSITE: View through house to the lake shows built-in central cabinets and closets, steep pitch of ceiling.