



# TOM KUNDIG:HOUSES

Dung Ngo, editor  
with contributions by  
Steven Holl  
Rick Joy  
Billie Tsien



# THE BRAIN STUDIO

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

1998-2001

The clients of The Brain Studio asked Tom to design a free-standing addition to their home after seeing the Studio House. The result is dubbed "The Brain," and the primary occupant is David Wild, a film director. David wanted a studio where he could work on his personal projects—photography and writing.

David asked for as raw a space as possible, to be "finished" by the creative process that would happen inside it. The structure is a straightforward cast-in-place concrete box, punctured on two sides with large steel-case windows. Although it appears to be a true rectangular form, the studio's envelope is slightly tapered to prevent reverberation of sound, which happens with perfect right-angle corners and interferes with music listening.

The double-height single room of the main space is inserted with a loft constructed entirely of 1/2-inch steel plates that are welded and folded in an "origami" fashion in order to produce the rigidity and strength need to become structurally self-sufficient. A set of stairs to the loft is hidden behind a darkroom and storage space is tucked beneath the steel loft, while a fireman's pole provides an easier and more flamboyant means of egress down.

The Brain Studio is as much a treehouse, fort, and playroom as it is a serious work space, and ultimately it is a quirky but true reflection of the client and his personality. "Being in the studio is like being in my brain," David said to Tom at the beginning of the process, and the name for the project stuck.

