

VILLA MAIREA

**Alberto Pérez-Gómez
for Juhani Pallasmaa**

**The house is a forest of columns with enormous eyes
growing in a clearing in the northern woods.
The house: Mairea's heart,
six hearths and an ice-box.**

**The house is a canyon lined with a thousand books,
a pile of stones and flagstones like clouds.**

**The house dreams of winter
snowbound and steaming.
The house is a sauna, a smoked womb of cedar.**

**The house dreams of summer
starbound and floating.
The house, a guitar
in a cubist painting,
with a pool, Japanese lantern and a paper screen.**

**The house dreams of spring
lovestruck and glowing.
The house is a garden that quivers with pleasure.**

**The house dreams of autumn
stormbound and crying.
The house is a chamber where the dying lie.**

**The house is a coffer indwelt
like a Russian doll,
marvel within wonder,
Juan Gris and Kandinsky
Matisse and Léger,
and a metal piano with butterfly wings.**