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The Rusty Goat Garage

Martin Holub's original assignment was to expand on a young couple's 30-acre compound in Dutchess County, NY. They asked the architect to design a major addition to the existing farmhouse and add a poolhouse and a six-car garage, but the vagaries of the financial markets left the couple able to complete only the garage. "The husband is a stockbroker and a car nut," says Holub. "If it has an engine and moves, he loves it." Creating a garage was a first for Holub, but he plunged in, intrigued by the somewhat eccentric car collection, which includes two fire engines. "I understand people who collect historical artifacts—agricultural implements or carpentry tools or whatever," he says. "But these have no historical value whatsoever—they are the same fire trucks that you see on the streets."

Regardless of provenance, Holub found the project appealing enough to spend one long summer constructing the Rusty Goat Garage, as it has been dubbed. The structure was dictated by the collection. The low side houses two Porsches. The middle bays are for the Hummers, Harleys, and snowmobiles. The higher side shelters the fire engines.

Because the 4000-square-foot garage is set into a slope, the back concrete walls also act as retaining walls. The wood siding matches that on the existing house, and a geothermal heating system ensures that the temperature never drops below 45 degrees. ("The cars never catch cold," Holub notes.) And the name? At the entrance to the property stands a rusted metal sculpture of a goat.



Pride of place in the Rusty Goat Garage belongs to the two fire engines, which dictate the shape of the structure.
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Bird's eye rendering shows the existing house and its proposed addition in the middle, pool house at lower left and the garage in the upper right. Only the garage was built.



Holub designed the garage as a display case for the cars.