

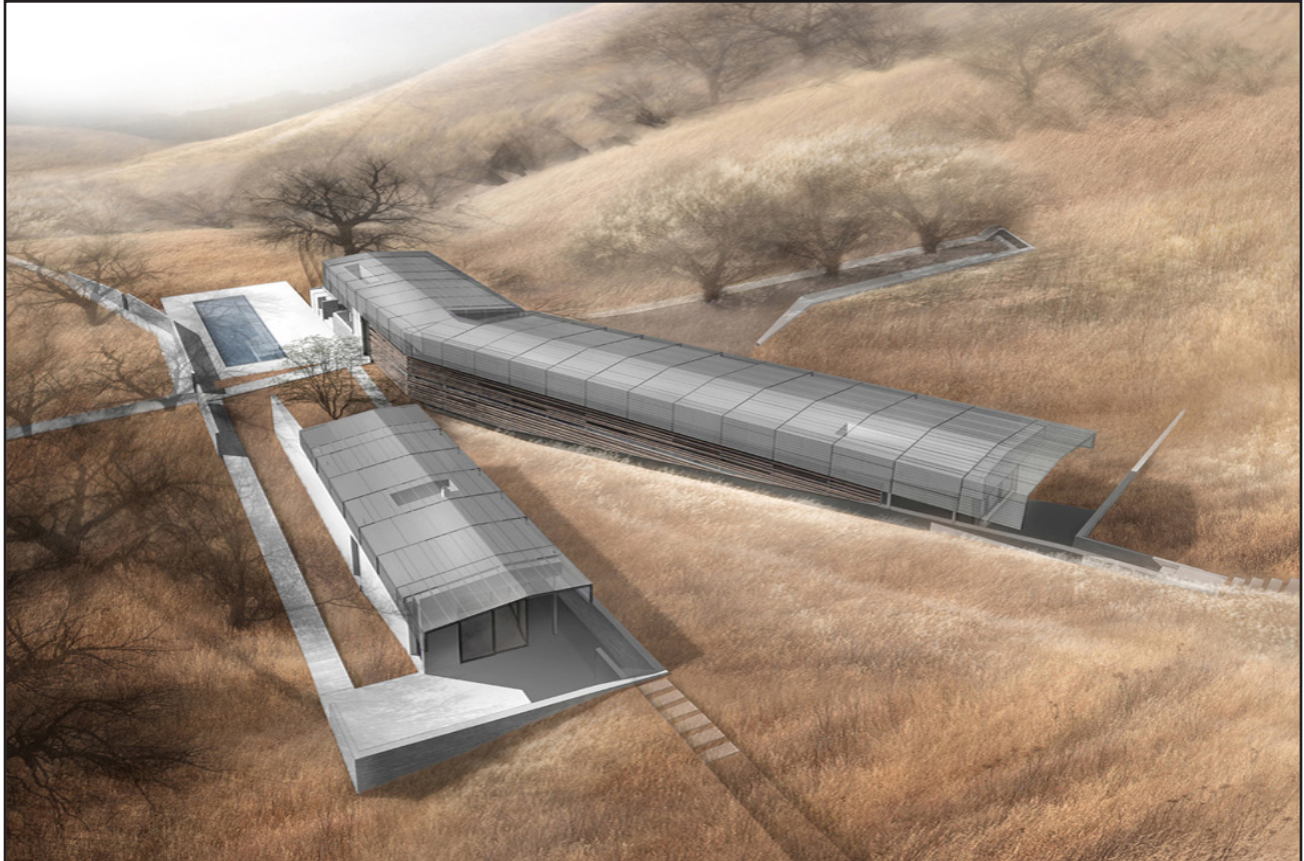
Crook | Cup | Bow | Twist

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Crook | Cup | Bow | Twist (categories of wood deformation) refers to the latent potential energy of all natural systems towards movement. This project attempts to harness that physical and ephemeral sense of movement through the site as a way to intensify the impulse to explore, which the surrounding "untamed" landscape provokes.

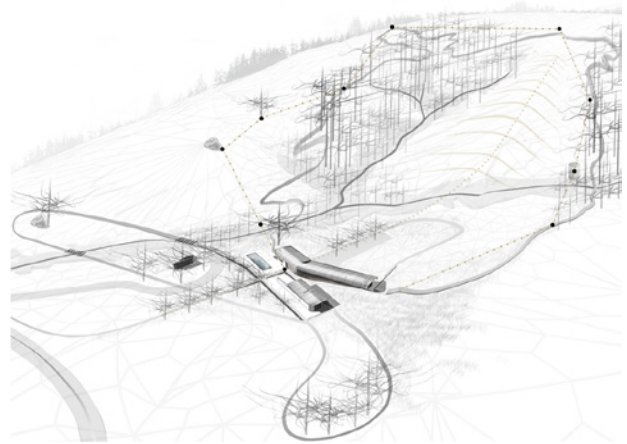
The design seeks to elucidate a set of complex relationships between landscape, ecosystems, construction techniques, and human occupation. While the approach meets the highest measures of sustainability, the architecture embeds itself in the site not to camouflage itself or simply wear the mantle of "green", but to proactively construct a series of spatial thresholds that propel both physical and psychological exploration of the site.



This new residence is located on a 42-acre site in one of the inland valleys of the California Coastal Range. Wide expanses of open grassland intersected by swaths of dense forests mark the area, which supports a variety of ranch, agricultural, and recreational uses. A seasonal stream surrounds the relatively flat lower ten acres of the property, with a set of small bridges leading from these domesticated areas to the un-domesticated hillsides beyond. These passages -- from valley to hill, from constructed to natural, from "tamed" to "un-tamed" provoke an immediate sense of exploration -- a wanderlust that gives the project its initial inspiration.

The proposal analyzes the site as a series of existing movements or "routes" across the landscape, which are then catalogued into three types: *Topographic Routes* of terrain, water, and vegetation; *Constructed Routes* of trails, bridges, and boardwalks; and *Diurnal Routes* of sun path, thermal exchange, and human occupation.

The negotiation of these three systems of movement establishes the logic of the site plan. Conceptually, the new construction becomes the knot



at the center of these routes, drawing strands in, engaging them with others, and propelling them back out again. The siting and inflected form of the main house creates a strong threshold between the tame and the un-tame landscapes -- a dam to the forceful downhill sweep of the ridge beyond.

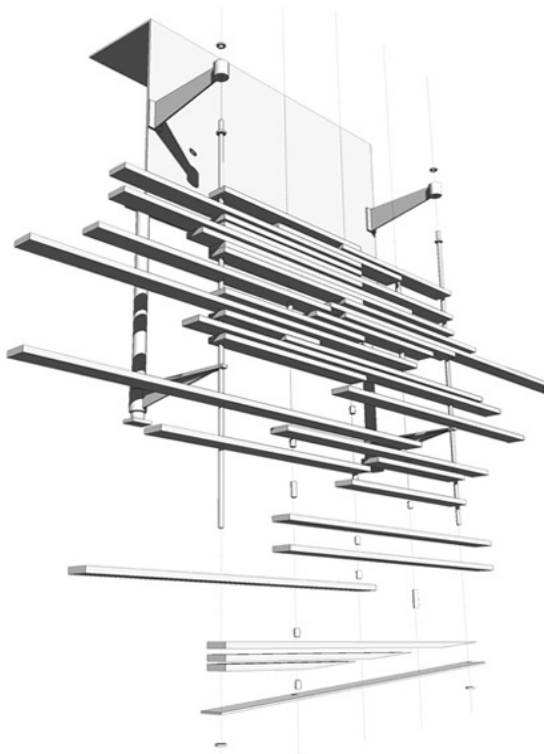
The fluid movement of the open grasslands inspires the design and construction of the freely-warping, recycled timber screen that shields the southern



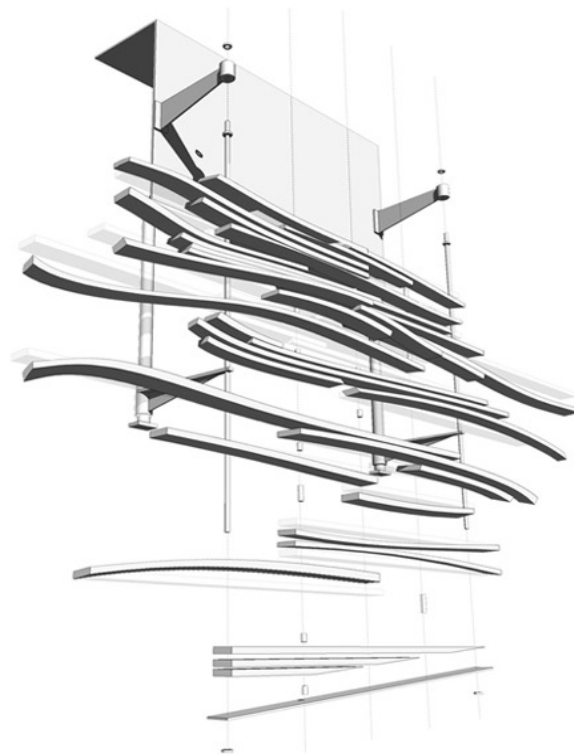


facade. The wood is milled, stacked, and coded according to its predominant warpage tendencies: crook, cup, bow, and twist. The system allows for loose ends with the expectation that as the wood ages and weathers its latent deformity will create a palette of movement similar in spirit to the adjacent grasslands.

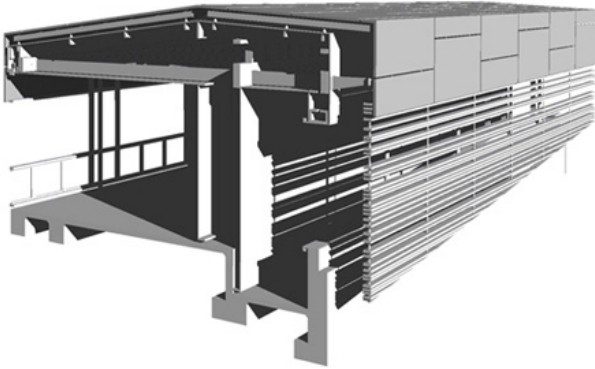
A layered approach to the building envelope supports both the technical and experiential goals of the project. The outer layers of construction (perforated metal roof and wood solar screen) are not



Solar Screen: Initial Assembly



Solar Screen: Deformity Analysis



part of the waterproof and thermally controlled envelope, and thus act to deflect and dissipate solar heat gain before it enters the building.

By minimizing the daily and seasonal thermal swings, an efficient closed-loop ground-coupled heat pump and natural ventilation can maintain the

interior comfort level. From the inside, the skins create a palette of continuously moving shadows that distinctly mark the time of day and season of the year for the inhabitants.

