

**Brief**

Harmony of design lies perched atop the bluffs where the Pacific Ocean meets Northern California. Wind, water and Man are woven together to form one sweeping design that is both simple and speaks volumes.

The ocean breeze is eternal. It molds trees, caresses grasslands and carves rock. The coastal range is shaped by it, the central valley relies on it and the mountains are scared by it. As a gust overcomes a ridge, so does a hill sweep onto the house to cover the roof with grasses. And yet, air is forgiving. It bends and compresses to slide around obstacles. Thus, the same hill slopes down to reveal dramatic vistas and hidden niches. This design is dominated by large smooth curves that follow the wind's progress inland.

Water unites ancient granite monuments, dry smooth valleys and the endless open sea. Emerging from granite and stone, a mountain creek dances around boulders and under bridges before emerging in the foothills. The stream is captured, diverted and reshaped to Man's wishes before being set free through the delta and finally falling into the sea. This is the story of California's water as it transverses the state from east to west through geography that extends from north to south.

Man was once a fully integrated component of Nature. He built his world within the boundaries of his environment. Nature was dominant. However, Man evolved. He learned, he invented and he mastered. Since the dawn of civilization, Man has used technology to restructure the natural world to fit his needs. Now, Nature has become a distant thought in many urban environments. However, no matter how extensive or complete Man's influence becomes, he will always be at the mercy of Nature's larger power. This design is divided between Nature and Man-defined environments by a monument to Man's innovation. The wall redirects water, commands acknowledgement and separates spaces. From within the house, it frames the horizon as a picture on a distant wall. From the open no-mow lawn, it blends into the structures. Founded by fire, the symbol of Man's dominion of Nature, the wall is an impressive feature. And yet, like the rest of the design, it resides within the larger natural context.

Alone, the concepts of wind, water and Man are compelling, but when combined, they tell the tale of Northern California. Together, they blend overwhelming views with intimate spaces, transform a simple entrance into an undeniable statement and undulate swaths of native grasses, chaparrals and oaks with the breeze.

In short, harmony.